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**Michelle James  
Beacon Director**

**Graham Windham Hunts Point Beacon  
NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Dept. of Youth & Community Development**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Good morning/afternoon, my name is Michelle James and I am representing Graham Windham Hunts Point Beacon. Thank you for your time today Council Chairman Lew Fidler; I would like to take a moment to tell you about our Beacon program and its importance to the community it serves. The Hunts Point Beacon is part of the Graham Windham agency, a New York-based non-for-profit that helps under-served children overcome obstacles on the path to self-sufficiency by giving them the skills to succeed, supporting and strengthening their families and, when necessary, supplementing their families. All Beacon services and programs for children and adults are complementary.

Beacons are vital to New York City for several reasons. Beacons are truly a hub of the community through which families can access comprehensive services that are offered from a holistic perspective. Beacons offer academic supports that help youth develop the skills needed to perform better in school. They also provide social supports that help participants have better social interaction with peers and adults. Additionally, young people engage in career exploration and leadership development.

The Mayor's preliminary budget proposes a six percent cut in funding (\$1.6 mil) for FY 2010 and a seven percent (\$2.7 mil) cut for FY 2011. This means a reduction in existing Beacon contracts as well as no funding for enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST programs. The proposed cuts will substantially diminish the capacity of Beacons to serve the communities that need them most.

The Graham Windham Hunts Point Beacon provides a daily after-school program for local school-aged children, Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, a Saturday program for middle and high school students, evening free-style dance for teenagers, evening ESL classes and evening soccer for adults, and hosts bimonthly dance parties for middle school students. All Beacon programs and activities are open to all community children and adults free of charge. Our afterschool program includes daily hot meals and a host of academic, cultural and recreational services and activities. Our Saturday program includes academics and trips as well as a drama intensive program for high school students. In the summer, Graham Windham Hunts Point Beacon also runs a free camp with sports, arts and crafts, trips, and other activities.

Our Beacon program is a safe and enjoyable place for parents to send their kids after-school and on Saturdays in an impoverished neighborhood that is rife with crime, drugs, and prostitution. The students are given opportunities to learn new skills, to see new places (on our trips), and to simply have a good time. With budget cuts, none of these programs would be possible. Graham Windham Hunts Point Beacon offers a vital service to a community in dire need.

Our Beacon Program still needs much improvement but without funding, we would not be able to continue to offer services and aid to our community and our families. Moreover, the ability to equip families with the tools needed to thrive or even to survive in today's tough economy will be significantly hampered without funding to enhance those programs that need it. Without question we are facing some daunting economic times, and difficult decisions must be made; however, financial solvency should not be achieved at the expense of one of our most vital commodities, the youth of New York City. On behalf of The Children, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today, and appreciate your continued support of Beacon programming.

**FOR THE RECORD**



Testimony of

Danielle Marchione  
Director of Communications and Government Relations  
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.

Before the  
New York City Council  
Finance Committee

Regarding the New York City  
Preliminary Plan Budget Proposals for Youth Services- FY11

March 15, 2010

Good afternoon. My name is Danielle Marchione and I am the Director of Communications and Government Relations at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is a 66-year old privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization. CCC does not accept or receive public resources nor do we provide direct service or represent a sector or workforce; rather for 66 years we have undertaken public policy research, community education and advocacy activities to draw attention to what is or is not for working for children in New York and to advance budget, legislative, and policy priorities—all with the goal of ensuring that children are healthy, housed, educated and safe. I would like to thank Chairpersons Recchia and Fidler and the members of the Council Finance and Youth Services for Committees for this opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Preliminary Plan for City Fiscal Year 2011.

**While we appreciate the severity of the budget crisis, Mayor Bloomberg's Preliminary Budget for CFY11 does not go far enough to protect New York City's children from shouldering a disproportionate burden of the economic downturn.**

The City's economic forecast remains grim, making reductions in city expenditures clearly necessary-- but the budget cuts must not be penny-wise and pound-foolish. The Preliminary Plan eliminates funds for programs that ensure children are safe in their homes and communities, are prepared to succeed in school and life, are positively engaged in academic and social activities, and their parents and families are supported with services that prevent more costly interventions later.

While the Preliminary Budget proposes to protect some critical services, and adds \$16.8 million for the increase in families in homeless shelters and \$52.7 million to pay for additional public assistance grants, funding for many critical services that actually prevent families from seeking shelter or public assistance would be reduced in this plan. Child care, youth services and after school programs, that prepare children for social and academic success and enable parents to work, are slated for large reductions. Given the projected increase in public assistance caseloads and the federal requirement for these families to receive child care, it is troubling that child care allocations are not increased in tandem. Without increased resources for child care, low income working families will likely lose their care, thereby threatening their employment stability.

In addition, proposed reductions to child welfare services are deeply troubling. If enacted, these reductions will impede the City from keeping children safe in their homes or in foster care. The Preliminary Budget would cut 202 child protective workers and \$3.6 million in city funds (\$9.0 million with the state match) from preventive services, thereby reducing the personnel and program investments that were made after the death of Nixzmary Brown. In addition, reimbursement for foster care providers is also slated for cuts.

The Mayor and the City Council must protect investments in these programs for children, as they are cost effective, produce good outcomes for children, youth and families, and ensure that the City can avoid the fiscal burden of more costly interventions in the short and long term.

