

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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February 23, 2010
Start: 1:00 pm
Recess: 2:49 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
ROBERT JACKSON
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Helen D. Foster
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia,
Jr.
Council Member Deborah L. Rose
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Robert Jackson
Opening Statement
Chairperson
Committee on Education

Asia Schomberg
Counsel
Committee on Education

Regina Peredo Ryan
Financial Analyst
Committee on Education

Jan Atwell
Legislative Policy Analyst
Committee on Education

Chairperson read statement:
James Van Bramer
Sponsor of Intro 59
New York City Council Member

Barbara Stripling
Director of Library Services
Department of Education

Ann Marie Lettieri Baker
Executive Director for Academics
Department of Education

Linda Kennedy
Director of Teaching and Learning, Literacy and
Outreach
New York Public Library System

Andrea Vaughn
Coordinator School-Age Services
Brooklyn Public Library

Maureen O'Conner
Chief Operation Officer
Queens Borough Public Library

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Eileen Muller
President
Local 1482
Brooklyn Public Library Guild
DC 37

John Hyslop
Executive Vice President
Local 1321
Queens Library Employees

Louise Stamp
Clerical Vice President
Local 1930
New York Public Library Guild

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[Background conversation]

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[Gavel banging]

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please

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ladies and gentlemen. Please take your seats,

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take your conversations outside.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Good

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afternoon everyone and welcome to today's

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Education Committee hearing on Intro number 59.

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This bill is sponsored by Council Member Van

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Bramer and would amend the Administrative Code of

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the City of New York to require that the

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Department of Education to distribute information

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on obtaining a library card to all students.

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But before I begin, continue; let

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me introduce my colleagues that are present: to my

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left Dan Garodnick of Manhattan; and Mark Weprin

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of Queens; and staff is--what's your name again?

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Asia Schomberg, the Counsel to the Committee; and

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Regina Peredo Ryan the Financial Analyst to the

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Committee; and Jan Atwell is running around

21

somewhere here. She's the Legislative Policy

22

Analyst.

23

Now many members are not present

24

today because there are several hearings that are

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1
2 going on. Parks is up on the 16th floor and
3 there's, I think, a joint or several committees
4 that are joining together and holding a second
5 hearing on Section 8 vouchers across the street in
6 the chambers. And some of our colleagues are on
7 an education mission to Israel. And we've been
8 joined by our colleague Vincent Ignizio of Staten
9 Island to my right.

10 Intro number 59 would require that
11 the Department of Education to develop a pamphlet
12 or written materials containing information
13 regarding each public library system, specifically
14 the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public
15 Library and the Queens Borough Public Library.
16 The bill would also require that the pamphlet or
17 written materials include information on how
18 students can obtain a library card at the library
19 system that serves the location of their school.
20 And finally the bill would further require that
21 such pamphlet and/or written material be produced
22 and distributed to every student annually.

23 Public libraries are an important
24 resource for all City residents, young or old or
25 in between, it doesn't matter. Especially

1
2 students though. It is probably close to
3 impossible to complete all of the reading,
4 research and other projects required by schools
5 without using the books and other resources found
6 in our public libraries. Besides providing the
7 reference materials, books and periodicals, and
8 other media needed to complete school work, all of
9 the libraries offer thousands of exhibits, classes
10 and programs every year for children and teenagers
11 and adults including after school, homework and
12 research assistance, film screenings, arts and
13 crafts, and many other programs.

14 And library programs are free and
15 can be found in every Borough and if not, almost
16 all local communities. Every child should have
17 access to and be encouraged to utilize their
18 public library. The Department of Education can
19 and should assist in providing students with
20 information about their public libraries. My
21 colleagues and I are eager to hear from the
22 Department of Education regarding their views on
23 Intro number 59 as well as to get feedback on
24 Intro 59 from the 3 public library systems and
25 other interested witnesses.

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2 Everyone who wishes to testify
3 today must fill out a witness slip which is
4 located at the desk of the Sergeant at Arms near
5 the entrance of the hearing room. Please indicate
6 on the witness slip whether you are here to
7 testify in favor or in opposition to Intro number
8 59.

9 I want to point out that, however,
10 we will not be voting on the bill today as this is
11 just the first hearing. And at this point I'd
12 normally turn the floor over to the bill's sponsor
13 but our colleague Council Member Van Bramer isn't
14 available to attend today's hearing. He is on the
15 mission to Israel. So I will read his statement
16 in his absence. And we've been joined by our
17 colleague from Brooklyn, what's his first name?

18 MR. MARTINEZ: Steve.

19 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Steve Levin
20 who replaced David Yassky. And Steve, forgive me,
21 I'm not so used to seeing so many new faces. I
22 have to get used to it.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: No problem
24 at all and I just actually spoke to Council Member
25 Yassky a few minutes ago and he sends his regards

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2 to all his former colleagues.

3 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.

4 And so this is the statement on behalf of our
5 colleague Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer who is a
6 prime sponsor of Intro number 59. And it reads as
7 follows:

8 Libraries are an integral part of
9 our education system. It is undeniable that
10 children who read more and use their libraries do
11 better academically. As an educational resource
12 it is important to use every opportunity to bring
13 libraries and students together. The Library Card
14 Act would do just this. We all know that a
15 library card in the hands of a child is a passport
16 to a world of books and lifelong learning.

17 Library cards are a free resource
18 and every child regardless of income or
19 immigration status is eligible for one. While
20 many children have library cards, far too many do
21 not. In Queens alone approximately 45% or 113,000
22 school-aged children do not have library cards.
23 While in Brooklyn about 33% or approximately
24 196,000 school-aged children do not have library
25 cards. A similar number of children lack library

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2 cards in the areas served by the New York Public
3 Library. While library systems do great work to
4 try to increase enrollment the truth is that the
5 best, most efficient and most comprehensive way to
6 distribute library cards applications is through
7 our schools.

8 Now this is a low cost way of
9 greatly increasing the number of students who have
10 library cards. Library card applications are
11 already printed in multiple languages and need
12 only be handed over to the Department of Education
13 for appropriate distribution.

14 And so he would like to thank
15 everyone for attending today and for the Education
16 Committee hearing its first new bill of our term.
17 And with that I'd like to invite the first panel
18 is Barbara Stripling, did I pronounce your name
19 correctly? She's the Director of Library Services
20 at the Department of Education, along with Ann
21 Marie Lettieri Baker, New York City Department of
22 Education, Executive Director for--

23 MS. ANN MARIE LETTIERI BAKER:

24 [Interposing] Academics, yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --Academics

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is that correct? Sort of ran out of space
[chuckling]. And, hum, is there enough room over
there? Okay. And Linda Kennedy, she is with the
New York City New York Public Library System and
Andrea Vaughn with the Brooklyn Public Library
System, Vaughn. And Maureen O'Conner with the
Queens Library System. So if you could just pull
up chairs and slide over a little bit. You know,
it may be crowded but not as crowded as some of
our classrooms.

[Chuckling]

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Truth be
told. Truth be told.

OFF MIC: Is that the first time
you've used that line?

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Yes. But
welcome ladies. Good afternoon and welcome to our
first hearing of our new term for the City Council
of New York. And I think that we have, in my
opinion, a no-brainer Introduction. But time will
tell. So first I'd like to turn it over to
whoever wishes to speak first. I assume the
Department of Education, and if not then someone
else. Just please introduce yourself and your

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position and you may begin your testimony.

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MS. BARBARA STRIPLING: Hello. I'm
Barbara Stripling. I am Director of Library
Services for the Department of Education.

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Thank you very much for inviting
us, Chair Jackson and members of the Education
Committee. And thank you for the opportunity to
comment on proposed Intro 59. In behalf of the
Department I'd like to express our support for the
overall objectives of Intro 59 that was sponsored
by Council Member Van Bramer. Our mission at the
Office of Library Services is to empower every one
of our kids to be independent readers and
learners. And we know that it takes a variety of
resources and spaces to achieve that goal. It
really is a community goal.

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We already do several aspects of
our programming that enable our students to know
how to get a library card and to connect public
libraries and schools. And I thought I'd just
mention a few of the things that are already
happening. First of all we have a K through 12
Family Literacy Guide. It's been translated into
9 languages and it was published in partnership

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2 with New Visions for Public Schools but it was
3 developed in collaboration with all 3 public
4 library systems who contributed book lists and a
5 lot of the content for that guide. It's available
6 online right now.

7

8 The public libraries actively
9 participate in our fall and spring library
10 conferences. And at those conferences the public
11 librarians make presentations and give material to
12 all of the school librarians who are present. And
13 that's about 600 school librarians at the fall and
14 spring conference times.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Off mic]

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Where is that normally held at?

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17 MS. STRIPLING: The fall conference
18 we, for the last two years, we've held at Brooklyn
19 Tech.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay.

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21 MS. STRIPLING: On Election Day.
22 And the spring conferences we hold in each
23 Borough, usually in a public library. We also
24 have worked with the public libraries on the
25 homework help website. And try to encourage
teachers and students to know of its existence and

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2 to use that wonderful site. At the local level
3 there are a lot of connections between school
4 libraries and public libraries.

5 And they take various forms but a
6 lot of things like assignment notifications,
7 public librarians come to our schools and give
8 book talks and talk about the public library. And
9 we also try to encourage students to sign up for
10 library cards which is really what we're here to
11 talk about today.

12 And so I would like to tell you
13 that we see this as part of our continuing effort
14 to collaborate with all of our library systems to
15 develop a seamless web of library support, that
16 school libraries and public libraries need to work
17 together so that our communities feel well
18 supported by libraries wherever they are.

19 The Department does engage in some
20 efforts right now to help put out the library card
21 and to put this information into the hands of
22 parents. At the start of each school year we
23 distribute a family guide and that is to every
24 family in the public schools. And in that guide
25 there is a section about public library, their

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2 resources and how to sign up for a library card.
3 So that already goes out to every single family in
4 the school system.

5 We also have annual Pre-K
6 enrollment drives. And those are held in every
7 Borough. At each one of those meetings and all of
8 the materials that go out to parents for this
9 contain information about public library services.
10 At each one of the Borough meetings, public
11 librarians come and they talk about how do you get
12 a library card. And they even help parents
13 understand how you can apply online and through
14 public computers available at the public
15 libraries.

16 And finally we have a New York City
17 school survey that is administered to parents each
18 year. And that encourages parents to visit their
19 local public libraries and it contains information
20 about how to get a library card.

21 As I hope I've made clear we
22 really, totally support the idea of collaboration
23 and of building seamless support for use of public
24 libraries through the schools but we wanted to
25 make the Council aware of our desire to make this

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2 operationally feasible for us. As you know--

3 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

4 I knew that something was coming--

5 MS. STRIPLING: Yeah. But I said

6 it very nicely, right?

7 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: You just-

8 you're so smooth and--

9 [Laughter]

10 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --it was

11 going so lovely and now... you know, I'm joking.

12 MS. STRIPLING: Well we are facing

13 a \$1.6 billion budget cut--

14 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

15 Yeah.

16 MS. STRIPLING: --if the

17 preliminary budget from the Governor is approved

18 and even if the State legislators reduce that

19 amount, we know that we're going to face serious

20 fiscal issues. And so there are some, there are

21 some hard decisions that we have to make. And so

22 what we would like to propose and this is a very

23 positive way to approach it, I hope, you see, is

24 that we find a budget neutral way to accomplish

25 what is important for all of our kids and for all

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2 of us.

