

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: PETER A. KOO

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ROBERT F. HOLDEN
BRAD S. LANDER
ERIC A. ULRICH
KALMAN YEGER

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

JEFF BROWN, New York City Chief
Information Security and Head of
Cybercommand

2 SARGEANT AT ARMS: Sound check for the
3 Committee on Technology. Taking place Committee Room
4 City Hall, scheduled for 1 p.m. uhm December 13,
5 2018, being recorded by Israel Martinez.

6 CHAIR PETER KOO: (gavel pounding). Good
7 afternoon. I am Council Member Peter Koo. I am the
8 chair of the Committee on Technology and I want to
9 welcome all of you to our hearing. At today's
10 hearing will focus on four Bills, Intro 1152, a local
11 law in relation to requiring an online payment grace
12 period in the event of an electronic system security
13 breach. Intro 1153, a local law in relationship, in
14 relation to be requiring a penetration testing
15 protocol. Intro 1154, a local law in relation to
16 encrypting website exchange or transfers and then
17 lastly Intro 1297, a local law in relation to
18 codifying an office of cyber command. Ensuring the
19 security in Cyberspace to our promoting prosperity
20 and protecting your City's critical infrastructure
21 and the privacy of our residents. The internet has
22 become an important component of all aspects of
23 lives. The internet has changed businesses paths,
24 education, Government, healthcare and even the ways
25 in which we interact with each other. We now use the

2 internet to transfer of funds from bank accounts,
3 check bus time tables, book car service, pay parking
4 tickets, check weather and remote in regular room
5 temperatures in our homes and even it to upload to
6 get medications. All of this requires providing
7 personal and private information and really to make
8 sure that the information is secure. Therefore, both
9 our critical infrastructures and our daily lives rely
10 on computer driver interkinetic information
11 technologies. It is the fact that in Cyberspaces new
12 vulnerabilities have been revealed and new tracks
13 continue to emerge. It is part of our mission to
14 keep our Cyberspace safe and secure and these four
15 Bills hope to accomplish just that. Okay. I look
16 forward to hearing from the panels today and I would
17 like to thank the Technology Committee Staff for
18 putting together this hearing. I would like to
19 recognize the Technology Committee Members which they
20 are on the way and thank you and I look forward to
21 hearing on the testimony on these Bills today and we
22 have Mr. Jeff Brown, New York City Chief Information
23 Security and Head of Cybercommand. Welcome to our
24 Committee.

2 COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the
3 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and
4 answer honestly to Committee questions?

5 JEFF BROWN: I do.

6 COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you. Okay.

8 COUNSEL: You can start.

9 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah, you can start
10 now.

11 JEFF BROWN: Good afternoon, good
12 afternoon Chair Koo and members of the Committee on
13 Technology. My name is Jeff Brown and I am New York
14 City's Chief Information Security Officer and Head of
15 New York City Cybercommand. I am here today to speak
16 with you about the important issue of Cybersecurity.
17 Specifically, with respect to issues associated with
18 the Committee's consideration of four distinct pieces
19 of proposed Legislation. Intro 1152, Intro 1153,
20 Intro 1154 and Intro 1297. At New York City
21 Cybercommand we believe that thoughtful Legislation
22 and regulation at the Federal, State and local levels
23 plays a critical role to enhance our collective and
24 increasingly interdependent Cybersecurity posture.
25 This is our first time to appear before the Committee

2 and we see today as a welcome opportunity. Before we
3 turn to the proposed Legislation, I would like to
4 take a moment to provide some context on New York
5 City Cybercommand and the perspective we offer today.
6 I would be remiss if I did not mention at the onset
7 the important work protecting the City from Cyber
8 threats that pre-dates the creation of New York City
9 Cybercommand. This work was performed by the
10 Department of Information Technology and
11 Telecommunications as well as Technology and Security
12 Teams within the Agencies themselves. These teams
13 continue today and are our strongest partners.
14 Recognizing the importance of Cybersecurity to the
15 City and its residents, visitors and businesses. The
16 Mayor built a distinct standalone Cybersecurity
17 function that would have the appropriate
18 responsibilities and authorities to apply uniform
19 consistent approach to Cybersecurity across all City
20 Agencies including Do It as a core technology
21 services Agency. Our planned foundation rested on
22 the premise that it continued to be the world's
23 leading City, New York must remain the safest and
24 most security City. As a first step, we needed to
25 establish a mechanism for the City to have a