Finding the revenue to restore these detrimental cuts will require a balanced approach. We believe that the city should implement a temporary, progressive personal income tax increase, as was done after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, in response to the economic downturn that followed. In December 2008, CCC commissioned a poll that found that 73% of New York voters supported raising income taxes for those earning over \$250,000 rather than reduce government services.

In addition we urge you to also consider raising revenue by: Decreasing the city's reliance on contracting out for professional, clerical and maintenance services now contracted out (to save

\$600 million); Extending the General Corporation Tax to insurance company business income (to generate \$100 million); and securing payments in lieu of property taxes from private colleges and universities (a pilot would yield \$75 million).

In addition to measures the City can take to raise revenue locally, to protect core children's services in the short and long term, we urge the City Council to work with the Mayor's office to ensure critical federal funding opportunities including those proposed in President Obama's Budget for the upcoming fiscal year such as Early Learning Challenge Grants, increases in child nutrition funding, increases in child care and Head Start funding, and a 6-month increase in the 6.9% FMAP increase that was included in AARA. These proposals are critical to New York City's ability to make significant long-term investments in essential children and family programs, and to alleviate the impact of the economic downturn on those who are suffering the most.

Turning to **youth services**, the city fiscal year (CFY) 2011 Preliminary Plan proposes significant cuts to a number of core youth development programs. New York City's working families rely on these after-school, youth leadership, and youth employment programs to keep their children safe and to promote their educational, social and emotional growth. Although the City served 85,513 youth in out-of-school time programs in fiscal year 2009, CCC estimates that almost 400,000 youth continue to be unserved by out-of-school time programs and an additional 350,000 are under-served.

#### **Summer Youth Employment**

Perhaps most troubling, especially during these tough economic times, is the CFY11 Preliminary Plan's proposal to cut almost \$1 million from the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) which would result in the elimination of 662 city-funded summer job slots. Added to that the Preliminary Plan also includes a \$6.6 million cut to City Council funded summer job slots, which provided 4,577 youth with summer jobs last year (through stimulus funds). Given the proposed SFY2010-11 Executive Budget proposal to cut \$35 million in TANF funding (which zeroes out state support for SYEP and jeopardizes 17,000 NYC slots), the Council must be vigilant in its effort to preserve city dollars for SYEP to ensure that the City can once again serve a minimum of 51,000 youth in the summer of 2010. SYEP provides young people with a 7-week paid job skills and employment training program and in most cases, the wages earned are used to supplement family incomes and provide local business districts with much needed tax revenues as the dollars are typically spent in the local neighborhoods.

#### **Out-of-School Time (OST):**

During this difficult economic time, after school programs are even more critical. Elementary school, middle school and high school students must all have somewhere safe to go after school. Not only do OST programs provide developmentally appropriate activities for children and youth, but they enable parents to work. CCC urges the City Council to work with the Mayor to restore the proposed cuts to OST Programs. Specifically we urge to you to restore:

- **\$7.5 million for 6,050 Out-of-School Time (OST) slots** (4,110 elementary/middle school slots and 1,940 summer school slots in middle schools). It should be noted that this Preliminary Budget proposal would effectively eliminate summer OST for middle school students because are only 30 middle schools city-wide with summer OST programs
- **\$4.6 million for Council funded/restored OST Option II programs.** In CFY10, the City relied on a combination of federal stimulus funds and a partial restoration of \$4.6 million by the Council in order to preserve 10,750 Option II slots. The CFY11 Preliminary Plan once again places these slots at-risk with the proposed \$4.6 million cut

and in addition, it must be noted that federal stimulus funds will not be available to close the gap beyond CFY11.

### **Beacons**

There are 80 Beacons city-wide that serve approximately 180,000 youth. Funding for this nationally recognized youth development program has remained relatively flat (\$400,000 per Beacon) since its inception in 1991 despite increased service targets and mandates. CCC urges the Council to restore the following funds so that Beacons can maintain the same level of service and better utilize and direct scarce funding towards delivering high quality program services rather than for inter-agency administrative costs such as the school opening fees.

- \$3.5 million for Beacon school opening fees.
- \$1.6 million for a 6% contract reduction to the City's 66 Beacons for the current fiscal year 2010 and \$2.7 million for a 7% contract reduction and the elimination of enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacons/OST middle school programs for FY11.

### **Youth Programs**

Finally, CCC commends the Council for its historic support of local youth programs that provide youth with a broad array of neighborhood-based supports. These programs represent a critical part of the safety net of community-based services that have been proven to be effective in deterring both entry and re-entry into New York's juvenile justice system. **We urge the City Council to continue to be steadfast in its support of Council youth initiatives and restore the following initiatives:**

#### **❖ City Council Youth Initiatives:**

- **\$5.1 million for Cultural After School Adventure (CASA)**
- **\$5.4 million for Shelter Beds for At-Risk Homeless Youth**
- **\$1 million for Street Outreach/Youth Alliance**
- **\$3.8 million for The After-Three Program**
- **\$500,000 for YMCA After-School Program**
- **\$1.2 million for Sports and Arts in the School Foundation**

### **Conclusion**

We understand that budget reductions will be made so as you work with the Mayor and fellow Council members on budget reductions, we urge you to be strategic and deliberate. Funding for cost-effective programs and services that prevent child abuse, keep children safe, ensure children are housed, fed and clothed, and funding that goes directly to classrooms must be preserved.