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And we've done some thinking on that. We would like to continue to work with the Council Members and the public libraries. We already have a wonderful collaborative relationship and we would like to work together to find a budget neutral way to accomplish the goals of this particular legislation.

I would like to end with my personal thanks to Council Members because of the investment that you are making, particular through the Reso A money, in the school libraries of our City. I have seen personally kids and schools and teachers and librarians who have been totally revitalized by your efforts. And I can promise you that it has made a significant difference in the lives of kids. And I just wanted you to understand that you may not get to visit the schools and see what has been accomplished but I see it and I want you to understand how much we appreciate it.

Our ultimate goal, all of us, is to find a way to build this community of library support around our students and their families.

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2 And so we look forward to working with you all to
3 figure out how to do it in the best way. Thank
4 you and I'm available for questions when we're all
5 through.

6 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you
7 very much. And I'm glad that you are here to give
8 testimony. And obviously from what you've
9 communicated, what you're saying and you've been
10 around a while and you know the system which is
11 good. Is that correct?

12 MS. STRIPLING: I've actually only
13 been at the Department for five years--

14 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
15 Okay that's a while.

16 MS. STRIPLING: --but I've been a
17 librarian for my whole life.

18 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Ah. Thank
19 you very much. Next please? Ann Marie, right?

20 MS. BAKER: I'm actually not
21 providing testimony--

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
23 Okay.

24 MS. BAKER: --I'm here to support
25 my colleague and to answer questions of the

1
2 Council but I do want to thank you for having us
3 here today.

4 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Thank
5 you Ann Marie. Next please?

6 MS. LINDA KENNEDY: Hi. Good
7 afternoon Chairman Jackson and members of the
8 Committee. I am so thankful to be able to testify
9 today regarding Intro number 59. My name is Linda
10 Kennedy and I'm the Director of Teaching and
11 Learning, Literacy and Outreach for the New York
12 Public Library System. And the New York Public
13 Library wholeheartedly supports Intro number 59
14 and its goal of putting library cards in the hands
15 of thousands of New York City's youngest
16 residents.

17 The NYPL system is comprised of 87
18 branch libraries in the Boroughs of the Bronx,
19 Manhattan and Staten Island as well as 4 world-
20 class research libraries, the Steven A.
21 Schwartzman Building; the Science, Industry and
22 Business Library; the Schomburg Center for
23 Research and Black Culture; and the Library for
24 the Performing Arts. This past year NYPL had over
25 18 million visitors to its libraries and over 26.5

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2 million online visits, the highest number in its
3 over 100-year history.

4 A library card is a gateway to
5 expanding a child's knowledge and scope of
6 understanding in the world. It is also an
7 entranceway to the child's independence, allowing
8 him or her to explore a vast collection of books,
9 CDs, DVDs, and online resources in a safe
10 environment, all free of charge. Access to books
11 is essential to the development of reading and
12 comprehension skills. Certainly a library card is
13 an essential tool in a child's education.

14 A library card provides access to
15 computers and the internet which is critical for
16 those who do not have a computer at home. All
17 NYPD sites provide free computer access and
18 trained staff prepared to provide assistance in
19 computer instruction. But most importantly the
20 card holder accesses the expertise and the
21 knowledge of a librarian who they can turn to for
22 assistance in refining their internet searches.

23 The library also has a number of
24 online resources for children including On-Lion
25 for kids, Tumble Books, student-friendly databases

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2 for research and HomeworkNYC.org. Of course
3 librarians don't just help with computers. They
4 help the developing reader find skill-appropriate
5 reading materials in specific subject areas. And
6 at the library, you get a librarian free of
7 charge. All you need is a library card.

8 The NYPL's many programs are
9 designed to engage children from the time they are
10 babies up to their teenage years. Our after
11 school programs offer essential educational
12 assistance and provide a safe haven. Thousands of
13 New York's older children use their local library
14 to do homework and avail themselves of library
15 materials to supplement their studies.

16 Programs such as Story Time, Summer
17 Reading and HomeworkNYC are valuable resources for
18 so many students. This past summer over 75,000
19 participants ranging from toddlers to teens took
20 part in the NYPL's summer reading program, reading
21 over 380,000 books. Many of the summer reading
22 participants signed up for their own library card
23 for the first time.

24 While the Summer Reading Program is
25 a tremendous success, we know that there are many

1
2 more children that are without a library card and
3 who don't have access to the many resources
4 libraries provide. According to City's
5 statistics, in 2007 there were 1,947,524 children
6 living in New York City's 5 Boroughs. Currently
7 the New York Public Library has issued library
8 cards to 544,481 children under 18. And that is
9 only approximately 28% of those eligible.

10 A study shows that a child who
11 reads throughout the summer is better prepared to
12 begin school in the fall. There is little
13 question that every child should start school with
14 a library card in their pocket. It is free but
15 the possibilities are priceless.

16 In closing I would like to
17 reiterate that the NYPL fully supports Intro
18 number 59 and its intent to see that every child
19 in New York City have a library card. However we
20 would recommend that the Department of Education
21 be required to consult with the 3 public library
22 systems when developing a pamphlet or written
23 material for distribution to students.

24 Once again thank you for the
25 opportunity to testify in regard to Intro number

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2 59 and to Council Member Van Bramer for his
3 leadership on this issue. The Council is a
4 steadfast supporter of the City's libraries and
5 the essential services they provide. And the New
6 York Public Library is prepared to work with the
7 City Council, Mayor's Office, the Department of
8 Education and our fellow library systems in
9 Brooklyn and Queens to see that this bill becomes
10 law. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.

12 Next please?

13 MS. ANDREA VAUGHN: Good afternoon.

14 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Good
15 afternoon.

16 MS. VAUGHN: My name is Andrea
17 Vaughn. I'm Coordinator of School-age Services at
18 Brooklyn Public Library. Thank you to Committee
19 Chairman Robert Jackson and the members of the
20 Committee for inviting BPL to testify today
21 concerning the distribution of information about
22 library cards and applications to public school
23 students. I would also like to take this
24 opportunity to thank the Council for its steadfast
25 support of public libraries, understanding the

1
2 importance of the services we provide to millions
3 of New Yorkers each day.

4 Our public libraries are centers
5 for lifelong learning. It begins with Brooklyn's
6 infants who gain preliteracy skills in our Story
7 Time Programs and continues through our programs
8 and services designed for toddlers, preschoolers
9 and school-aged children and teens.

10 Our youth librarians work
11 tirelessly to put library cards into the hands of
12 young people. A library card gives them access to
13 technology, valuable online resources, thousands
14 of programs, and of course, millions of books. To
15 reach every young person in Brooklyn we work to
16 build strong relationships with the teachers,
17 school librarians and principals in our 770
18 schools. We welcome teachers to arrange class
19 visits to one of our 58 locations to get library
20 cards, attend a program, learn what the library
21 has to offer.

22 We also go out to schools, speaking
23 in classrooms, school libraries and auditoriums
24 about the many materials, programs and services
25 available such as after school homework help, book

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2 discussions, writing workshops or the wide range
3 of services to support teens from SAT practice
4 tests to teen health and wellness workshops to
5 meaningful volunteer opportunities.

6 We might tell young people about
7 the Reading Is Fundamental Program where they can
8 earn free books to keep when they check out books
9 from the library. Or how we can help them
10 maintain their reading skills over the summer
11 through the Summer Reading Program. They can also
12 use their library card to access our online
13 databases from a home computer, 24 hours a day.

14 We currently employ 85 children's
15 specialists and 64 young adult specialists to
16 serve the youth of Brooklyn. They reach as many
17 students as they can but there are many demands on
18 classroom time and our relationships with some
19 schools are not as strong as they could be. Also
20 we typically see more younger students and are not
21 given as much access to classes from upper
22 elementary, middle school and high school.

23 We currently have 175,000 school-
24 aged children and teens with library cards but we
25 know there are many more students who could

1
2 benefit from the wealth of services the public
3 library provides. We are willing to collaborate
4 with the Department of Education, New York Public
5 Library and Queens Library on a brochure that
6 would help get this information to students. In
7 fact the three library systems have already worked
8 together to produce such a document with a
9 universal library card application for a feature
10 in the New York Daily News five years ago. BPL
11 would be supportive of any mechanism that supports
12 getting library cards into the hands of more
13 students, helping us continue our work to make a
14 difference in the lives of young people in
15 Brooklyn.

16 Again thank you for providing the
17 library with the opportunity to testify. And I
18 would be happy to answer any questions you have.
19 Um-hum.

20 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.
21 Last but not least the Queens Borough Public
22 Library--

23 MS. MAUREEN O'CONNER:
24 [Interposing] Good afternoon.

25 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --how come

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it's just not Queens Public Library? Why is it the Queens Borough--?

MS. O'CONNOR: [Interposing] You know, that's our official legal name. We call ourselves Queens Library.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Oh okay. Because when I read it says the Queens Borough Public Library versus the Brooklyn Library, the New York Library, and the Queens--'cause Queens is, is a queen, I guess that's why.

MS. O'CONNOR: State Charter name.

[Chuckling]

MS. O'CONNOR: Good afternoon. My name is Maureen O'Connor. I'm the Chief Operating Officer at the Queens Library. And first let me thank the Committee and Chairman Jackson for inviting us to testify on this bill today and also to Councilman James Van Bramer for introducing such an important piece of legislation.

We're pleased to take the opportunity to join our colleagues from New York and Brooklyn Public Library Systems in support of this bill which will encourage all public school children to take advantage of the many public

1
2 library resources that the public library systems
3 have to offer.

4 Currently Queens Library has
5 library cards on file for approximately 207,000
6 residents from age 5 to 18. And based on the 2008
7 data from the American Community Survey part of
8 the census, there are approximately 381,000 school
9 children in Queens which means 45% do not have
10 library cards. For those 100,000 plus students
11 it's a missed opportunity.

12 Students who go to the library
13 after school find innumerable resources beyond the
14 stacks that dovetail with their school studies and
15 further enrich their educational experience. In
16 many neighborhoods students literally walk
17 directly from school buildings at the close of the
18 day to the local community libraries. Queens
19 Library offers after school support in every
20 community library through our BOOST program which
21 stands for the Best Out of School Time. In some
22 libraries students have access to specifically
23 trained high school tutors for homework help. In
24 others they find a dedicated teen space and in
25 all, highly educated children's and youth services

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librarians.

We already collaborate with the Department of Education on many of their initiatives including summer meals and programs that help parents track their kids' progress and it take surveys through our public access computers. So we welcome this opportunity to work with the Department on this outreach as well.

This piece of legislation will go a long way to ensure that every public school student in the City has access to the free resources and the rich environment of the public library system. Again I want to thank the City Council for considering this important piece of legislation that stands to benefit so many school children. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Well let me thank you for all coming in and giving testimony and we appreciate everything you do on behalf of all of the, not only the people of New York City, but all of the visitors and everyone that uses our public library systems. It is a safe haven for everyone.

I remember many years ago when I

1
2 was in--worked for the State of New York
3 investigating unemployment insurance fraud, I used
4 to stop in the library in different parts of the
5 City to finish up my report or, you know, to run
6 in there to use the restroom or other things like
7 that. So it was always a great place to go in
8 order to do your research and finish up your work.