2 Cybersecurity conversation as it appeared to be
3 Technology conversation and with the Agencies
4 delivering critical services each and every day to
5 New Yorkers. In support of this effort, the Mayor
6 signed Executive Order 28 on July 11, 2017. It is a
7 concise but thorough document that sets for the
8 intent, direction and authority of the City's unique
9 approach to Cybersecurity with a clear mission to
10 make New York City a Cyber secure place to live,
11 visit and do business. Under the Executive Order, we
12 are charged to undertake the following activities
13 with regard to City-owned and managed systems, ensure
14 compliance with information security policy and
15 standards, mitigation Cyber threats and direct
16 incident response, mandate deployment of technical
17 and administrative controls, review Cyber-related
18 spending and collaborate with Federal and State
19 Government Agencies and private-sector organizations.
20 In addition to Cybercommand specific mandates under
21 the Executive Order I would also like to highlight
22 just one example of how New York City Cybercommand
23 help define the role of City Government in
24 Cyberspace, the New York City Security Initiative.
25 NYC Secure re-conventionalizes the role of the City

2 in Cyberspace under the principal that Cybersecurity
3 is a public safety issue and an essential need of all
4 New Yorkers and Cybersecurity for New Yorkers should
5 protect and respect New Yorkers Privacy. I am proud
6 to remind the Council that in support of the NYC
7 Secure Initiative, New York City Cybercommand
8 released a free mobile threat detection app. This
9 App embodies our NYC Secure Principals. It reduced
10 the risk of malicious activity when it is sought on
11 mobile devices and it was built under the concept of
12 Privacy by Design. We developed the App to ensure
13 that privacy principals were embedded into the Apps
14 code. Similarly, New York City Cybercommand is also
15 working with the Agencies to deploy a privacy centric
16 Wi-Fi Security Solution in the locations where the
17 City provides free Wi-Fi. The creation of New York
18 City Cybercommand was a critical step to protect our
19 City and prepare in its future. It is a future in
20 which New Yorkers expect our City to rapidly adapt to
21 new ways in engaging in commerce and culture through
22 technology and this future must be secure. The
23 complexity of Cybersecurity coupled with the
24 challenge of preparing to defend against future
25 unknowns is daunting. This Committee knows that

2 Cyber threats have evolved and are evolving in
3 concerning ways. Cyberthreats do not respect
4 international boundaries. Cyberthreats do not
5 respect national boundaries. Cyberthreats do not
6 respect state boundaries and cyberthreats do not
7 respect local boundaries and since the inception of
8 New York City Cybercommand, we have routinely dealt
9 with and are currently handling a variety of
10 Cybersecurity matters related to the City Government
11 Ecosystem. But I say with confidence that New York
12 City is setting a new standard on how a City
13 addresses these threats. We cannot eliminate
14 cyberthreats but we can take decisive action to
15 mitigate the risks that these threats will harm the
16 ability of City Agencies to deliver critical services
17 and we can respond quickly to minimize their impact
18 if they do. Accordingly, today presents an
19 opportunity to work together as a City on additional
20 measures to assist our City's preparation. We
21 welcome this and all opportunities to work with the
22 Committee on thoughtful Legislation that will advance
23 our shared objectives for a safer City. We
24 appreciate the overall objective of the proposed
25 Legislation to enhance the Cybersecurity of our City.

2 I make the following brief observations with respect
3 to each of the proposed Bills and will be delighted
4 to discuss them further and in greater detail
5 following the hearing today. Intro 1152, we agree
6 with the premise that people should not incur late
7 fees associated with a system outage. We will work
8 with Council to identify the appropriate agencies
9 that should also be a part of this discussion. Intro
10 1153, this proposed Legislation outlines four
11 important Cybersecurity objectives. The first, NYC
12 Cybercommand referred to as voting management. The
13 second we will refer to it as education awareness.
14 The third we would refer to as compliance and the
15 fourth we would refer to as incident response
16 reporting. While we will continue to support
17 strengthening, education and awareness throughout the
18 City's workforce we are concerned about certain
19 aspects of the proposed Legislation, particularly the
20 concept of an immediate reporting requirement during
21 incident response. As currently written, the Bill
22 would require us to divert resources from responding
23 to an attack to brief the City Council in a matter
24 outside of the traditional hearing and oversight
25 processes outlined in the Charter and it may force