In conclusion, we understand that these very difficult times require difficult decisions on both sides of the budget ledger – revenue and expense. New York City's budget deficit demands a thoughtful response that includes progressive tax increases and government spending reductions that do not impact core services for children and families. It is critical that the actions the City Council takes with the Mayor protect the city's ability to ensure that our children remain healthy, housed, educated and safe.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY BEFORE  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
HEARING

ON

FISCAL YEAR 2011 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
FISCAL YEAR 2010 PRELIMINARY MAYOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

PRESENTED BY  
JEANNE B. MULLGRAV, COMMISSIONER

NEW YORK CITY  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2009, 10:00 AM

Good morning, Chairmen Fidler and Vann and members of the Youth Services and Community Development Committees. I am Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Budget.

As you know, New York City continues to feel the harsh effects of the worst national recession in more than 60 years. Since the recession hit more than two years ago, the City has acted responsibly to meet our financial challenges head-on while providing essential services to New York City children and families. For DYCD, this meant closely examining services supported by city tax levy funding and identifying where we can achieve savings and preserve our core services with the least impact on vulnerable youth.

### Budget Overview

While we are seeing some positive indications that the economy is growing again, tax revenues are still running approximately \$2 billion below what they were before the recession hit. As a result, like other City agencies, DYCD has been asked to find additional savings of \$9.58 million this year and \$13.97 million next year. Our Preliminary Budget for next year is \$288.7 million. \$168.7 million is city tax levy, \$82.8 million federal, \$11.5 million state and \$25.7 million from other funds.

The Out of School Time (OST) Program will receive a total cut of \$2.5 million in Fiscal 2010 and \$7.5 million in Fiscal 2011. The largest part of the budget action is the elimination of 33 elementary and middle school-year only programs in non-targeted zip codes. This achieves savings of nearly \$2 million in Fiscal 2010 and \$5.95 million in Fiscal 2011 and will result in 4,113 fewer slots. The second proposal is the elimination of middle school summer services. This will impact 1,943 young people and save \$1.38 million in Fiscal 2011. Stimulus funding used to support OST Option 2 programs will also expire on August 31, 2010.

It is important to note that OST was launched in Fiscal 2006 in partnership with ten City agencies including the Administration for Children's Services. One of the main objectives was to maximize scarce resources in traditionally under-served communities by shifting funding from childcare programs to OST. The budget supports this objective by preserving year-round programs in these communities. Despite the budget reduction, OST funding will still have more than doubled to \$99.5 million since its inception.

Beacon Programs will sustain a cut of \$1.58 million in Fiscal 2010 and \$2.75 million in Fiscal 2011. This will be achieved by reducing the base contract of all 66 Beacon Centers supported by City Tax Levy funding. It also will eliminate enhancements made to 12 Beacon program locations that previously hosted OST programs. We recognize the significant impact that this will have on providers and the young people they serve. It will require scaling back on contracted services while preserving traditional Beacon activities. We thank the Council for its allocation of \$3.5 million this year. Combined with \$2.3 million in stimulus funds it helped maintain the traditional annual budget level of approximately \$400,000 for each Beacon program. Next year, the 66 City



tax levy funded Beacon programs will have an average budget of \$340,000. Federally-funded sites will have an average budget of approximately \$400,000.

Like our other programs, Cornerstone Initiative was subject to budget reductions. In Fiscal 2010, \$1.18 million in savings were realized from delays in the opening of some new community centers. In Fiscal 2011, we will achieve savings of \$980,000 by reducing funding by 8%. We anticipate that the impact will be minimal as programs have not fully ramped up services.

The budget also proposes reducing classroom time of Adult Literacy programs by 10 percent to achieve a savings of \$449,260 in Fiscal 2010 and \$554,268 in Fiscal 2011.

These budget actions may be further compounded by proposed State cuts. We echo the sentiments of Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Christine C. Quinn in how the State Executive Budget disproportionately impacts the City. It would inflict \$1.3 billion in cuts to the City and imposes cost shifts and new unfunded mandates in the human services area. It completely eliminates State revenue sharing for the City. Of utmost concern to DYCD is the complete elimination of funding to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) totaling \$35 million Statewide, including \$19.5 million to the City. Less the \$18.5 million in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocation, and a reduction of \$1 million in City tax levy funding, SYEP will look far different this summer. Under the current budget, the City will be able to serve approximately 18,000 young people. This will be supported by \$13.1 million in City tax levy (representing 8,890 youth) and \$12.4 million (8,772 youth) in federal funding. I thank the City Council for its continued support and advocacy.

SYEP is a priority of the Bloomberg Administration and restoration of State funding is DYCD's number one priority. Over the past month, I traveled to Albany several times to make the case about the importance of these funds.

While the news is sobering, there are many accomplishments that demonstrate that even during difficult times we need to continue to invest in young people. I'd like to take a few moments to highlight some of our accomplishments during the past year.

#### Wisely Investing Stimulus Funding

DYCD invested its allocation of \$82.7 million in stimulus funds to develop 13 projects designed to preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery and to assist New Yorkers most impacted by the recession. \$32.2 million is WIA ARRA and \$50.5 million is Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) ARRA.