9 Let me--we've been joined by
10 additional colleagues: to my right, Oliver Koppell
11 of the great Borough of the Bronx.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And to my
14 left is another Bronxite, Jimmy Vacca of the
15 Bronx. And our Majority Whip, All Vann of the
16 great Borough of Brooklyn. And let me turn the
17 floor over to Dan Garodnick, my colleague from
18 Manhattan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [Off
20 mic] Thank you very much Chair Jackson. And
21 thanks to all of you for your testimony today.
22 I've got a couple of questions. I would be
23 surprised if there was anybody on this panel or in
24 this room who did not share the goals of trying to
25 connect public schools to our public library

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2 system. We obviously have to do that. It's a
3 great resource for kids. They must take advantage
4 of it or they're missing out. But I also think we
5 need to be mindful of--about the budgetary issues
6 that are in play here today and also concerned
7 about our own action as a Council in legislating
8 certain sorts of things. So I wanted to ask-- [On
9 mic] first I wanted to ask Ms. O'Conner, is this--
10 oh look at this, is this one working now? No.
11 How about now? Does that work? Okay let's try
12 that.

13 Ms. O'Conner, you even noted that
14 there are 45% of school--I'm sorry, 45% of school-
15 aged children who do not hold a library card and
16 yet there are some students who just walk directly
17 from school directly into the library. So my
18 question for us is the kids who have the library
19 cards and have made that decision and have made
20 that engagement, how have we reached them? How
21 have we connected with them to bring them into the
22 library system to encourage them to participate,
23 from your perspective?

24 MS. O'CONNOR: I think many of the
25 things that Barbara Stripling named; we do work

1
2 closely with the Department of Education doing
3 things of class visits and outreach. A big issue
4 in Queens is the immigrant population. It could
5 be second generation. It could be third. Of
6 people coming from countries where there is not a
7 history of public libraries.

8 So it's not something that their
9 parents did where in the United States we'd like
10 to think that children who are using libraries all
11 their life then bring their children as well. So
12 it's a very intensive outreach that needs to be
13 done to reach people. And we really do feel that
14 the school is the best way because they're
15 reaching all the children.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: A
17 question for all of the libraries is this. In
18 terms of the technology that is out there, this
19 bill would require that a brochure or a pamphlet
20 or something be provided to all public school
21 students to teach them or show them how they can
22 sign up for a library card, is there no way that
23 exists out there for the library systems to
24 remotely sign people up for a library card either
25 in a school or in any other public place?

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2

MS. VAUGHN: I can speak to that.

3

At least at Brooklyn Public Library there is a

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way--

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:

6

[Interposing] Pull that a little closer to you.

7

MS. VAUGHN: Sure. At Brooklyn

8

Public Library there is a way now for teens and

9

adults to sign up for a library card on our

10

website and to come into the branch and pick up

11

the card. However for children, minors, the

12

application requires a parent or a caregiver's

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signature. So we haven't found a way around that

14

yet to get that signature virtually.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay.

16

So that's for Brooklyn, does that same technology

17

exists for Queens and New York?

18

MS. O'CONNOR: Yes. For online

19

registrations for adults and teens yes but not for

20

the children. And also the end of the online is I

21

think to get materials home to parents so that

22

they know about online resources to register.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Um-hum.

24

MS. KENNEDY: Yeah that's the

25

difficult part is to reach out and let people know

1

2 exactly how they can. We do the open school
3 nights for parent nights, PTA nights, all of that.
4 But that's--you have to let them know it's there
5 before they'll go and do it.

6

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: But New
York--

8

MS. KENNEDY: [Interposing] Yeah.-

9

10

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --has
that--

11

MS. KENNEDY: [Interposing] Yeah.

12

13

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: --

14

resource. So it's for--not the minors who need a
parental approval for participation but everybody

15

else can sign up online. And they can go pick up

16

their card at the local library. Okay. Question

17

for DOE. You were very delicate in your words and

18

we appreciate that because we're sometimes

19

sensitive.

20

But my question for you is do we

21

have the jurisdiction to do this? Do we have the

22

jurisdiction as the Council to pass this bill and

23

to tell the DOE that you must do that?

24

MS. STRIPLING: You want me to

25

answer it?

1
2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Take the
3 fifth.

4 MS. STRIPLING: I don't know. I'm
5 sorry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay.
7 So let me ask the question of the libraries. It
8 may be an open question as to whether the Council
9 has the authority to act on this. And it may also
10 be an open question as to whether the Council has
11 the authority to require the same thing of the
12 library system. It might even be easier for us to
13 legislate over the library system than the DOE.
14 I'm not certain of this. My question for you is,
15 would you support a bill that required the library
16 system to take action to sign up every public
17 school student or would your views be the same as
18 you expressed in Intro 59? Do you understand my
19 question?

20 MS. KENNEDY: Not quite.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Okay
22 well let me try again. This bill requires that
23 the Department of Education provide informational
24 brochures to all students, teaching them how to
25 sign up for a library card. If it was such a

1
2 situation that we did not have the jurisdiction to
3 do that, my question is would you support
4 legislation that would require the library system
5 to engage with--directly with every public school
6 student to serve the same goal?

7 MS. KENNEDY: I can't speak for my
8 colleagues but I think if we could we would--

9 MS. VAUGHN: [Interposing] We
10 would.

11 MS. KENNEDY: --we try as much as
12 we can as we've all said we go out. We try; we
13 have all kinds of outreach. But we're not--we
14 can't be in every school every day. We don't have
15 the staff for that so--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:
17 [Interposing] Is there any obstacle to you today
18 to doing what this bill is suggesting that you do?

19 MS. KENNEDY: That we sign
20 everybody up?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Yeah, is
22 there--well. The bill requires the DOE to provide
23 information to all public school students about
24 how to get a library card. Is there any obstacle
25 today to your getting that information to the

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2

public school students, in your view?

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MS. VAUGHN: Well every school is different. We do--every school is different. And we do our best to be allowed, to be invited into every school. But it's not always the case. As I said, some relationships with schools are stronger than others. And we do our best to talk to the staff to the school to allow us to come in and speak to the students. But they have very busy schedules and it's not always possible to talk to every student. And I don't know if we even have the staff--

14

MS. O'CONNOR: [Interposing] Yeah.

15

16

MS. VAUGHN: --as you said to reach every student in every neighborhood.

17

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MS. O'CONNOR: I think building on that, it seems like the least costly, most efficient and least labor intensive in terms of staffing would be through the Department of Education rather than having the libraries try and figure out which school, how many students, how do you distribute, where the centralized DOE has that available.

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MS. STRIPLING: If I could just add

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to what--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
I'm sorry, just one second please. We can see all
of you but from the record point of view, just
before you speak say Brooklyn, Queens or New York
or DOE if you don't mind. Thank you.

MS. STRIPLING: So Council Member
just to add Brooklyn--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
DOE?

MS. STRIPLING: DOE, I live in
Brooklyn.

[Laughter]

MS. STRIPLING: Just to add to my
colleagues' answer. Whether or not the Council
has the jurisdiction to put this in the bill as
descriptive as a pamphlet or brochure, we're
committed to utilizing the resources we already
have to send the messaging out. And the Family
Guide that every K to 12 student in New York City
receives is the definitive guide for families.
And we're hoping to utilize that resource as the
main center of communication to families about how
they can access library cards for their children.

1
2 So that's one vehicle. And then
3 we're also talking with the Department of
4 Education's ARIS local staff and if you're
5 familiar with the ARIS parent link, it's the
6 computer system that parents can generate to get
7 data for their student's performance in schools.
8 We're looking into ways to utilize that system for
9 families that have access to computers and PCs to
10 use that to link very quickly to a library card
11 application or even information on how to access
12 libraries in their communities. And these are as
13 cost neutral possibilities as we can find in the
14 DOE.

15 MS. DEBAKER: DOE. I would also
16 like to comment that the Family Guide is already
17 translated into all the languages. So it is much
18 more accessible to parents than trying to recreate
19 something that then we would have to translate.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
21 you all very much. I appreciate your testimony.

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.
23 Let me turn to our colleague, but before I turn to
24 Oliver Koppell, we've been joined by Domenic
25 Recchia of the great Borough of Brooklyn to my

1
2 right here and also to my left from the great
3 Borough of Brooklyn, Lew Fidler. I'm sorry... we're
4 not finished yet. There's some additional
5 colleagues that have questions. If you don't
6 mind. See, I see all three public library systems
7 act as one.

8 [Laughter]

9 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Chuckling]
10 At least you're communicating with each other.

11 MS. O'CONNOR: We're coordinating.

12 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Coordinating,
13 that's good. Our colleague Oliver Koppell has the
14 floor.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you
16 Chairman. I'm a little bit confused because of
17 the testimony of DOE that seems to suggest that
18 this could cost them all kinds of extra money.
19 Reading the bill itself, it says that written
20 materials should be developed, and then, let me
21 just read you from the bill, it says at a minimum
22 such pamphlet or written material shall include a
23 comprehensive description of the public library
24 system and an application for a library card
25 and/or instructions on how to obtain a library

1
2 card. Such pamphlet or other written materials
3 shall be produced and distributed to every student
4 annually.

5 Now let me read to you what the
6 Family Guide, which you already send to every
7 student according to your testimony, I'm
8 addressing this to the DOE representative Ms.
9 Stripling, it says at the start of each school
10 year we distribute a Family Guide to every public
11 school student and family. The guide which is
12 translated into nine languages dedicates a section
13 to explaining how parents and students may apply
14 for a free library card. It lays out clear
15 instructions on the process itself and details the
16 many resources offered by the three public library
17 systems.

18 Now I would suggest you're already
19 doing what the bill requires. Now I think you
20 could do it a little bit better if you included as
21 the bill suggests but doesn't require an actual
22 application. But I understand from the testimony
23 from the library representatives that there
24 already is a common application that was developed
25 in connection with The Daily News program a few

1
2 years back. So you already have a universal
3 application. All that is required, first of all I
4 think you already do what the bill requires, but
5 you could make it better if you included in your
6 Family Guide the actual application.

7 Now that would only require that
8 you edit the Family Guide a little bit between now
9 and September because I assume you'd give it out
10 at the beginning of the year, although maybe not.
11 So I don't understand what the objection is. It
12 seems to me you should--it seems to me that the
13 DOE should say number one we already do it and
14 number two maybe we can do it a little bit better.

15 And I don't know why you didn't say
16 that. You sort of did, the second speaker, whose
17 name I've forgotten, she almost said that you
18 already do it, but not quite. But I think you
19 already do it. And as I said I think you could do
20 it a little better if you put the universal
21 application in. And that's what I think you
22 should do. So do you have any response to that?

23 MS. STRIPLING: DOE, a couple of
24 responses. First of all yes, we think we already
25 do a lot of it but the way that I looked at the

1
2 way it was written was that it asked us to develop
3 materials about the public library. And it
4 doesn't--it seems like that needs to be a
5 collaborative thing.

6 What is in the Family Guide is more
7 generic. It's not specific to particular program.
8 It is general support, public libraries, the kinds
9 of things that are available. So we just didn't
10 want you to think that we felt like we were the
11 people who should be developing material about the
12 public libraries. That was the first point.