2 the public exposure of information that would make
3 the City an easier target of Cyberattack. Intro 1154,
4 website encryption is important and our partners at
5 Do It have made significant progress toward this end.
6 HTTPS has already been implemented on NYC.gov and we
7 support the Committee in moving more City-maintained
8 websites to HTTPS. Intro 1297, we support
9 centralization of authority within City Government to
10 manage Cyberthreats. Our organization with the
11 authority to salvage technical controls with
12 oversight ability and the resources to engage and
13 educate across City-government is the most effective
14 approach to address the Cyberthreats that we face.
15 Executive Order 28 clearly defines the powers and
16 duties of New York City Cybercommand, acknowledges
17 the unique importance of Cybersecurity of critical
18 infrastructure and underscores the need to organize
19 around this important issue in a way that best
20 protects all New Yorkers and the services that they
21 rely on each day. Today's Committee hearing is a
22 signal to New Yorkers that our Government is in firm
23 agreement about the critical importance of
24 Cybersecurity. It is a signal to New Yorkers that
25 their government recognizes that partnership can

2 strengthen New York City and that New York City can
3 set an example for others to follow. In the spirit
4 of our shared responsibility to protect and defend
5 the people of New York City I want to once more thank
6 Chair Koo and the Committee on Technology for the
7 opportunity to speak today and I welcome the
8 discussion.

9 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Mr. uhm before we start questioning it should be
11 one to acknowledge uhm our Committee Members who
12 would just join us, Council Member Ulrich, Council
13 Member Holden and Council Member Yeger. So, thank
14 you for your testimony. Uhm first all, I want to
15 congratulate you on your success in monitoring NYC
16 Secure to have. I am sure that we all would like to
17 learn more about your success in protecting New York
18 City and our residents from Cyberattacks. So, uhm
19 Executive Order 28 requires New York City
20 Cybercommand to set Security Policies and Standards.
21 How is the process going?

22 JEFF BROWN: Thank you for the question
23 Chair Koo. The process is going quite well. I would
24 reiterate to the Committee that the Department of
25 Information Technology and Telecommunications

2 predating the creation of NYC Cybercommand has a
3 standard of policies and associated standards for the
4 security of IT systems. New York City Cybercommand
5 has been working diligently with the Department of
6 Information Technology Telecommunications and
7 Agencies, learning from those Agencies, experiences
8 with the existing policy has begun the process of
9 rolling out new policies. Those new policies include
10 incident response and others to come in coming
11 months. Uhm these policies are meant to make sure
12 that the authority of NYC Cybercommand to do things
13 like deploy defenses and conduct incident response is
14 in tight, tight coordination with the Agencies
15 themselves and is also making sure that our City has
16 the standards that are industry standard and industry
17 leading to protect our systems from any type of Cyber
18 event.

19 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you, can you put
20 the mic a little bit closer to you.

21 JEFF BROWN: I'm sorry, yeah. Thanks.
22 Better?

23 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah, yeah.

24 JEFF BROWN: Okay.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah thank you. So,
3 these policies tailor to a specific agency or uhm
4 they are applied to all City Agencies?

5 JEFF BROWN: The policies are meant as an
6 umbrella for all City Agencies. The policies are
7 followed, will be followed by standards and are
8 followed by standards that give more precise guidance
9 on technical controls but I would like to highlight
10 is agencies themselves have different functions and
11 different technical environments so we are very, very
12 mindful in working with the agencies to make sure
13 that the umbrella applies appropriately and helps
14 guide them into a better standard but then we need ot
15 be mindful of the different technical environments
16 and associate guidance to them on how to best to
17 defend their individual systems.

18 CHAIR PETER KOO: Okay, thank you. Uhm
19 Executive Order 28 also required New York City
20 Cybercommand to ensure compliance with the policies,
21 is there a mechanism in place to ensure compliance?

22 JEFF BROWN: There are mechanisms to
23 ensure compliance. Some mechanisms are technical and
24 some mechanisms are Administrative. New York City
25 Cybercommand is working with the Agencies to make

2 sure that they take advantage of the most secure ways
3 of, uhm of building and maintaining their technical
4 systems.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: What other consequence
6 Agencies didn't comply with the Executive Order?

7 JEFF BROWN: We are in an active
8 conversation with the Agencies about what is really
9 the intent of our Cybersecurity conversation today
10 and that intent is to make sure that we defend those
11 systems against what really is the consequence of
12 concern and that is the disruption of a system or the
13 stewing of data and that is the, are the consequences
14 that we are always are mindful about protecting
15 against.