Some examples include:

- We launched the "Go to School Get a Job" year-round internships for in-school youth. This is to help them remain in high school and meet

academic and job performance standards. The \$5.5 million invested from WIAARRA, enabled 2,745 participants to be enrolled in the program. So far they completed 229,083 hours or roughly 57% of the program's goal of 402,624.

- We invested \$3.02 million from WIA ARRA in the Out-of-School Youth Program (OSY). It provides paid internships to disconnected youth who are not in school and not working. OSY provides job-readiness services, case management, and employment and training assistance. The work experience internship is an enhancement to the current program. This additional funding also will help place participants in regular employment, advanced training, or education following their internships. 370 youth enrolled so far and completed 55,351 hours in the program.
- We allocated \$2 million from WIA ARRA to expand the Parks Opportunity Program (POP). It provides young people ages 18 to 24 who are not in school or working, with educational instruction, occupational training and supportive services while earning a paycheck. After completion of the program, youth get help finding a job, enrolling in college or advanced vocational training, and receive 12 months of follow-up services. The program has so far enrolled 203 participants.
- \$8.6 million from CSBG ARRA helped Literacy Programs open their doors even wider for 2,000 adults who are seeking to develop their English skill and make themselves more valuable to employers. In communities with high concentrations of low-wage workers, more than 2,400 workers are receiving employment services specifically tailored to their strengths.
- And because victims of domestic violence in immigrant communities often need extra help becoming economically independent from their batterer, we invested another \$1.95 million to connect them to job training and placement services.
- \$4.6 million from CSBG ARRA supports the Fatherhood Initiative to help non-custodial fathers reconnect with their children and develop parenting skills. This funding is aimed at two new initiatives: 1) subsidized jobs and employment assistance for non-custodial fathers who are ex-offenders and at least 25 years-old; and 2) workforce support services for low-income non-custodial fathers between the ages of 16 and 24. So far, 437 fathers have enrolled in the program. 107 have already been placed in jobs or advanced training programs.
- Last summer also was a banner year for SYEP, because of a combined \$67.5 million invested by the City, State and Federal governments. We had the largest summer program in over ten years with 52,255 youth

enrolled. Given the economy, we also had a record number of 139,597 youth who applied. The funding included the \$19.5 million in state TANF, which enabled DYCD to enroll 16,911 young people. The infusion of \$28.2 million ARRA funds supported 20,413 additional participants. This demonstrates what we already knew - that the City cannot do it alone, and needs the support of all three levels of government.

DYCD's ARRA programs will serve a total of 117,984 New Yorkers.

#### Effectively Leveraging Other Resources

There is also good news to share about accomplishments achieved by leveraging the City's resources and with valuable support from the private sector.

1,385 SYEP participants volunteered in our inaugural "Summer of Service" initiative. It was part of Mayor Bloomberg's NYC Service Initiative to provide meaningful service opportunities in all five boroughs. With help from a broad spectrum of partners, we organized a total of ten projects at New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments and Department of Parks and Recreation locations. The young volunteers worked on sustainability activities such as building planter boxes, planting flowers and vegetables, and painting. Summer of Service served as a reminder that our young people want to give back. We look forward to continuing it this year.

In September, DYCD launched the Out-of-School Time (OST) High School Transition Program. The initiative is built on two objectives: help struggling freshman adjust to the challenges of high school; and help high school juniors and seniors prepare for college or join the workforce. I look forward to updating you on the success of this program.

Thanks in large part to more than \$5.9 million from the City Council, DYCD added 18 residential beds for runaway and homeless youth (RHY). This includes three Crisis Shelter beds and 15 Transitional Independent Living beds. Our portfolio now has a total of 253 beds and the Council's funding supports 147 of these beds. This funding also expanded borough-based Drop-In Centers. In partnership with the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), \$333,750 in ARRA funding has been targeted to provide case management services to 534 young adults in our Crisis Shelters.

In October, Mayor Bloomberg established the NYC Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Questioning Runaway and Homeless Youth. The Commission's objective is to devise strategies for meeting the diverse needs of LGBTQ youth who are disproportionately represented among RHY. As part of the Commission's work, it held two public hearings. We heard from parents, service providers and young people impacted by their sexual orientation and gender identity. I look forward to updating you on the Commission's on-going work.

We received encouraging news that the Teen ACTION program is making a quantifiable difference in the lives of young people. As you know, it was launched two years ago as part of the Mayor's Center for Economic Opportunity anti-poverty initiative. The goal of the program is to foster engagement in school and community while promoting responsible behavior. According to preliminary results from an independent evaluation, participants accumulate a greater number of high school credits than their peers who are not in the program.

We are pleased that another CEO program, the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP) is also making an impact on the lives of young people. YAIP provides short-term paid internships, placements into jobs, education or advanced training, and follow-up services to disconnected youth ages 16 to 24 years. Since its inception, the program served approximately 3,170 participants. 88 percent have completed their internships. 72 percent of these youth have been placed in advanced training, education or employment.

Despite the tough economy, our Ladders for Leaders Program is continuing to receive significant support from our generous corporate partners. This past summer, 174 young people were hired by 60, mostly corporate employers. Additionally, 81 graduates of the program received college scholarships of \$2,000 each. The \$162,000 in scholarships was donated by sponsors to help young people pay for tuition and books. This year looks encouraging as 719 youth have applied, and more sponsors have shown interest in supporting the program.