13 The second is that we actually did
14 look at the cost of doing a one-page application
15 in the Family Guide and it actually is very
16 expensive to add a page or to re--so we're
17 perfectly willing to look at it and we will come
18 back and we will try to make it the best we can.
19 Actually including an application may be
20 problematic budget-wise.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Well all
22 of us here have a little experience on printing
23 costs. Because [chuckling] we all are engaged in
24 printing materials of various sorts. And I would
25 suggest adding a page to a guide, I know there

1
2 over a million students, I realize that, but
3 still, I don't know, \$.10 for another page? That
4 would be \$100,000 that doesn't seem to me to be an
5 obstacle that ought to prevent this from
6 happening. And as for getting additional
7 information.

8 I don't know, you already say you
9 give some information. I'm sure that the
10 representatives to your left would be happy to sit
11 down with you and try and improve whatever
12 offerings you already have. So that's my
13 suggestion. I don't think it'll cost that much at
14 all. Maybe nothing. Maybe you can re-jigger the
15 guide a little bit so that it won't cost anything.

16 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.
17 We've also, before we were joined by Helen Diane
18 Foster of the Bronx and who has gone over to
19 another Committee meeting, but we've recently been
20 joined by one of the co-sponsors of the bill and
21 the Chair of the Select Committee on Libraries,
22 Vincent Gentile, he's over there from the great
23 Borough of Brooklyn. Welcome.

24 Let me turn to our colleague Jimmy
25 Vacca of the Bronx and then Council Member Weprin

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2 of Queens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Just very quickly, I thank you for your testimony and I certainly think that the goals of this legislation are good. They're important. You gave a statistic before indicating that 45% of school children in Queens do not have library cards, am I...? Do you have the number for the Bronx?

MS. STRIPLING: No I don't.

[Off mic]

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Can you speak into the mic please? And this is the New York Library--

MS. KENNEDY: [Interposing] Sorry. New York Public Library--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Okay.

MS. KENNEDY: --and no I don't have the Bronx pulled out separately but that's one of our Boroughs.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like someone to email me. I'd like to know.

MS. KENNEDY: Sure.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay. I'd

1
2 like to sign on to this bill and I'd like to have
3 my name added but I do want to indicate that so
4 much that this bill talks about can be done
5 administratively. We in the Council often find
6 ourselves legislating this because we wish to
7 codify something positive and something good that
8 represents policy of this body.

9 I think something like this, if we
10 realized that there was this gap all this time,
11 DOE and public library had an opportunity to work
12 this out. The cost issue is not an issue with me
13 because principals send home notices every day.
14 They send home different notices about half days,
15 special dismissals. And I think that working with
16 the public library system would be something that
17 they wanted to do. your reference before to
18 children that use the New York Public Library
19 System and go there after school is because many
20 of our parents depend on libraries for latchkey
21 services.

22 And technically you're not there
23 for latchkey programs unless you have a special
24 program going on. You're there so that children
25 can enjoy, can read, can participate in a program.

1
2 I just don't like thinking that students who go
3 there for latchkey programs may end up not even
4 having a library card which is the main reason we
5 want students to utilize library branches.

6 But I do support this. I do think
7 it's a great idea. I would hope that New York
8 Public Library and DOE would start working now
9 even before we implement this law so that we can
10 get going on what I think is a positive policy
11 objective. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you
13 Council Member. Now let's turn to Council Member
14 Weprin of Queens and then Council Member Levin of
15 Brooklyn, and then followed by Council Member
16 Recchia of Brooklyn.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Going to be
18 sitting a while. Thank you Mr. Chairman. It's
19 nice to be here. I'm embarrassed to ask my first
20 question 'cause those of you who know me, I like
21 to talk about my kids and I have two kids in
22 public school. And one before. But what
23 information, you mentioned that minors have to
24 have a parent's signature, what other information
25 do you need to give in order to get a library

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2 card?

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MS. VAUGHN: Basic contact--this is Brooklyn Public Library. We are pretty much the same. Name, address, phone number. We collect email to do e-newsletters and notifications, cell phone numbers, we do text messaging notifications, that's an option--

[Crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

[Interposing] Do you have to provide any--

MS. KENNEDY: [Interposing] - - basic, yeah.

MS. VAUGHN: --we make it as simple as possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Proof of residency or anything like that?

MS. VAUGHN: One form of photo ID that shows proof of residency in New York State and--

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

[Interposing] You do need proof of residency.

MS. VAUGHN: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay. Because I was thinking, there are so many forms

1
2 when you register a child for school, this could
3 be just an extra form you fill out, a parent
4 signs, and every kid gets a library card.

5 MS. VAUGHN: Well, Brooklyn again,
6 there is one exception when a teacher brings their
7 class of students in to get library cards. They
8 do need the parent's signature. The child with
9 bring home the application, have the parent sign
10 it, bring it back to school and they don't need to
11 bring in any photo ID at that point because the
12 school is pretty much vouching that the child is a
13 resident.

14 MS. KENNEDY: And those kids, NYPL,
15 the teacher is turning in perhaps a stack of 25
16 at a time or whatever so.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Is there a
18 lot of fraud going on, identify fraud going on in-
19 -

20 [Crosstalk, laughter]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --like the
22 second graders are out there lying about who they
23 are? In order to take out Tom Sawyer or
24 something? All right I am fascinated with Mr.
25 Garodnick's question 'cause I'm new here so I

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2 don't know exactly the rules. So but I was in a
3 place upstate working in the State Capitol where
4 they passed a school governance law. I happen not
5 to have supported it but that's another story.

6

7 But one of the problems was that
8 basically giving the Department of Education the
9 right to do almost anything they want, if we're
10 allowed to tell the Department of Education to do
11 this, I have a better list of things that I would
12 give to tell the Department of Education to do.
13 And I'm really curious whether we are actually
14 allowed to--are we allowed to tell them what to
15 do? I mean this seems like a minor, a small
16 thing, but--

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

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Clearly, Council Member, let me just respond to
both you and Council Member Garodnick's concern
about whether or not in fact the City Council has
the right to pass a law. Obviously as you know,
any bill that comes to actual Committee has been
vetted by Counsel's Office with respects to
whether or not it's legal or not. Whether or not,
if in fact we pass this into law and the Mayor
vetoes it is another question. But clearly in

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2 vetting through our process to become an actual
3 bill it is reviewed by Counsel's Office so there's
4 an assumption that it is legal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay, so
6 I'm not being smartass here but just because I
7 wasn't here so when we, the cell phone, allowing
8 students to have cell phones in school, that was
9 something you guys passed, right, this City
10 Council passed, the Mayor vetoes and then you
11 overrode the veto and they still ban cell phones
12 in school don't they? I realize--I'm just
13 curious.

14 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: No it's a
15 process, bottom line is if in fact, as you know,
16 if we pass a law and a bill and the Mayor vetoes
17 it and we override and the Mayor fails to
18 implement the law, then the--we have an obligation
19 if we feel that the Mayor is not implementing the
20 law it to challenge it in court and let the courts
21 finally decide on what to do. so that's a normal
22 process that occurs with respects to bills that
23 are vetoed and then turned into law by the
24 Council, then the, if in fact, the Mayor refuses
25 to implement the law then we have an obligation to

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2 take it to court.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you

Mr. Chairman, I just, on the point at hand, it

seems to be that there are easier ways to do this.

I mean the Department of Education may be doing it

under the law according to the former Attorney

General and that may be fine enough. But it just

seems to me, I don't remember, and I'm embarrassed

to say this, but I don't remember seeing coming

home with my children saying, you know, whoa, sign

up for your library card today.

I mean my kids have used the

library. I'm not sure if they have a card though.

They've used the--they've actually used the

libraries like on to performances and on to read-

aloud's but I'm not sure they actually have a

card. I know that 'cause I see the Barnes and

Noble bill that comes home on my credit card

occasionally. But I wish they would use the

library more. But I don't remember it being like

put in my face and saying here fill this out,

you've got a library card.

It's always the idea I've got to go

to the library, I've got to sign up and I didn't

1
2 even know what documents I had to give, you know,
3 in order to do that. So it seems there must be a
4 better way than this then us having to have there
5 and say DOE you have to do this. DOE could do
6 this pretty easily I would think. No? I'm not
7 sure if that's a rhetorical question or not but
8 you can jump on it if you want.

9 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you. I
10 mean since there's silence obviously they didn't
11 want to jump on it.

12 [Laughter]

13 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Let me
14 introduce an additional colleague of to my left
15 sitting next to Lew Fidler and in between Vincent
16 Gentile is Debbie Rose of the great Borough of
17 Staten Island. But before I turn to my colleague-
18 -our colleague Steve Levin, let me just ask a
19 question with respect to how do you deal with
20 children that are homeless and are living in a
21 homeless shelter? If someone can communicate to
22 us since there are probably a couple of thousand
23 children that live in homeless shelters all around
24 the City. How do you deal with that, with
25 respects to school and the library card and what

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have you and so forth.

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MS. VAUGHN: Well the Brooklyn--

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

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In foster care, you know, foster care kids, you

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know. That are, you know, they're moving around--

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MS. VAUGHN: [Interposing] Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --from one

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place to another.

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MS. VAUGHN: We make, at Brooklyn

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Public Library a great effort to reach out to

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underserved communities, not only homeless

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population, foster population, even juvenile

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detention facilities. As far as the homeless

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population, the Kid's Mobile, our traveling

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children's book library regularly visits homeless

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shelters throughout the Borough, gives them a

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program, makes sure they have library cards. They

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can check out books from the Kid's Mobile,

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etcetera. And so they have that regular visit.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So if I'm one

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of those children and I'm in a homeless shelter in

23

Brooklyn and now my family has been relocated to

24

the Bronx and I have a library card from Brooklyn,

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will I be able to use that library card in the

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2 Bronx?

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MS. KENNEDY: Well New York and
Brooklyn have reciprocity--

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MS. VAUGHN: [Interposing] Yes.

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MS. KENNEDY: --so yes.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: The answer is
yes.

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MS. KENNEDY: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So now my
family moves to a Queens' shelter, I'll be able to
use it anywhere in the City? Would I just have to
update my new address or what? If I'm a child
that's 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 6.

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MS. VAUGHN: I think if a child is
in a homeless shelter situation they can show a
letter from--a letter that they got from the
shelter to show where they're living if that's the
case. And we, you know, we can make
accommodations for that.

21

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Huh. But if
I have a library card from where I was living
initially, wherever, I could just use that library
card anywhere, is that correct?

25

MS. VAUGHN: I believe you'd have

1
2 to have the barcode on your card entered, scanned
3 into our data base if you're coming from a
4 different library system but it's a very simple
5 process.

6 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay.
7 Somebody explain to me the simple process then.

8 MS. O'CONNER: It's a technology
9 issue. Queens has--

10 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
11 Oh. Where's Gale Brewer?

12 [Laughter]

13 MS. O'CONNER: Queens has an RFID,
14 what we do is we're creating a separate item but
15 it is the same card, it's just so our systems, our
16 computers don't talk to each other. We do. So we
17 try to make it as easy as possible and I think
18 also building on what you're saying if the student
19 was in another school and that were coming from
20 the school, that would be verifying where they
21 live and we'd give them the card.