16 CHAIR PETER KOO: Uhm in general, can you
17 tell us what are the targets of Cyberattacks?

18 JEFF BROWN: So, in general, the, if you
19 think about New York City's City Government Systems.
20 They are not necessarily unlike a highly complicated
21 but very large enterprise environment. So, the types
22 of threats that we see today are not unlike the type
23 of threats that enterprises have to deal with each
24 and every day. That is something that our team is
25 incredibly focused on. Some of those threats that

2 are the most common are things like fishing events
3 uhm that I think is a prevail and attack factor but
4 there are many others so we have a defense in-depth
5 strategy to make sure that we are taking a look at
6 things that happen at other enterprises. Learning
7 how to take those learning from the events of those
8 other enterprises and learning to apply that learning
9 against our own defenses to make sure they are
10 enriched each and every day.

11 CHAIR PETER KOO: Not, yeah. Okay. So,
12 you had mentioned in your testimony a privacy
13 sensitive Wi-Fi Security Solution. Uhm what are the
14 risks associated with using public Wi-Fi, so if I use
15 Wi-Fi in this room, is it safe?

16 JEFF BROWN: No, so the Wi-Fi in public
17 spaces, uhm there are two components of the NYC
18 Secure Approach. One of the components is in any
19 place where the City Government in New York is
20 providing public Wi-Fi. We are configuring that Wi-
21 Fi to take advantage of a non-for-profit what is
22 called DNS Security Solution. The reason why we
23 chose this DNS Security Solution it is just like the
24 app, privacy by design. This solution, if a user
25 connects to that public Wi-Fi terminal will only

2 prevent the user from connecting to a website that is
3 specifically on the internet, placed by the internet
4 to steal something from that user. It doesn't
5 collect any of the browser information from, from
6 that connection. So, we wanted to provide a very
7 strong security solution to take a major piece of the
8 attack factor off of the table when someone connects
9 to a Wi-Fi, uhm that's one of the measures that we
10 brought to bear the NYC Secure Initiative. The other
11 is app, I'm happy to speak to that measure as well.

12 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm, will any
13 information be collected from the users. Are you
14 collecting any information from there?

15 JEFF BROWN: No, no it doesn't, for the
16 Wi-Fi solution, again it is a DNS security solution.
17 The name of it is Quad 9. The thing that I find very
18 interesting about the solution is that isn't just
19 something that can be deployed at the places where
20 the New York City Government provides public Wi-Fi,
21 any individual who wants to education themselves
22 about this initiative could take this home and
23 configure their home advice to use the same piece of
24 protection. It does not collect the browser history,
25 it only interacts with uhm the domain name system in

2 a way so that the internet connection is successful.
3 Uhm what is, what is very important to know is that
4 the only thing it will block are sites that are only
5 put there by criminal and advisories in order to
6 compromise the device. It is the only thing, it's
7 the only action it takes. And again, I think that
8 this is a wonderful opportunity to speak with the
9 Council about this, about this initiative because in
10 many ways we want to inform New Yorkers, educate New
11 Yorkers because this is a tool, they can bring home.
12 They can use this tool in the day-to-day life and
13 they would be safer and it would not be invasive in
14 their privacy.

15 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm so is the Wi-Fi
16 use in all agencies the same? Or say is in library
17 we have Wi-Fi too. In the New York City Public
18 Library...

19 JEFF BROWN: So...

20 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, are they using the
21 same systems as yours?

22 JEFF BROWN: Different Agencies, the
23 Library and other Wi-Fi providers in the City, from a
24 technical perspective they are all different systems.
25 Uhm we've been working with the Agency to make sure

2 where they are providing public Wi-Fi, this solution
3 is enabled. We are also working with other places in
4 New York City that provide public Wi-Fi to enable the
5 solution as well, like the Libraries. Uhm I don't
6 have the Data right in front of me but I know my team
7 has had many conversations with the public Wi-Fi... uhm
8 with the public libraries and some of the have
9 availed themselves of the solution to protect New
10 Yorkers when they access their, their free Wi-Fi.

11 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm, recently I
12 ride on the subway, I see ads on the new NYC Secure
13 App in the subways.

14 JEFF BROWN: That's right.

15 CHAIR PETER KOO: You are advertising for
16 it, yeah, so, can you tell us something about it? Is
17 it available for both Apple and Android uhm systems?