Finally, at the start of this year, DYCD launched the Cornerstone Initiative to reshape and enhance services for residents of public housing. This significant milestone was achieved with the support of the City Council. It followed year-long efforts to ensure that these 25 Centers remain open to provide high-quality after school programs for young people and comprehensive services for adults. I am pleased with the progress the programs have made in enrolling young people and adults.

These accomplishments demonstrate that even as we await the economy to rebound, that we can continue to invest in innovative programs for our young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the DYCD Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Budget. I am joined by Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services and John V. Cirolia, Assistant Commissioner for Contract Agency Finance. We are pleased to answer your questions.



## FOR THE RECORD

**ALIANZA DOMINICANA INC.**  
**MOSAIC Beacon Community Center**  
1257 Ogden Avenue • Bronx, New York 10452

NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Dept. of Youth & Community Development  
March 15, 2010.

Good morning, my name is Angel De La Cruz and I am representing Alianza Dominicana Inc - Mosaic Beacon located in the High bridge section in the south west Bronx. Alianza is a nonprofit organization that provides several services to all members of our community. Our agency is extremely vital to our community as they are a medium of balance for the lack of other resources. We provided special activities, tutoring, a food pantry, and life skills, among other things.

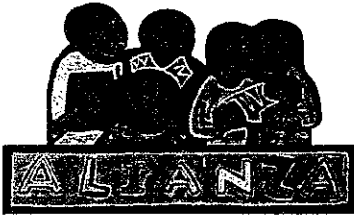
Beacons are necessary in New York City for various reasons. They provide a second home to many that don't have one. They reduce violence and drug abuse by keeping our youth off the streets. Beacons teach life lessons and educated our community. They help parents better understand their children and allow for community members to contribute back to their respected communities. They give a chance for our youth to have jobs and become mentors. They built community leaders and over all eliminate other issues we face by providing the education that is needed to solve them.

It is proven that communities that have beacons significantly become more efficient as time goes forward. By reducing the budget, it significantly reduces the direct impact that a beacon can have, as well as eliminate the range of community members that we can actually reach. A Beacon is a great investment since it has so many other positive results, higher education, more talented individuals, cleaners communities, safer living space, reduces the need for security guards and officers.

Our Beacon provides several services such as open gym, Girl Scouts, arts and craft, basic computer understanding, leadership, dance, a food pantry that prepares and distribute 1000 bags of food weekly, tutoring, GED & citizenship training, Martial arts, ESL and other basic education classes, community meetings and events, and these are the ones that come to mind at this moment; we provide many more services. Our beacon is the extra push that our community needs to be able to stand. I myself started working at MOSAIC Beacon without knowing what I wanting to do with my life, shortly after I got a job as a computer tutor. Now I am a senior in college about to graduate with a BS in Computer Science.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to listen and read about our concerns and hope that you take in consideration what we have said here today. I know times are hard but eliminating services that is repairing communities will become a bigger problem in the future when crime levels rise and officers will no longer be in control of our communities.

Angel De La Cruz,  
Computer Specialist



***ALIANZA DOMINICANA, INC.***  
***MOSAIC Beacon Community Center***  
The Beacon Center in Highbridge

1257 Ogden Avenue, Bronx, New York 10452

Jhokasta N. Vasquez

Educational Adviser

Alianza MOSAIC Beacon Community Center

NYC Council FY' 11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Department of Youth & Community Development

**FOR THE RECORD**

March 15, 2010

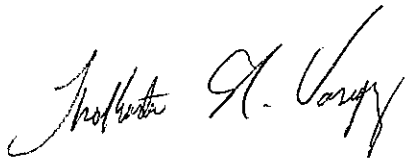
Good morning, my name is Jhokasta N. Vasquez and I am representing Alianza MOSAIC Beacon Community Center. My agency is a non-profit community development organization that patterns with youth, families, and public and private institutions to revitalize economically distressed neighborhoods. Our mission is to assist children, youth and families break the cycle of poverty and fulfill their potential as members of the global economy.

Beacons are vital to New York City for several reasons. They provide a safe environment where children and young adults can develop their academic as well as their social skills. These programs help young people engage in career exploration and leadership development. Beacons work to better entire families and to create productive members for society.

The Mayor's preliminary budget proposes a six percent cut in funding (\$1.6 mil) for FY 2010 and a seven percent (\$ 2.7 mil) cut for FY 2011. This means a reduction in existing Beacon contracts as well as no funding for enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST. These cuts will diminish the capacity of Beacons to serve the communities. If the budget gets for the Beacons there are going to be many children and young adults without guidance which are going to be exposed to drugs, alcohol and gangs. It seems as you are forgetting that by cutting the budget of the Beacons are cutting the possibility of youth in New York City to have a better future and to be productive members of society. This committee cannot forget that the youth that the Beacons provide services to are the future doctors, teachers, lawyers, police etc. We have to make sure that we provide the best resources for them to be successful in the future. We do not want our communities to be full of criminals just because we did not have enough resources to maintain these safe environments.