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So help me
23 out, just to flesh this out just a little bit
24 more. If I have a library card from Brooklyn and
25 I was in a homeless shelter with my family and

1

2 we're now in the Bronx. And I went to the local
3 library, let's say it was right across the street,
4 and they said sorry, this is not in our system.
5 How would you help that kid to very simply take
6 out books? Walk us through that please. Somebody
7 walk me through it 'cause I don't clearly
8 understand it.

9 MS. KENNEDY: I don' know exactly--

10 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

11 What would you do? I would take my card with my
12 three books and some DVDs and I'd go up to the
13 clerk to scan it, right, to check them out. And
14 it wouldn't scan or the system would reject it
15 because it's not part of the system. I'm standing
16 there. I'm eight years old with three books and
17 three DVDs. Help me out. Somebody help me.

18 MS. O'CONNOR: I believe if the
19 student had a school ID that had their name and
20 where they were going to school--

21 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

22 Un-hun.

23 MS. O'CONNOR: --we would put
24 another bar--

25 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

1

2 I'm from a homeless shelter. I just relocated to
3 the Bronx from Brooklyn.

4

5 MS. O'CONNOR: All right. And
6 you're not in school. All right.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Well I'm just
9 brand new at this school. Help me out, walk--
10 somebody help me check these books out.

11

12 MS. O'CONNOR: I don't know that
13 answer.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Now,
16 you hear me? No.

17

18 MS. O'CONNOR: I'm sure it happens
19 routinely at the circulations desks in all three
20 systems. And I--

21

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
23 Okay so--

24

25 MS. O'CONNOR: --there is an answer
and I don't have it.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --somebody,
28 if you can--

29

30 MS. O'CONNOR: [Interposing] I will
31 do that.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --know what
34 that scenario is and respond by email or whatever-

35

1

2

-

3

MS. O'CONNOR: [Interposing] Yes.

4

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --to the

5

Council to the Education Committee. And by the

6

way, you talk with the New York Public Library

7

System, you said the Schomberg Research Center.

8

MS. KENNEDY: Um-hum.

9

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And as you

10

know the Council to our Committee is Asia

11

Schomberg who is a granddaughter..

12

[Laughter, crosstalk]Um-hum.

13

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: She's the

14

great-granddaughter of the founder, Mr. Schomberg.

15

So that's FYI if you didn't know that.

16

[Laughter, crosstalk]

17

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So Steve.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you

19

Mr. Chair. I just have two very quick questions.

20

The first one having to do with just policy with

21

regards in the Department of Education with is

22

there anything that prohibits in Department of

23

Education policy, teachers from--requiring

24

teachers to ensure that all their students have a

25

library card.

1
2 Why can't that be a homework
3 assignment that kids have to go, you know, of each
4 teacher, that kids have to go and get a library
5 card. You can actually probably save the whole
6 shebang here by actually requiring that teachers
7 do this and it's part of the DOE policy. It
8 doesn't cost a dime.

9 MS. STRIPLING: Teachers can ask
10 parents to take their children to the library to
11 obtain a library card but they can't mandate it.
12 It's a parental responsibility.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: So there's
14 nothing--okay so it's--

15 MS. BAKER: [Interposing] We can't
16 mandate that.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --okay. My
18 second question is for Ms. Stripling. You
19 mentioned before that in the Family Guide printing
20 up an application would be quite expensive. And
21 then you guys have done an assessment about this.
22 How expensive?

23 MS. STRIPLING: We've been told
24 it's \$79,000 to add one page.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: \$79,000. So

1
2 that would be to the overall Family Guide budget.
3 Okay. So that's, you know, that's not far off
4 from where Council Member Koppell said, it's
5 actually less. It wouldn't be the--it wouldn't
6 break the bank--

7 MS. STRIPLING: [Interposing] I'm
8 not sure you can add just one page. It's a, it's
9 a booklet--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN:
11 [Interposing] Okay, okay.

12 MS. STRIPLING: --so it actually--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN:
14 [Interposing] A double-sided page. So.

15 MS. STRIPLING: You have to add,
16 it's a folded with staples and so that--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN:
18 [Interposing] Okay.

19 MS. BAKER: [Interposing] Right.

20 MS. STRIPLING: --I'm not sure you
21 can just add one page.

22 MS. BAKER: Well we were quoted
23 \$79,000 for one page insert, one sided.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Okay. Okay.
25 So what you're saying in order to add one page you

1
2 have to add four? Is that what you're saying
3 because two-sided? Is one, two, three four? So
4 that--the actual cost just to add an application
5 would be whatever 79 times 4, that's like 320--
6 okay.

7 [Off mic]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I mean I
9 would behoove, I would encourage you to look for
10 other ways to do that. If, you know, perhaps
11 there's, you know, some editing that can be done
12 to combine, if it's only one page that's needed
13 to, you know, scale back maybe, you know, just to
14 somehow rearrange things, make more use of the
15 space that you have.

16 MS. STRIPLING: One thing that I
17 would like to say is that more effective even than
18 just handing an application or putting it in a
19 guide is the personal contact that we can dedicate
20 ourselves to having. And that is encouraging
21 students and making sure that we have that
22 personal contact and letting kids understand why
23 it's so important. That elevates it.

24 I think that actually would pay off
25 a lot more than just a passive handing them a

1
2 library card and a guide that parents might not
3 even open. So you can be assured that we will do
4 that. That that is part of our mission as school
5 librarians and as educators to let kids understand
6 how important it is to have this lifelong
7 connection to libraries.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Of course.
9 I think, you know, it's got to be backed up with
10 the material support and that's where I think
11 we're trying to say. But I thank you very much
12 for your time Mr. Chairman.

13 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.
14 Our colleague Domenic Recchia of Brooklyn.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you.
16 First I want to start off my saying it's great to
17 see my former superintendent Ann Marie Lettieri
18 Baker here. She's sorely missed in District 21.
19 Unfortunately Joe Klein stole her to bring her to
20 tweet [phonetic]. But it's great to see you.

21 As I sit here and I hear you
22 testify, you know, when I hear two things, first
23 that in the Family Guide to put an application in
24 is \$79,000. And \$79,000 is nothing. It's nothing
25 with a \$16 million budget that you have. Okay?

1

2 Okay? you have millions of dollars in your
3 budget. Okay? \$79,000 you're crying over? Just
4 think about that.

5

6 Second you could bring me your
7 Family Guide and I could show you what you could
8 get rid of. Because half of it is non-useful to
9 parents. I'm a parent of a public school--

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

11 [Interposing] You can tell them in seven different
12 languages.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: And I

14 could just tell you that I publish my own Family
15 Guide for District 21. She'll tell you about it.
16 Okay? It has many, many pages of useful
17 information. What we get from DOE, half of it,
18 parents say what is this about. They have no
19 idea. So if I'm--excuse me I forgot your name,
20 the first lady from DOE?

21

MS. STRIPLING: Barbara Stripling.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Yeah

23 Barbara Stripling. So you're saying over here
24 that it would be more of a touch, much more
25 effective by giving the application to a parent
and having someone talk about the library, to

1
2 become more effective. If we had that thought of
3 mind, then everything the DOE does, they just send
4 home stuff left and right would be non-effective.
5 We should have parents come in all the time so you
6 could get--be more effective.

7 The Family Guide is very simple.
8 You could put the application in with a tear off
9 so the parent could go and take that to the
10 library. And for \$79,000, I just think that would
11 be very, very, very cost effective for the
12 children of this wonderful City. And it will tell
13 parents, okay, where to call, to go to the nearest
14 library. And a lot of parents have no clue. A
15 lot of new immigrants that are coming into this
16 country have no idea that the library is free of
17 charge.

18 Okay. They do not know it's free
19 of charge. So by giving out the Family Guide in
20 all your wonderful languages, to include this
21 would be very cost effective since you are doing
22 it in all languages. You're getting this one page
23 would be cheaper than if the public library or the
24 New York Public Library or the Brooklyn or Queens
25 had to do their own application in different

1

2 languages.

3

4

So what do you have to say about that?

5

6

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12

MS. STRIPLING: well I say that--

DOE, I say that I have the same passion as you.

And we would like to work with you to work it out

and I'm not the person who's in charge of

budgeting or designing things so if you will give

us the opportunity to work it out we will work it

you in the way that is most effective for kids--

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA:

13

14

15

16

17

18

[Interposing] Yeah. I'm just thinking the Family

Guide, if you want, we can make some

recommendations to you on where you could put the

application, on how you could put the application,

but I definitely thing that it's something that

could be very, very effective.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

In addition to that another

alternative that you could have is that when

parents come up to the school to register their

kid for school, they fill out the forms, you could

hand them the application that will be supplied

from the Brooklyn Public Library or the Queens or

the New York Public Library System, and you can

1

2 hand it to the parents, say here's your library
3 kit. That welcomes them to the library system and
4 they could go to the nearest branch to fill it
5 out.

6 See? We could do something like
7 that. How much would that cost?

8 MS. BAKER: That would be free
9 Council Member Recchia. And it's nice to see you
10 as well. As you know many New York City public
11 schools do use parent-teacher conferences as an
12 opportunity to have the New York City public
13 libraries represented and applications are there
14 waiting for parents to complete and return to the
15 library representatives. We also use registration
16 opportunities for Kindergarten or newcomers to
17 schools, particularly where we have heavy ELL
18 populations and do provide applications for the
19 library.

20 The bill as written is requiring or
21 asking for the Board to have a pamphlet or
22 brochure to be disseminated. And what we're
23 suggesting, just going back to your first comment,
24 is that we work out a cost neutral plan. I agree
25 that the number that we were quoted for the one

1
2 page insert doesn't seem like a lot but a \$1.6
3 billion budget deficit is huge.

4 And, you know, one of the things
5 we're committed to doing is working with the
6 libraries, the New York City public library system
7 to perhaps develop a one pager that can easily go
8 into the Family Guide along with what's already
9 there to encourage parents to get library cards
10 for their children.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you.
12 I have a question for the three library systems.
13 On Open School Night, how many schools do you have
14 representatives in, to register parents about the
15 free public library--to get a library card?

16 MS. VAUGHN: I don't have a number
17 with me but I could get that information for you
18 from Brooklyn.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: But do you
20 send people to Open School Nights?

21 MS. KENNEDY: Yes. New York Public
22 Library. On Op[en School Nights all of the branch
23 sites will send staff out but again I don't have
24 an exact number 'cause there's a limited number of
25 staff in each site that can go to the schools.

1
2 MS. O'CONNOR: Queens. I don't
3 have an exact number as well. There are a lot of
4 schools and if they're the same night we have
5 limited number of staff. We try to get to them,
6 Sometimes we don't know that they're happening.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Well
8 that's a problem.

9 MS. O'CONNOR: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: That's a
11 problem. We recommend to the DOE that they should
12 tell the local libraries of the schools, when Open
13 School Nights, 'cause it happens twice a year. So
14 the schools that you cover in September, you could
15 cover other ones in--

16 MS. BAKER: [Interposing] March.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: --February
18 or March. You know, this week is Open School
19 Night for middle schools, next week elementary
20 schools. So this is just an idea that you could
21 have and we could be saving money really
22 registering. Thank you very much. I have no
23 further questions.

24 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you.
25 Council Member Gentile of Brooklyn, the Chair of

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the Select Committee on Libraries.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. And just to comment, I'm impressed by the extent of the number of members here and the questioning about library cards 'cause I think it underscores each of our concerns and the value that we all see in the public libraries in all three systems. And that's good to know. I see a lot of advocates out there from the library systems. So as we try to bridge a \$68 million gap in the funding for libraries, it's good to see that my colleagues are very interested and very concerned about libraries.