18 JEFF BROWN: That is correct, Chair Koo.
19 It is available for both the Apple and the Android
20 systems, uhm this app, the NYC Secure App the
21 important note is that we built this app with Privacy
22 by Design. So, at the code level this app does not
23 collect any provide data from a New Yorkers Device.
24 It is not capable of collecting that data. My
25 organization does not receive data, any organization

2 does not receive data. It does not send the data
3 from the device. The thing that the ad does is
4 really in two categories, one we spoken a little bit
5 about Wi-Fi security. It could give you a Wi-Fi
6 alert. What the Wi-Fi alert is saying is that your
7 device is connecting to an unsecure Wi-Fi. Uhm, as
8 we know, the internet itself is in many ways not a
9 secure place, so what we are reminding you in New
10 York or what we are trying to educate a New Yorker to
11 do is be mindful when you have those connections with
12 your device to steer away from sites where you might
13 want to conduct activity that would be of a private
14 nature for you. It could be banking, it could be
15 etc. as we are reminding New Yorkers to steer away
16 from that and if you do want to conduct that activity
17 to look for the connection to the HTTPS. That
18 guidance is given right there for the New Yorkers.
19 So that's a Wi-Fi we consider that a network type
20 alert. It is not going to take action on the device,
21 it is just going to let the New Yorker know. The
22 other type of alert that comes off the NYCC app is
23 called a device alert. A device alert might indicate
24 that unfortunately you may... on a, on a link in a
25 phishing email, etc. Unfortunately, your device has

2 come across a threat that the intent is to inject you
3 know unauthorized code on to your device to try and
4 give an adversary access to it. So, then it will
5 give the New Yorker some advice, maybe turn off the
6 phone, maybe reinstall from backup. Again, with this
7 type of alert, we are also not taking a direct action
8 on the device, we are alerting New Yorkers. We are
9 trying to use the app to make New Yorkers more
10 mindful as they navigate their life you know along
11 the internet and to steer away from the threats.

12 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, how many people
13 downloaded this app already?

14 JEFF BROWN: We have crossed the threshold
15 of 50,000 downloads which is something my
16 organization is exceptionally proud of. Quite
17 simply, a number of months ago there were 50,000 less
18 devices in New York City that were safe and now there
19 is 50,000 more devices on behalf of New Yorkers that
20 are safer, we are very proud of this.

21 CHAIR PETER KOO: Any feedbacks from the
22 users?

23 JEFF BROWN: We have a mechanism through
24 the website Secure.NYC for people to send us
25 questions. We've gotten some, some questions about,

2 about the device, uhm about the, about the app and
3 we've gotten some very positive feedback too I'm
4 happy to report.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you. So, what are
6 the most common threats from the, that the New York
7 City residents face daily you know in terms of
8 internet, and cyber you know?

9 JEFF BROWN: So, I think that residents
10 of the City, visitors, businesses, face many, many
11 different threats as they conduct their life online.
12 Research tells us that the most prevalent type of
13 threat is called you know, a phish, uhm that's a very
14 prevalent vector of an adversary trying to control the
15 device, taking control of the device. Uhm there are
16 some great ways of protecting yourself from that type
17 of vector and you know we encourage New Yorkers to
18 avail themselves of those protections.

19 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, in general how do
20 we protect our systems in their home. We just buy an
21 internet anti-virus software?

22 JEFF BROWN: So, from a protect systems
23 at your home, I would point.

24 CHAIR PETER KOO: Uhm, in a small
25 business?

2 JEFF BROWN: And small businesses. Uhm I
3 would point a small business also towards NYC.Secure.
4 A small business can configure it's Wi-Fi through the
5 DNS solution, quad 9. A small business can put the
6 NYC Secure App on its devices. I would also
7 encourage a small business to research a concept
8 called multifactorial authentication. That is
9 another wonderful way of making sure that your email
10 accounts and the other aspects of your business has
11 additional layers of security. I would highlight of
12 course you know in a land in a landscape where the
13 threats are always evolving. You know, you cannot
14 eliminate every aspect of this risk but there are
15 great ways to help add defensive layers, even in a
16 small business or even at home. We are trying to
17 make sure that we are engaging New Yorkers in that
18 conversation.

19 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thanks. Uhm Council
20 Member Ulrich you have a question?