MOSAIC Beacon Community Center provides a variety of services that helps to strength communities for children, youth and families. MOSAIC not only focuses on youth development but it also provides immigration services which help participants to become citizens, to develop their English language skills and to obtain their GED certification. It is so wonderful when participants achieve their goals and how proud their feel of themselves. They work very hard because they are not only looking for their own benefit but for the benefit of their families. I feel very happy when parents go to their house and show their high grades to the children to show to them that with hard work everything is possible. It is even better to when participants obtain their GED diploma and they go to college. With the budget cut the immigration service that MOSAIC Beacon provides will be eliminated.

I understand that we are going though very difficult economic times but the budget cuts of the Beacons will create more destruction than benefit to New York City. I know that some cuts have to be made but it goes against any logy to cut funds to the communities that need these programs the most. This committee has to think on how this budget cut will harm the future of thousands of children, youth and families. On behalf of Alianza MOSAIC Beacon Community Center I give thanks to the committee for the opportunity to testify today, and appreciate your continued support of Beacon programming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Vazquez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

**YMCA of Greater New York Testimony  
NYC Council Youth Services Committee  
Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Monday, March 15, 2010**

The YMCA of Greater New York is a 156 year old community service organization which promotes positive values through programs that build spirit, mind and body, welcoming all people, with a focus on youth. The YMCA of Greater New York gives young people a place to come after school for safe, productive activities that encourage and support academic performance, help to build their self-esteem and develop healthy lifestyles. Among the many of programs offered by the YMCA of Greater New York are a variety of youth programs, including child care, day care and after-school care programs mentoring, leadership training and development; service learning; computer training; college/career preparation and summer camps. These programs as well as others allowed us to serve over 175,000 New York City youth last year.

As the largest non-government youth serving organization in the City we felt it was our duty to submit testimony to the Youth Services Committee today. First and foremost we urge the City to maintain all youth services funding in Fiscal Year 2011. The YMCA is a member of the NYC Youth Alliance and echoes their concerns regarding youth services funding cuts. In these economic times, programs like Out of School Time, After-Three, Summer Youth Employment and YMCA After-School provide an invaluable service to working parents who are trying to make ends meet.

Elimination of 33 Out of School Time (OST) Programs and the summer service cut to 30 OST middle school sites is a great concern to program providers throughout New York City. The YMCA operates one of those middle schools and four of the 33 sites considered to be in "low-priority zip codes." Middle school students have fewer summer options that elementary school students with camp options or high school students with employment options. To cut these vital summer programs leaving parents out of luck is unfair and unacceptable.

The 33 OST sites scheduled to close at the end of this school year provide a vital service to the families of the communities they serve. As mentioned above, we have four sites on the list, PS14 in the Bronx, PS 21 in Flushing, PS 295 Brooklyn and PS 22 in Staten Island. Those four sites serve 500 youth each year. We have been told that they are in "low-priority zip codes" but how are we to deliver that message to the parents of these children who need the programs so that they can continue to pay their bills and not worry about their children being home alone or on the street. Elimination of these programs would be devastating to the communities we serve.



We would also like to highlight two core YMCA programs that receive City funding that we hope to maintain in 2011. In 2009, the YMCA of Greater New York's City funding for Y After School (formerly known as the Virtual Y) and Teens Take the City, was significantly reduced. Prior to Fiscal Year 2009, the City supported our Y After School Program and our Teens Take the City Program with allocations of \$900,000 and \$100,000, respectively. For Fiscal Year 2009 our awards were reduced to \$500,000 and \$75,000, respectively. We understand the City's need to make cuts, but also feel that additional cuts to these important programs would be detrimental to the programs as a whole and in turn to the thousands of youth and families they serve.

The Y After School Program is designed to build strong values, enhance education, improve academic performance, and promote healthy lifestyles. The program reinforces, rather than repeats, the efforts of classroom teachers during the day. Y After School is the evolution of YMCA after school programming, stemming from 13 years of achievement in the Virtual Y program as well as decades of operating extensive and successful school age child care services throughout the five boroughs.

Teens Take the City is our premiere civic engagement program for New York City teens. The program engages teens from across the City with a program that teaches them the ins and outs of City government from Community Boards to the City Council to the Mayor's Office and Agencies. The program began three years ago and has more than tripled in size from 115 teens participating in 2005 to nearly 450 teens being served last year. The program serves teens in all five boroughs from over 30 locations including high schools and local YMCA branches.

The YMCA along with most other youth serving organizations cobble together the funding for our free programs using public and private dollars from a variety of sources. Facing cuts to OST, Y After School, After Three and others means that we all have less to cobble together this year. We know that as a community there is more need than we have the ability to serve, so to cut these funds at a time like this would only increase the hardship of the families that need us most.

In conclusion, we want to thank the Council and the Youth Services Committee specifically for your ongoing support for the youth of New York City. We also hope to work with you to maintain funding to the youth services programs that have been so successful in providing services in the past. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Sharon Levy at 917-575-2736.

# FOR THE RECORD

**HENRY  
STREET  
SETTLEMENT**  
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Two years ago, 103,000 young people applied to the city's Summer Youth Employment Program. Last year, 139,000 applied. This year, 150,000 youth are expected to apply. With currently proposed city and state cuts and a lack of Federal support, this program that has become this wildly popular, will only serve 17% of this projected number of applicants. However, the savings projected by these cuts will be eclipsed within this same fiscal year by the following costly outcomes, not to mention the more long-term financial consequences within the following three examples.