And more so the fact that when you look at the public schools and an issue that has been overlooked for a long time is the state of libraries in the public schools, the school libraries. And that's an issue that my Committee will start looking at this year, the state of the public--the state of the libraries in the public schools. And if you look at some statistics and see that over two-thirds of the public schools do not have a certified librarian in their school, it is of the utmost importance that we have access

1
2 and have as many school children sign up with
3 library cards for the public schools.

4 Because the bottom line, without
5 going into to much of it is that the school
6 libraries are not doing it, are not doing the job
7 they should be doing. We'll talk about that some
8 more.

9 But in whatever form that this
10 takes, this legislation, I think we need to pass
11 it. And certainly I've talked to Councilman Van
12 Bramer and we'll work on that. But Mr. Chairman
13 thank you for this extensive hearing and I
14 appreciate the concern I've heard here today for
15 our library system.

16 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Thank you
17 Council Member. Let me just as a couple of
18 specific questions if you don't mind. Does anyone
19 know, and I guess this is for anyone but more
20 specifically to the Department of Education, I've
21 heard the figure about \$79,000 give or take, what
22 would it cost to provide all new incoming students
23 at whatever level, is there a certain number of
24 students that are incoming to the system every
25 year?

1
2 And I know you may not know that
3 figure now but, for example, all Kindergarten
4 students that are coming into the system along
5 with all new over the counter registrations, you
6 know, that happens on a continuous basis. So that
7 every new admission coming into the system, I
8 guess, once we've tagged everyone, that they get
9 an application or a packet. Any? And I know you
10 may not have that information now but if you do I
11 would like to hear if you know.

12 MS. BAKER: Well the \$79,000 was
13 predicated on the number of Family Guides that
14 went home this school year based on this year's
15 registrations. So that's--it's just a projectory
16 number in terms of cost for the number of guides
17 that were disseminated this year. Whether a child
18 is new to the New York City public school system
19 or has existed in the public school system for a
20 while, they get a guide.

21 So a new Kindergarten registrant, a
22 new Pre-K child to the system will still get the
23 same Family Guide whenever they enter the system.
24 So again that number was just based on the number
25 of books that went home this year.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Do
3 you, and is it possible you can provide us, the
4 Counsel to the Committee, the Family Guide and any
5 other material that relates to, that has
6 information pertaining to libraries?

7 MS. BAKER: Absolutely.

8 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And going
9 about that. And even if, for example, if you have
10 information on the DOE's website concerning
11 libraries, maybe, you know, you can refer to us
12 that link or print out a copy of that to let us
13 know that because in essence we need that
14 immediately so that we can look at that.

15 But also I think one of you may
16 have mentioned about a survey or something earlier
17 in your testimony? Can you just expand on that
18 again? Many of my colleagues were not here. And
19 do you have a copy of that survey and the results
20 of that survey?

21 MS. STRIPLING: DOE. We do a
22 parent survey every year, parent satisfaction
23 survey I guess you'd call it. And it has a number
24 of questions about the climate of the school,
25 about how they think it's working for the

1

2 students. And so it's a piece of that. And I
3 don't have a copy with me but we are happy to send
4 it to you all.

5

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: I truly
6 understand and especially in today's economic
7 times, you know, wanting to collaborate with the
8 library systems to come up with a, I guess,
9 something that would meet the requirements of this
10 particular bill that would be cost neutral.
11 That's an ideal situation.

12

But I also heard, I guess, in
13 response to one of my colleague's questions about
14 the fact that maybe that you could collaborate
15 with the various library systems and come up with
16 a one-pager, is that correct, that would address
17 this particular matter?

18

And is the cost factor that you
19 guesstimate is that also about \$79,000 or what was
20 the cost factor if any in coming up with the one
21 pager that may suffice in this situation?

22

MS. BAKER: We're just thinking
23 outside the box in terms of what could be most
24 cost neutral and we want to collaborate with the
25 public library in terms of what they feel would be

1

2 the most effective information that could be
3 included with what's already in the Family Guide
4 if it can't be the actual application itself.

5

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Now
6 I'm looking here at the back of the library guide
7 and the library insert in the Family Guide. And
8 if you were to, I guess, edit this or to include
9 all of the necessary information in there and
10 maybe even, you know, I don't even know if you
11 reference in the beginning that if you're
12 interested in a library card see page so and so
13 and so, you know?

14

What do you think the cost factor
15 would be to do that? If you have a cost factor,
16 or if you don't know right now, and you can get us
17 specific information as to cost factor, you know,
18 we'd be interested in having that. Can you just
19 comment on that if you don't mind?

20

MS. STRIPLING: We've already, DOE,
21 we've already said that we area very happy to look
22 at the Family Guide and see where we could find
23 more room, how we could expand the public library
24 piece. So we don't really have a cost right now.
25 We don't know. But I certainly think that's one

1

2 thing that we will absolutely do is see what needs
3 to be in there and how much room and how we can
4 work it out.

5

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. I
6 think, you know, we want to try to make sure that
7 the bottom line is that the goal is to increase
8 the number of children that have access to the
9 systems and to the materials and to the
10 opportunities that exist there. Of course with
11 trying to be as cost conscious as possible. So if
12 in fact when that occurs, we would like to, I
13 guess, somehow be involved in that.

14

You could share with us whatever
15 drafts you have on that. Because I'm looking at
16 this thing here. And, you know, obviously if
17 you're going to revise it, then it's easier said
18 than done, you could, you know, reduce some of the
19 pictures, so forth and so on. And of course
20 looking at I don't know what precedes this or, you
21 know, comes after this as far as space but
22 especially if you're, I guess, reproducing the
23 Family Guide every year or updating it, you know,
24 that would be very important.

25

MS. STRIPLING: This is--I'm DOE.

1
2 The Family Guide is sent out every year. And
3 September is also National Library Card Signup
4 Month. So it might be a really nice way for us to
5 pull our efforts together and to really lodge it
6 there and do a thing for National Library Card
7 Signup.

8 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Yeah I was--
9 and that's great. I mean that's--and I think
10 even, you know, what I'm going to talk to Jimmy
11 about is to have our colleagues focus in on that
12 also. Because in fact I was talking to our
13 colleague Dan Garodnick before he left earlier
14 about the fact that since we are--many members
15 have signed onto this bill, maybe we should put
16 something in our newsletter that's going out, a
17 little blurb about, you know, making sure that the
18 libraries are available and especially in these
19 tough economic times everyone should be visiting
20 the library to borrow books and DVDs and all kinds
21 of stuff like that.

22 [Off mic]

23 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Open a forum,
24 yeah. But, you know, does the library system, do
25 you have anything that you could give to DOE or

1

2

that's ready to go inside the Family Guide or
you're going to be collaborating with them on it?

3

4

5

6

7

8

MS. O'CONNOR: Queens Library. We
collaborated, we would certainly pull out the form
that we did five years ago to see if there are
minor changes that could be done very quickly to
have the one page application for all three
systems.

9

10

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Yeah. And
obviously if DOE doesn't have that, can you give
it to them? Could you also share whatever you
have with the Counsel to the Education Committee?
Yeah. Yeah. Like... [off mic] If you could
provided that to us like this afternoon, maybe if
you could call or email or ask them to email it to
our--to the Counsel to the Education Committee we
could get the information after the hearing. But
in essence we're trying to move this piece of
legislation as quickly as possible. So we're
asking you to act with all due speed.

21

22

23

24

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: We have
deadlines to lay the bill on members' desks before
we actually vote on it and we're looking to try to

25

1

2 vote on it this next week. Okay? So as quickly
3 as possible, this afternoon or this evening would
4 be great. Okay? Any other questions? We've been
5 joined by Council Member Margaret Chin of the
6 great Borough of Manhattan. And she has a
7 question or comment. Council Member Quinn--I mean
8 Council Member Chin.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Mr.
10 Chairman. Thank you. I'm glad I still have some
11 time to ask questions, I was at another meeting
12 across the other side. Library. It's such a
13 wonderful thing. I mean being an immigrant
14 myself, when I was growing up my favorite place
15 was the library.

16

So my question is why couldn't you
17 just ask for every student a library card.
18 Without having to apply? I mean they could fill
19 out the form but the school has the information so
20 every child that goes to a public school just get
21 a library card automatically. Is that possible?

22

MS. STRIPLING: A clarifying
23 question, so you're saying that the school would
24 provide all the contact information and for our
25 records--

1

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [Interposing]

2

3 Yeah.

3

4 MS. STRIPLING: --and we would

4

5 just--

5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [Interposing]

6

7 Yeah, why don't you work with DOE and just every

7

8 kid who registers for school gets a library card.

8

9 MS. BAKER: I think there might be
10 some privacy concerns.

9

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: What privacy
12 concerns--oh yeah.

11

12

13 MS. BAKER: Well we don't give out
14 student information. So I don't know. I mean I
15 understand--

13

14

15

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [Interposing]

16

17 No you're not giving the information, right,

17

18 'cause the kids when they register for school,

18

19 they provide the information to the school.

19

20 MS. BAKER: Right. So I'm actually

20

21 a little--I'm not sure then that the school should
22 provide it to another entity. I think that's

21

22

23 something--I understand the spirit of it. It's

23

24 wonderful but I'm very passion about student's

24

25 privacy and that's who I am as a librarian. So I

25

1

2 don't know.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well I think

4

DOE--

5

MS. BAKER: [Interposing] A note of

6

caution.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --should

8

really talk with you and see, you know, why not?

9

I just don't understand. You go to school. You

10

get a library card. Library and school goes

11

together.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Council

13

Member before you came I actually made a similar

14

point and maybe the way around that because you

15

say you need a signature of a parent to release it

16

is to make it part of the package when you sign up

17

for school--

18

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [Interposing]

19

Yeah.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --that

21

there's a form. And we give everything else, you

22

know, contact information, emergency phone

23

numbers, you know, medical conditions, one of the

24

forms should be signed by the parent, here's your

25

library card form. Put it in and then every kid

1
2 will get their library card when they come to
3 school or a couple of weeks later.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Makes sense
6 to me.

7 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Council
8 Member Weprin, that sounds like common sense.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'm sorry
10 about that.

11 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: No, don't be
12 sorry. It's--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:
14 [Interposing] I'll try not to let that happen.

15 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: That sounds
16 so reasonable. Okay. Any other questions?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Mr.
18 Chairman?

19 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Yeah.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: May I just
21 make a mention that during National Library Week
22 in April, third week in April, we are now looking
23 to do another library day in City Hall Park. So
24 that will be an opportunity for all Council
25 Members to show their support for the public

1
2 libraries as we do our third annual Library Day in
3 the park, third week in April, I think it's the
4 third week, am I correct systems, third week in
5 April. National Library Week. So look for that
6 upcoming.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: What do you
8 get?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: What do
10 you get? You get a library card. [Chuckling]

11 [Off mic]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: You get an
13 application, right [chuckling].

14 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Well let me
15 thank all of you for coming in and responding to
16 our questions concerning this very important
17 matter with the goal of increasing the number of
18 the children in the public school system to have a
19 library card. Not only to have a card but to open
20 the world to all of the resources that your
21 branches hold for us to learn from. So thank you
22 very much.