21 ROBERT HOLDEN: Holden yeah.

22 CHAIR PETER KOO: Holden oh yeah, I'm
23 sorry, yeah.

24 ROBERT HOLDEN: He's better looking.

25 ERIC ULRICH: Not quiet.

2 ROBERT HOLDEN: Alright uhm what, now
3 just uhm do anybody keep try on how many times we
4 are, we are attacked. I mean certainly with the City
5 System but do we have a number on that in your
6 office? First.

7 JEFF BROWN: The fi...

8 ROBERT HOLDEN: The Cyberattacks. Yes.

9 JEFF BROWN: First, good afternoon
10 Council Member Holden, uhm I'm happy to be here
11 today.

12 ROBERT HOLDEN: Alright.

13 JEFF BROWN: We do keep track of these
14 types of threats. One of the activities within a New
15 York City Cybercommand is a 24/7 Security Operation
16 Center. That Security Operation Center is part in
17 partial of a capability that we call our Threat
18 Management Function. That Threat Management Function
19 each and every day is monitoring those City Systems
20 has a number of ab... has a number of abilities to
21 understand the amount of attacks, the types of
22 attacks. Uhm the things that are blocked. The
23 things that require further investigation and uhm you
24 know act accordingly. Uhm so that's how we handle
25 the volume. I would say to a certain extent New York

2 City, City Government Systems is part and partial for
3 a size perspective of you know other very large sort
4 of global companies, it is the size, right. Uhm and
5 so we see accordingly the amount of activity that you
6 would in that type of environment. I would also uhm
7 note to Council that if you think about the internet,
8 the internet itself is continually communicating in
9 many, many ways so sometimes thinking about the sheer
10 number uhm can be daunting but it is really the type
11 of thing that is incredibly important to be mindful
12 of because if we understand the type then we can take
13 that type and make sure our defenses are set
14 accordingly to defend against that type.

15 ROBERT HOLDEN: Yeah. Almost a day
16 doesn't go by where we don't hear of phishing going
17 on ab... by somebody. It is probably thousands or if
18 not millions of people trying to phish and I do have
19 like uh what is, obviously a lot of it is from
20 overseas. Uhm do we have a country that is leading.
21 I think I know the answer to this but in cyberattacks
22 uhm that we, that we can actually track?

23 JEFF BROWN: So, in my program we think
24 much less about the who than the how. As I, as I
25 noted a moment ago, the types of attacks that we see

2 are global and to your point as we look at sort of
3 new cycles in Cybersecurity, we see all kinds of
4 different activity. It could be because of a phish,
5 it could be something is stolen. It could be
6 something is interrupted so what my program tries to
7 do is leave the adversary attribution the who to
8 other practitioners and very much concentrate on the
9 how. Because once we know the how, we can apply that
10 to our defenses to make sure that we are safe.

11 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right, and, and certainly
12 the losses are, tremendous when people are you know
13 phishing and Cyberattacks. Do we ever catch anybody
14 uhm I mean I know your office, but not your office,
15 do we ever find out as a network of scammers that are
16 out there and you bust them?

17 JEFF BROWN: Uhm or, so I would point the
18 Council Member to a number of activities that aren't
19 the prevue of the NYC Cybercommand but uhm Department
20 of Justice and other entities are involved very much
21 in the, in the attribution and are working
22 accordingly against that objection.

23 ROBERT HOLDEN: You know but we don't,
24 let's say my son just got his identity stolen uhm and
25 you know we don't know how it happened it just, you

2 know but it, it usually goes to the banks. Does
3 that, does that go to law enforcement too? Like who
4 should, if I'm somebody phishing. I'm the victim of
5 phishing. I, you normally the banks get that
6 information, do we have an office where we can call
7 law enforcement?

8 JEFF BROWN: So, you are correct in the
9 finance service sector, it is incredibly tight
10 relationship with law enforcement and that type of
11 relationship also exists with NYC Cybercommand. We
12 are in close partnership and coordination with NYPD
13 on almost a daily if not weekly basis and a lot of
14 that is because not necessarily uh attribution, most
15 of it is because of information sharing. There are
16 many different channels in the Cybersecurity
17 community to understand as I said the how and we want
18 to make sure that we are connected to every single
19 one of those channels.

20 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right.

21 JEFF BROWN: We let, the, the who for
22 them but the how we want to learn from. So, we are
23 very, very careful to get through those channels.

24 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right I get it, okay
25 thank you.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: We are also joined by
3 Council Member Lander.