<b>Opportunity Provided</b>	<b>FY 11 Savings Reaped Cutting 10 slots</b>	<b>Opportunity Lost</b>	<b>FY 11 Costs Incurred by Cutting 10 Slots</b>
Young people in the program consistently report providing a percentage of the money they make toward summer family expenses.	\$20,000	10 young people do not make enough money to help their families stave off an eviction and these families spend six months in homeless shelters this fiscal year.	\$160,200 in daily rates paid to homeless family shelters
Young people are busy with SYEP 25 hours per week and have money to spend on safe, appropriate activities with their friends.	\$20,000	10 young people choose to commit illegal activities in order to generate much needed income and are sentenced to six months in upstate OCFS facilities.	\$1,020,000 in residential placement fees
Young people have the opportunity to be hired on permanently at the end of the summer.	\$20,000	10 young people who are not selected would have been exceptional participants and hired by the Walgreens they would have been placed at for 30 hours per week at \$8 per hour for the balance of the fiscal year.	\$96,000 in taxable income

Clearly, in such a tough year within both the city and state budgets, it is critical that money is found for SYEP before even more dollars must be found a few months from now for more costly interventions later this year.



Testimony of

Alyson Grant  
Government Relations Associate

At the Hearing on the FY11 Preliminary Budget

The Committee on Youth Services  
Hon. Lewis A. Fidler, Chair

The Committee on Community Development  
Hon. Albert Vann, Chair

March 15, 2010

Chairman Fidler, Chairman Vann, Chairman Recchia, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget. My name is Alyson Grant, Government Relations Associate for UJA-Federation of New York. I am here to testify on behalf of UJA-Federation and as a member of the Youth Alliance.

The mission of UJA-Federation of New York is to care for those in need and those in harm's way. Toward that end, we have a network of more than 100 non-profit health and human service and educational agencies in New York City, many of which provide youth programming.

UJA-Federation and the Youth Alliance urge you to restore funding for the Out of School Time Option II (OST II) Program; the elimination of these programs would have a disastrous impact on many Youth Alliance agencies and the vulnerable clients we serve. OST II funds 10,750 after-school slots at 91 community-based programs that offer youth leadership, college preparatory, creative arts, and theme-based programming. These programs reach underserved populations that do not have other opportunities for social, educational and career enrichment, and serves them in their communities where they can easily access these services.

For UJA-Federation network agencies, eliminating OST II funding would mean the loss of 10 programs that serve over 1,300 students. Several UJA-Federation agency programs affected include the Educational Alliance Edgies program, which prepares high school students from underserved communities for college matriculation; the YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood, which provides literacy and acculturation programs for Spanish speaking students; and the Jewish Child Care Association's Bukharian Teen Lounge, which helps at-risk immigrant teenagers from the former Soviet Union learn life and college preparatory skills.

The benefits of after-school programs are far-reaching. Research studies and evaluations indicate that high quality after-school programs improve students' social skills, give them more confidence, create higher educational and career aspirations, and motivate them to consistently attend school. Additionally, DYCD reports that high school youth met or exceeded DYCD's minimum participation standards. After-school programs are also effective in reducing violence, theft, vandalism, gang activity, and other crimes.<sup>1</sup>

There is a tangible economic benefit to after-school programs. For every \$1 spent, taxpayers save \$3. And each dollar investment in an at-risk youth saves a total of \$8 to \$12 of taxpayer's money due to crime reduction and prevention.<sup>2</sup> Supporting programs with proven positive outcomes subsidized by private resources is worthy of reconsideration.

We urge the City Council to restore \$6 million in funding for OST II programs for Fiscal Year 2011. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Studies Associates, Inc., "Evidence of Program Quality and Youth Outcomes in the DYCD Out-of-School Time Initiative: Report on the Initiative's First Three Years." September 2009.

<http://www.policystudies.com/studies/youth/OST%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> William O. Brown, Steven B. Frates, Ian S. Rudge, Richard L. Tradewell, "The Costs and Benefits of After School Programs: The Estimated Effects of the After School Education and Safety Program Act of 2002." Rose Institute at Claremont McKenna College, September 2002.

[http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/rose/publications/pdf/after\\_school.pdf](http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/rose/publications/pdf/after_school.pdf)



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**Anthony Ng**  
**Deputy Director of Policy & Advocacy, United Neighborhood Houses**

**Written testimony submitted to the**  
**Youth Services Committee of the New York City Council**  
**Lew Fidler, Chair**

**Community Development Committee of the New York City Council**  
**Al Vann, Chair**

**Joint Hearing on the Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget Hearing --**  
**Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)**

**March 15, 2010**

My name is Anthony Ng, and I am the Deputy Director of Policy and Advocacy at United Neighborhood Houses of New York, Inc. (UNH). UNH, founded in 1919, is the membership organization of New York City settlement houses and community centers. Rooted in the history and values of the settlement house movement, UNH promotes and strengthens the neighborhood-based, multi-service approach to improving the lives of New Yorkers in need and the communities in which they live. UNH's membership comprises one of the largest human service systems in New York City, with 38 agencies working at more than 400 sites to provide high quality services and activities to a half million New Yorkers each year. UNH supports its members through policy development, advocacy and capacity-building activities. Services provided by our members include: early childhood education, after-school programs, teen centers, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, immigration legal services, GED classes, job training, tutoring, recreation, meals and supportive services for the elderly, mental health counseling, drug prevention, and art, music and drama programs.