23 And DOE people, thank you.

24 Now we're going to hear from Eileen
25 Muller from DC 37 Local 1482. And anyone else

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coming to testify, please come forward.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Have a seat please. And Eileen.

MS. EILEEN MULLER: Hi. Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Wait a minute there's more than Eileen up there.

MS. MULLER: I asked if I could have my colleagues from Queens Public Library to come and sit. He doesn't have testimony. He's just going to come sit and support me. We also have somebody here from New York Public that I was asking the same thing if they would come up--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Okay, okay.

MS. MULLER: --and support--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Okay, support.

MS. MULLER: --if that's okay. I do have some testimony--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Yeah, Eileen, if you don't mind to, one second, before you begin, could you pull your mic over and

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just--

MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Sure.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --speak into the mic and identify yourself, if you don't mind. Okay. Any time you're ready.

MS. MULLER: Sure thing. Hi, good afternoon. My name is Eileen Muller. I'm President of the Local that represents the Brooklyn Public Library, Local 1482 out of DC 37. And I'm here today in support of this, this action that you would like to take in order to change the law. And I asked for my colleagues actually to come up because here we are, front line people, sitting in the back, ready to give you all the answers that you were asking for before.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Give us the answers, give us the answers.

MS. MULLER: Well one of the things that you were asking about was the library cards and what would happen if a child came in with a library card, you know, what would happen. And what would happen, again front line people, we would do our very best to make sure that that child was able to take out library books that day.

1
2 We would also encourage them to, you know, sign up
3 for another library card from either the Brooklyn
4 Public Library or the Queens Borough Public
5 Library or the New York Public Library.

6 Always recognizing the card from
7 each other, you know, from each other's library
8 system. And, you know, that's their ID when they
9 come in and they have a library card from that
10 system. We would, as I said, you know, give them,
11 coming in with a New York Public library card to
12 Brooklyn, we would definitely give them a, you
13 know, recognize the library card from New York
14 Public Library and then enter them into our
15 database and everything. That's basically what,
16 you know, what would happen.

17 We try to be as friendly to the
18 children or to anybody that's coming into the
19 library. We very much want you to be our patron.
20 And we want to, you know, we want you to be able
21 to walk out of the library with materials that you
22 want. So it really is a very simple, you know,
23 procedure that we do. It's not a big, you know,
24 hard--hard, long procedure. So that's basically
25 what we would do.

1
2 We also, when you were talking
3 about the Department of Education and the
4 libraries talking to each other, in the past there
5 was something called CLASP, Connecting Libraries
6 and School Programs. I'm not exactly sure what
7 happened with that program but it's--I don't think
8 it's in existence any longer but that certainly
9 might be something that you could look into,
10 again, or the library systems could look into, to,
11 you know, help everybody talk to each other,
12 again. Because it was a very successful program.

13 As well, when you were talking
14 about going--library workers going to the schools
15 for parent-teacher night and that sort of thing
16 and you asked who would, you know, who would go,
17 do we cover all the schools. Each library branch
18 has the number of--right, exactly, you've got it.
19 Who encompasses their area, they each over those
20 locations. And we try to send--right. We try to
21 send as many people out as we can to go to those
22 locations.

23 But just let me give you an
24 example. If your branch is open that night that
25 the parent-teacher meeting occurs, you know,

1

2 you're going to be short staffed. Unfortunately
3 as you know the library systems are very short
4 right now on staffing. So this is a problem as
5 well.

6

7 But I can tell you I mean from my
8 colleagues and friends they all go out and they,
9 you know, sit in the hallways of the school
10 systems in the public school systems and, you
11 know, hand out the library card applications and
12 then the next day they come back with a, you know,
13 a stack sometimes this tall and it's all hands on
14 deck, everybody's got to enter all that stuff into
15 the computers and the databases and so forth so
16 the child can, you know, can get a library card.

17

18 And I think I covered most of what
19 you were talking about or questions you might have
20 had. I'm sure the libraries will come back to you
21 and, you know, give it to you in writing but I can
22 tell you as a front line person that's, you know,
23 usually what is done. So.

24

25 And I guess I really don't have to
26 give you my testimony other than to say I'm in
27 really in great support of this program. I think
28 it would be a wonderful thing. I think children

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definitely need a library card.

I have an office at the Flatbush Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library and I can't tell you, I've invited, you know, the City Council to come and see what goes on there with all the children in the--in the library after school. It's a wonderful place and wonderful programs that go on. So having a library card is, you know, is definitely a wonderful thing for any child. And I would encourage any parent, any--any program that we can have to be place din existence to get everybody to get a library card. So thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: thank you.

Our colleague Mark Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: thank you Mr. Chairman. I admitted my ignorance before so let me expound a little bit on my ignorance, briefly. So when I go to pick out books or DVDs or whatever from the library, there's a limit on how many things I can take out?

MS. MULLER: Yes there is--

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

[Interposing] Okay. Is it set

1
2 MS. MULLER: --you had asked the
3 number and I'm very bad at numbers.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay.

5 MS. MULLER: It's really very high,
6 from years, you--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

8 [Interposing] It's a high?

9 MS. MULLER: --it's a high amount.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'm trying
11 to get to like the risks involved here, so
12 whatever, I mean all right, there's a limit of
13 some type. And if I don't--if I come back the
14 next time, you'll see on my card that I have these
15 outstanding--

16 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Correct.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --five, ten
18 books.

19 MS. MULLER: Um-hum.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: And you'll
21 let me take more books out or you won't let me
22 take any more out.

23 MS. MULLER: It depends upon the
24 value of the books. So I mean it also could
25 depend, you know, I'm not giving inside

1
2 information, if you tell me you've returned those
3 books, I'm going to put a claims returned on those
4 books--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

6 [Interposing] Okay.

7 MS. MULLER: --which then that
8 would then clear your card. 'Cause I'm looking at
9 you and I'm saying you're telling me in all
10 honesty you returned those books. So I'm saying
11 okay hon, you returned those books, let me do
12 something in our database and we'll search for
13 them. Because you know what? We could have made
14 a mistake as well. And we would then search for
15 those books, therefore giving you the opportunity
16 to use your library card that day.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: All right.

18 Is there at some point there where you stop people
19 from taking out library books because they have
20 these, you know, they're delinquent?

21 MS. MULLER: Yes. There is.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: There are
23 library scoff-laws.

24 MS. MULLER: There is a value on
25 that. And I--

1

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

2

3 [Interposing] Because of Seinfeld thought about
4 this I know but...

4

5 [Off mic]

5

6 MS. MULLER: Yeah. I don't want
7 to--I don't want to give you numbers, numbers
8 aren't my thing, I'm sorry.

6

7

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: What I'm

9

10 trying to get at and just for my own knowledge is
11 like what's the risk here of having every kid have
12 a library card. Every kid should have a library
13 card, so when they fill out their forms, when you
14 start school, one of them will be the form your
15 parent signs, here give my son or daughter--

10

11

12

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16 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

16

17 Um-hum.

17

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --a library

18

19 card. Then you have a library card and they go
20 out and they take out books. I was just trying to
21 think what's the downside there, right? They may
22 have a kid that tries to steal books by going and
23 saying I'm taking my books and then not returning
24 them. But I guess that's the case now--

19

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25 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

25

1

2 Um-hum.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --anyway.

4

So it seems kind of silly that we don't do this in

5

a better way, that we don't all work together in

6

getting library books. And I know, you know, I

7

must be missing this. I don't remember, I would

8

say this again, my kids coming home with the form

9

and they come home with lots of forms--

10

MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

11

Um-hum.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --mostly

13

the PTA is paying for those forms truthfully. But

14

let's say--that says here fill out this form right

15

here, easy, sign it mom and dad and your kid has a

16

library, you know, card.

17

MS. MULLER: Um-hum. Um-hum.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: And I don't

19

ever remember that coming home.

20

MS. MULLER: Um-hum. I can't say

21

you know what's going on in your household because

22

I don't know--

23

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

24

[Interposing] Or my memory, you're absolutely--

25

MS. MULLER: --I mean I don't know.

1

2 I know we try as hard as we can to--

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

4 [Interposing] Obviously neither can I thank you
5 Council Member Fidler.

6 MS. MULLER: --get as many cards
7 out there. Again, you know, I'm a librarian, I
8 did it before I'm doing the job I'm doing right
9 now. I have lots of my colleagues at Brooklyn
10 Public Library as well as New York and Queens and
11 we do our best to get out there to all the schools
12 that we can get to, you know, when we can get to.
13 We also encourage the schools to come into the
14 library so the children actually have a library
15 experience.

16 And, you know, I can give you an
17 example with that. At that time we tried to, we
18 don't try, we give the children, you know, library
19 cards because prior to the class visit coming into
20 the library, the teacher will be given and I
21 actually had a card here, will be given an
22 application for a library card that goes home to
23 the parent. The parent fills it out. It's
24 signed, you know, we got into privacy issues and
25 so forth. When they come in for a class visit, we

1
2 don't have any documents that come with this, we
3 have the paper and that's on the word of the
4 teacher--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

6 [Interposing] Right.

7 MS. MULLER: --as to the address
8 and the verification of all the information that's
9 given. So, you know, we're already doing that.
10 You get--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:

12 [Interposing] Right.

13 MS. MULLER: --your library card
14 that day. And then you come back, we schedule a
15 come-back visit when those books are due.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Well.

17 MS. MULLER: So that the day you
18 come back you should be returning those books--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: It just
20 seems--

21 MS. MULLER: --let me--

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --that
23 there should be a more centralized--

24 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --process

1
2 here or we wouldn't be here today, obviously DOE's
3 not doing a good enough job of letting students
4 know. I mean those Family Guides, I know it's
5 supposed to have gone home. I don't even know if
6 they go home in the mail. I know in the lobby of
7 my son's school there's hundreds of them sitting
8 out there right now. I'm sure they're worth
9 \$79,000 just sitting there.

10 And I just think that's--and that's
11 why we're here and I'm just trying to think of
12 ways why it would be a bad thing just to make sure
13 everybody, as Ms. Chin said before, that every kid
14 should have a library card--

15 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --and then
17 that would be a great way to encourage people once
18 you have that card. And I think a lot of kids
19 would see it as a source of pride to have their
20 little library card that they have with them.

21 MS. MULLER: You know, as well,
22 just--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:
24 [Interposing] Yeah.

25 MS. MULLER: --you know what goes

1
2 on again on the front line. When we get all those
3 library card applications, you would be amazed at
4 how many library card applications we have that
5 are duplicate. They already do have their library
6 card. If I remember the lady from Queens Borough
7 said that there were about 45% of the children
8 don't have library cards, if I remember that
9 statistic, and, you know, so you have 45% of the
10 students that don't have a card, but you have 55%
11 of the students that do.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Which it
13 sounded very high to me. I was surprised it was
14 that high. But as Mr. Fidler pointed out I'm not
15 paying attention to what's going on in my house I
16 guess 'cause--

17 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] No
18 [laughing]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --I'm not
20 even sure if my children have--I don't think my
21 kids do have one. I'm not sure. And I don't--I
22 know that it isn't, you know, regular, it
23 certainly isn't a regular part of the, everyone of
24 their friends saying they got their library card--

25 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Right.

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2 Well--

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: --or let's go to the library today.