4 BRAD LANDER: Good afternoon.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: Good afternoon, Council
6 Member you have questions?

7 BRAD LANDER: Yes, Chair Koo. Thank you
8 very much and I apologize for coming in late, so
9 hopefully I'm not trotting ground. Oh, I'm sorry, if
10 Council Member Yeger was here before me.

11 KALMAN YEGER: Go ahead.

12 BRAD LANDER: Okay. Uhm so hopefully I'm
13 not trotting ground you already trod but uhm uhm it's
14 nice to see here you here and thank you for your
15 work. Can you just, first sort of tell me sort of a
16 little bit about the org chart. Where you sit? You
17 know I have been grappling with, you know because we
18 have a Chief Technology Officer, we got a
19 Commissioner of Do It. We have you know the Mayor's
20 Office of Data Analytics which sits at the Mayor's
21 office of operations. And I am having a little bit
22 of a hard time just understanding kind of. I mean we
23 want all of those things and we definitely want Cyber
24 command and I assume you work with a range of
25 obviously a whole much broader range of agencies but

2 can you just think, I don't know, who do you report
3 to and how do you relate to those other key
4 technology functions?

5 JEFF BROWN: Happy to. Uhm the Executive
6 Order uhm outlines really the unique place that New
7 York City Cybercommand has and the reason why that
8 uhm it was put into I guess existence that way is for
9 a very concrete reason. The conversation around
10 Cyber Risk now in the City with the creation of New
11 York City Cyber Commands allows us to have that
12 conversation at City Hall as written in the Executive
13 Order. The organization officially reports to the
14 first deputy Mayor, we do work exceptionally closely
15 each and every day with City Hall at the Deputy Mayor
16 level. Uhm but the conversation about Cyber Risk can
17 happen there along with as appear to a conversation
18 around technology strategy and technology risk along
19 with the conversation represented by the agencies
20 around the service that they provide. It is within
21 that context that you can really take a look at all
22 the different ways that Cyber is a multi, sort of
23 disciplinary multi-function, multi-technical
24 conversation that goes beyond just technology. It
25 goes beyond sometimes just business function because

2 it represents a safety risk. So, to you question,
3 from a hieratical perspective and organization
4 perspective, uhm at we now sit in a place where we
5 can have that conversation as a peer office or to the
6 agencies providing services or technologies across
7 the city landscape. Uh and then beyond that so
8 that's reporting into City Hall, beyond that we break
9 down very much like any enterprise cybersecurity
10 program uhm I would be a little hesitant to go into
11 too much specifics but at a very high level uhm we
12 have a function as I mentioned a little bit earlier,
13 a threat management function, you can think of that
14 as very much the team that does 24/7. They do the
15 detection and response. We have a function called
16 security uhm security sciences and that does the
17 engineer and architecture for our tools and does
18 advisory services as we try and raise the waters of
19 the technology across all of the City landscape. We
20 have a function called urban technology. That is a
21 very interesting function, that is perhaps not
22 something that you would normally see in other
23 enterprises but that is very much a forward looking
24 function to think about, as the, as the City's, as
25 the City landscape proliferates with the devices, we

2 have to think very mindfully about what types of
3 devices the City operates, so that function, from an
4 urban technology perspective is leading that
5 conversation and then we have business functioning
6 and governance functions, just like you would see in,
7 in any other office here in the City.

8 BRAD LANDERS: Alright so that's very
9 helpful. And I asked a couple of questions more
10 about uhm you know how some different functions
11 relate, uhm so I know we have had a dialog in the
12 past around the link NYC and how the. And this maybe
13 about protecting New Yorkers Data Privacy and paying
14 attention to you know how they are using it.
15 Obviously, there is a contract and some of that was
16 negotiated there but and there are all kinds of
17 things evolving over time. So, is that a
18 conversation that you are a part of or is that
19 because I don't know whether it was Do It or DCAS
20 that actually negotiated the contract with LINK. Uhm
21 you know was, is that an issue that you guys would
22 deal with or is that in somebody's else's domain?

23 JEFF BROWN: So, with regard to Link I am
24 first proud to report to the Committee that they are
25 adopting the Quad 9 solution.

2 BRAD LANDER: And I love link so this not
3 like I'm worried about them it just is a place where
4 these issues exist in, in, in you know in real time.