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MS. MULLER: Well I'm a grandmother of two children, two grandchildren, 3 and 1 and let me tell you, they both have their library card [laughing] but that's just something that, you know, that's important to me and I'm passionate about it--

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN:
[Interposing] And by next week mine will too.

13

MS. MULLER: Good.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.

15

MS. MULLER: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: I just have a question if I may with respects to is there sort of like--can you connect children's library cards with the family account? Is that doable? So that--

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MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Um-hum.

22

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --if I have three children and I'm--

24

MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Well.

25

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --a single

1
2 dad and I have a family account and it's
3 connected, my children are connected to me so
4 that, for example, you know, it's the same thing
5 as some parents do, they give their children a
6 credit card account but it's linked to the parent
7 and the bill comes in you can see, you know, what
8 the bill is and you have to pay it. Right? No
9 [chuckling].

10 [Off mic]

11 MS. MULLER: Well that certainly
12 sounds very reasonable. I don't know what the
13 capabilities of the IT systems are in doing
14 something like that. I'm sure it's something--

15 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
16 Well currently that does not exist?

17 MS. MULLER: As far as I know it
18 does not exist.

19 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Before
20 we continue, why don't we identify the other two
21 individual sitting at the table with you, if you
22 don't mind.

23 MR. JOHN HYSLOP: My name is John
24 Hyslop, I'm the Executive Vice President of Local
25 1321 which represents Queens Library employees.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. And
3 next?

4 MS. LOUISE STAMP: And my name is
5 Louise Stamp, I'm the Clerical Vice President of
6 Local 1930, the New York Public Library Guild.

7 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Very
8 good. Now, okay, so right now there is no family
9 sort of like link where the children are linked to
10 the parent's account. Go ahead.

11 MR. HYSLOP: I'm not sure if there's
12 a--this is John from Queens Library. I'm not sure
13 if there's a direct link from parent account to
14 children's account but the reason why the parents
15 sign that--one of the reasons why the parents sign
16 the form is that they're acknowledging that
17 they're responsible for the children's account.
18 And they're responsible for the fines and fees the
19 children are going to incur. So.

20 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: So in some
21 respect it is linked but not necessarily because
22 the parent has a library card or they're not--

23 MR. HYSLOP: [Interposing] Library
24 card themselves. Maybe we should encourage their
25 parents to get a--

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2 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --linked into
3 one unit within the system.'

4 MR. HYSLOP: I'm not sure but--

5 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
6 Okay.

7 MR. HYSLOP: --you'd have to
8 contact--you'd probably have to talk to the
9 various library systems--

10 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] And what
11 it does say at the bottom of the library card
12 application is parent/guardian is responsible for
13 materials checked out on the child's card. And
14 then they sign underneath that.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Can I have
16 that?

17 MS. MULLER: You may have this one,
18 certainly.

19 [Off mic]

20 MS. MULLER: You know, but that is
21 what's stated there. And again, when a child
22 comes in with, with, you know, books not returned
23 and so forth, you know, we try to encourage them
24 to bring them back and that sort of thing. And
25 when it becomes a problem we will then, you know,

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2 ask to see their parent if at all possible and try
3 to work out something to, you know, take care of
4 the account--

5 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

6 And what about--what about--

7 MS. MULLER: --so that we don't
8 deny them from using the library.

9 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And what
10 about parents going online to see if their
11 children have outstanding books or the fines, the
12 penalties don't increase? Is that possible?
13 Under the current system? So if I'm a parent--

14 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] Well.

15 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --and I have
16 three kids--

17 MR. HYSLOP: [Interposing] Right.

18 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --that have
19 library cards I can just go online and see okay,
20 wait a minute, my kids have outstanding books.

21 MR. HYSLOP: In, I'm sorry.

22 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And I can say
23 hey, R. J. where's the book at, you know, and
24 now I'm already at \$13.59 we owe. Is that
25 possible?

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2 MS. MULLER: I understand that, I
3 looked at my colleagues over there and I
4 understand that yes it is possible if the child's
5 card, you know, has a very long number. And then
6 associated with that very long number and this is
7 something that they do when they, you know, when
8 the card is activated, they get a PIN number. So
9 if you have that PIN number you would be able to
10 do that.

11 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Go online and
12 see if there's any outstanding--

13 MS. MULLER: [Interposing] That's
14 what I'm understanding.

15 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Very
16 good. Okay. And do libraries have at this point
17 in time, to your knowledge, fewer programs for
18 children now because of budget restraints, in your
19 opinion?

20 MS. MULLER: I'm going to again say
21 statistically I'm not sure of that. I would not
22 be the person that would really be able to give
23 you that answer. I can--

24 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
25 Right.

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MS. MULLER: --tell you that we do the very best that we can to provide programs for children, you know--

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
No I understand that I'm just asking--

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MS. MULLER: --everyday because I see that--no, no, I understand what you're asking as well--

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --but your--
but all of you represent employees that work in the library system, you're union, I guess, representatives. So I would think that you have some knowledge on whether or not the budget restraints has had a negative impact. And if so what type of impact. Let me ask that question. That's a little better.

9

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MS. MULLER: And I'm going to answer yes. We do have fewer programs. I mean I-- it's just that there's fewer staff members, you need staff to do the programs and that sort of thing so--

11

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
Okay. And your local, which is Local?

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MS. MULLER: 1482, the Brooklyn

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2 Library Guild.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Within the past year has there been some reductions in staff within your Local?

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MS. MULLER: Yes we have had reductions in staff.

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: As a result of budget restraints?

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MS. MULLER: As results of--yes, the library is trying to decrease the numbers of employees. We have done that a couple of different ways. We've done that through attrition, just people normally leaving, retiring, you know whatever the case might be. We've also offered a plan so that if you were given an incentive--

18

19

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Incentive.

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MS. MULLER: --if you were thinking of retiring--

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CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing] Okay.

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MS. MULLER: --so the incentive was in place so that that would, you know, make you

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move on, I guess--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

Okay. And that's the Brooklyn Library.

MS. MULLER: --you might say.

That's a Brooklyn, yes.

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And your?

MR. HYSLOP: At Queens Library, yes we've reduced staff considerably. The public service--I don't think they've hired anybody from the public service--to serve the public service since 2008. We've reduced hours considerably. And I think they've closed 14 branches on Saturdays. So that has definitely impacted our services to Queens, to the children of Queens, the programs that we offer to children, programs we offer to adults. So yeah, it definitely--the budget situation has definitely impacted our staff and our services.

MS. STAMP: And we--

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

Can you speak into the mic please? Pull it down.

MS. STAMP: At the New York Public Library we also went through attrition and we also went through a program called the SID [phonetic]

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2 program where those that was looking to retire,
3 anyone in the New York Public Library who wanted
4 to leave, who wanted to be a part of this program,
5 they was able to take it with an incentive,
6 depending on how many years of service you had,
7 that's how much money you received.

8 And people from all levels from the
9 clerical staff as well as the professional staff
10 took advantage of this opportunity because some
11 used it to pursue other careers, some used it to
12 move out of the City of New York. Others used it
13 for whatever reasons, personal reasons that they
14 wanted to. Of course it affects the programming
15 that we have but I just would say that we're doing
16 the best we can with what we have.

17 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay. Well,
18 yeah, Council Member Chin of Manhattan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. I
20 would like to ask a question. Are there
21 application forms translated into other languages?

22 MS. MULLER: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: In which
24 languages?

25 [Off mic discussion]

1

2

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay now I

3

know that--

4

MS. MULLER: I don't want to give

5

you the exact number because I'm not sure of that--

6

-

7

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

8

Well--

9

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [Interposing]

10

At least in Spanish and Chinese? Korean?

11

MS. MULLER: I want to say Spanish,

12

Chinese and Russian but I don't, you know, when

13

I'm not sure of something I want to be very honest

14

with you--

15

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]

16

Okay.

17

MS. MULLER: --I'm not sure.

18

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Well why

19

don't we be flexible. Why don't you have library

20

people here, please tell, how many languages the

21

application's in? somebody help me out.

22

[Off mic]

23

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Okay.

24

There's from a centralized point of view, for

25

example, Brooklyn Libraries versus the New York

1
2 libraries versus the Queens Borough Public
3 libraries, can you just--if you can--

4 [Off mic]

5 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --yeah I
6 know. If you can get that information to us we
7 would appreciate it. I know that the Department
8 of Education though, I think is required by law,
9 the law we passed, in nine languages. That I do
10 know. But I would like to know from the systems,
11 New York Library System, Brooklyn and Queens
12 Borough Library System, how many languages are the
13 applications translated into. So if you can get
14 that to Counsel, that would be great. Okay.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: anything else
17 Council Member Chin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well also I
19 guess, like in some of the library--like in
20 Chatham Square Library I see young people helping
21 out or working there. So do you employ volunteers
22 or summer youth kids?

23 MS. STAMP: When you see the young
24 people working out, they may be what we call the
25 pages, those are students that work for the New

1

2 York Public Library. They're not necessarily
3 volunteers, most of them are just pages. They're
4 students in school.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So they're
6 work/study students or?

7 MS. STAMP: Not necessarily
8 "work/study". They're students. They're young
9 people, young students because in order to be a
10 page you have to be in school. So they're
11 enrolled, most of them is enrolled in high school.
12 And some of them actually stay on throughout
13 college and then decide to pursue a career with
14 the--not just the New York Public Library per se
15 but to pursue a career in the library.

16 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Are those
17 students paid a certain amount of money? For
18 hours worked--

19 MS. STAMP: [Interposing] Yes
20 they're--they're paid--

21 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
22 I know that you're not the library system--

23 MS. STAMP: [Interposing] Right
24 [laughing]

25 CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: --I know that

1

2 you're the union, the guild. But I figured at
3 least you may know something.

4

5

6

MS. STAMP: Yes the students are
paid, I don't want to say just minimum wage
because--

7

8

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: [Interposing]
Right.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

MS. STAMP: --they go in increments
of how many years. And then they have computer
pages and computer pages make a little bit more
than somebody just coming in. But most of the
pages, honestly, they stay and usually we have a
lot of librarians that actually started off as
pages and stayed in the New York Public Library.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.

17

18

19

20

21

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: Well let me
thank all three of you for coming in on behalf of
your employees that you represent. And obviously
as you know the City of New York is facing a \$5
billion deficit.

22

MS. MULLER: Yes.

23

24

25

CHAIRPERSON JACKSON: And obviously
Vincent Gentile the Chair of the Library Select
Committee is going to be dealing with that in the

1
2 future, especially during the budgetary process.
3 But we want to thank all of you for coming in on
4 this very, very important subject of trying to
5 increase the number of students in the New York
6 City public school systems that can show their
7 library cards, in essence.

8 Based on the statistics that were
9 given, it clearly there is a need for us to focus
10 in on this. And as the Department of Education
11 said, the ideal situation would be to come up with
12 one where we can reach a consensus on how that
13 information can be given out with a cost neutral
14 situation.

15 So with that I don't believe
16 there's any other witnesses. And with that this
17 hearing of February 23rd, 2010 on Intro number 59
18 is hereby closed.

19 MS. MULLER: Thank you very much
20 for giving us the time.

21 [Gavel banging]

22 [Background conversation]

23 [END 1003.MP3]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature Laura L. Springate

Date March 8, 2010