5 JEFF BROWN: That's right, so we work, we
6 work very closely with Do It on making sure that the
7 security policy, standards, the principals that we
8 are bringing across all of the umbrella agency
9 systems are applied in like all of their business
10 matters and uhm Link would be inclusive of that. And
11 it would be the same answer to any technology system
12 that an agency is uhm looking to adopt. It goes back
13 to like I outlined, the conversation of Cyber Risk
14 for Technology Risk and Strategy with business
15 function. That's the, that is sort of the table
16 setting of the conversation. We are influential when
17 it comes to Cyber Risk. The threat management
18 function does have you know the, the Executive Order
19 authority to mandate technical controls so that is
20 another umbrella type cyber defense that, that we are
21 the, sort of the central recipient and actor on that.

22 BRAD LANDER: Uhm and then I guess my
23 last question you know the thing that I think of as
24 paying attention to the data privacy issues for New
25 Yorkers in relationship to government. You know, we

2 are collecting lots of data, let's say I'm I don't
3 know what it is, I don't know, you know, I deal with
4 parking tickets of whatever. I am an Agency that in
5 one way or another is collecting a lot of New Yorkers
6 uhm data. Uhm in, you it sounds like you are
7 definitely working with me on kind of thinking about
8 the threats that someone might come in and try to get
9 at that, how about the questions about just how we as
10 a City ought to be thinking about that and you know
11 what our algorithms do and where we might expose
12 people to uhm you know. I am actually pretty happy
13 right now that the speed camera and red-light camera
14 data is out there for all to see. I mean it's by
15 license plate, we don't know the name of the
16 individual with the license plate, but every one of
17 those tickets winds up getting aggregating and there
18 is actually a great twitter bot that you can when you
19 see a driver do something horrific or obnoxious you
20 take a picture of their license plate and you tweet
21 it at How's My Driving and you get back this record
22 of all of their violations of our cameras uhm and you
23 know I actually want to use that data to start a more
24 reckless driver accountability program, but for now,
25 there is like some public accountability you know but

2 I'm sure there are places people would say uhm you
3 know, uhm doing that is a form of doxing or, uhm
4 that certainly is a form of doxing but where is the
5 line. And so uhm if I'm you know I am a CIO in an
6 agency are you guys working with me on that set of
7 data privacy questions or does that sit somewhere
8 else in the City's Technology Firmament?

9 JEFF BROWN: So, if I may, a number or
10 brief data points on the question. First, of course,
11 there are a number of different stakeholders in that
12 conversation. There is a Chief Privacy Officer.
13 There is an Agency that is building that technology.
14 There is a, you know office for the Data Strategy for
15 the City that is doing it. There is a number of
16 stakeholders in that multi-faceted conversation, uhm
17 another brief point, when it come sot data security,
18 that is a discipline within Cybersecurity so we are
19 working with agencies to make sure that data and
20 systems that hold data are identified. Uhm and that
21 the appropriate controls, encryption and others are
22 applied to those data sets and then third, when it
23 comes to privacy, I would really point the Council
24 Member no further than the NYC Secure Principals.
25 From a Cyber Security perspective, we have said for

2 New Yorkers that Cyber Security as an essential
3 service, as something that is a public safety issue,
4 needs to protect privacy and respect privacy as well.
5 We have a belief that Cyber Security can uphold
6 privacy and doesn't in no issue should invade a New
7 Yorkers privacy. So that's the principals of my
8 office.

9 BRAD LANDER: That is great. And so, I,
10 just maybe I should have known we had a Chief Privacy
11 Officer but I that person sits where?

12 JEFF BROWN: I believe, though I am happy
13 to get back to the Council on this but I believe that
14 is within the Mayor's Office of Operations.

15 BRAD LANDER: Okay that might be an
16 interesting followup hearing for us to talk with the
17 Chief Privacy Officer about some of the.

18 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, any more questions
19 members? Seeing none. Mr. Brown thank you very much
20 for that testimony. I'm sorry I didn't turn on the
21 mic. So, I want to thank you for your testimony and
22 thank you for your dedication and your leadership.

23 JEFF BROWN: Thank you Chair Koo and
24 Council Members for having me today.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: Are there any more
3 public participations? Seeing none. This meeting is
4 adjourned. Thank you. (gavel pounding). You always
5 come at the right time.

6 BRAD LANDER: This was luck today. I was
7 actually trying to get here earlier but I got waylaid
8 on the way in.

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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 JANUARY 14, 2019