I am pleased to submit written testimony to the Youth Services Committee and Community Development Committee of the New York City Council regarding the DYCD budget within the Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget. I want to echo the testimony delivered by the New York City Youth Alliance -- UNH is an active member of the Youth Alliance. I am also joined today by 10 UNH member agencies, to testify on the impact of the Mayor's proposed cuts in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget. I concur with their testimony as well.

New York's ailing economy continues to challenge working families struggling to make ends meet. UNH members understand how devastating the Mayor's proposed cuts are at this moment, since they come on top of public and private funding reductions they have experienced over the past two years. With fewer resources, our members have had to reduce services, cut programs, lay off staff, and stretch even further to serve New Yorkers in need. In October 2009, UNH conducted a member survey regarding the impact of the economic downturn, revealing the consequences it has had on our agencies:

### ***Funding reductions and their impact***

- Since the beginning of the recession in September 2008, 90% of UNH members have faced reductions in foundation grants; over 60% have faced reductions in government funding; and 55% have faced decreases in revenue from individual contributions.
- As a result of reduced resources, 80% of UNH members have delayed or reduced planned salary increases, 77% have laid off staff, and 40% have reduced staff benefits. Approximately a third of UNH member agencies have implemented a hiring freeze.

### ***Increased demand and community needs***

- Approximately 90% of UNH member agencies have received increased requests for employment assistance; 79% have received increased requests for help accessing entitlements and benefits; and 52% have received more requests for legal services.
- 69% of UNH member agencies are witnessing increases in hunger among participants and community members, and 69% say their communities are experiencing high rates of evictions and foreclosures. 59% of member agencies have observed more instances of mental health problems in their communities, 41% have observed increased homelessness, and 38% have observed more youth violence.

### ***Decreased availability of youth services, ESOL, and adult literacy classes***

- 64% of member agencies that run after school programs have had to eliminate program components, such as arts programming, 32% have had to reduce capacity, and 32% have had to create or expand their waitlists. For agencies running teen programs, 53% have eliminated or reduced program components, 33% have reduced program capacity, and 27% have closed programs.
- 60% of agencies running ESOL and adult literacy classes have had to create or expand their waitlists, and 20% have had to close programs.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2011 cuts in youth programs, summer jobs, immigrant services, and adult literacy services within the Department of Youth and Community Development and several Council initiatives, strikes at the core of these vital services. We are reaching a tipping point where programs will be eliminated, and the City's service delivery infrastructure in these areas will be seriously weakened for years to come. UNH recognizes that any form of revenue assistance from the State and Federal levels is very unlikely this year. The State's precarious fiscal condition has deteriorated further, since Governor Paterson announced his Executive budget in mid-January. The deep cuts proposed in the State budget, combined with differing plans on how to address the State's current and structural budget deficits, and rumors of a late State budget do little to ease our mind. We also understand that there will be no federal stimulus package this year that can be used to restore proposed cuts like last year. During this recession, human services in the City budget must be a top priority. We urge the Mayor and City Council to seriously consider revenue and cost saving measures, while restoring vital youth services, summer jobs, and adult literacy programs as it balances the FY 2011 City budget.

### **SUPPORT REVENUE AND COST SAVING MEASURES**

Human services support struggling New Yorkers and prevent more serious and costly problems, such as unemployment, homelessness, and poverty, as well as emergency expenditures. In order to mitigate the negative impacts of the economic crisis and put New York City on track for long-term financial stability and success, revenue and cost-saving measures are needed to help balance the budget. Examples of revenue and cost-saving measures that could help balance the budget and avoid cuts to vital human services include: adopting an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; adopting a tax on plastic bags; increasing the use of alternatives to incarceration for juveniles; and reducing the use of high-priced, private professional consultants.

## **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

### **Provide 52,255 Jobs through the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

Through SYEP, youth work in a variety of positions, including those in day camps, professional offices, cultural institutions, and retail shops. Teens gain valuable professional and life skills, such as developing time and money management, and learning workplace expectations. Summer jobs allow them to explore career options and help support their families. Since youth typically spend the majority of their paychecks in their communities, their salaries stimulate local economies immediately.

Last summer, through a combination of City, State and Federal funds totaling \$67.5 million, New York City had the largest Summer Youth Employment Program in over ten years, with 52,255 youth enrolled. However, the proposed 2010-11 New York State Executive Budget completely eliminates funding for SYEP. (Last year, the State provided \$35 million for SYEP, \$19.5 million of which went to New York City.) The City's Preliminary Budget proposes to cut SYEP by \$999,000 in FY 2011, and it does not include \$20.7 million in stimulus funding for SYEP that was in the FY 2010 budget. As a result, New York City currently has only \$25 million available to support 17,200 jobs this summer. Demand for SYEP is tremendous – in 2009, 139,597 young people applied for the 52,255 SYEP slots. The dramatic cuts to SYEP are especially worrisome given the record-high youth unemployment rates caused by the economic downturn and tight labor market:

- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2.063 million teens (ages 16-19) were unemployed in June-July 2009, registering a national youth unemployment rate of 26.3%, the highest rate on record for the series, which began in 1948. This teen unemployment rate is also higher than the overall unemployment rate of 24% in 1932 during the Great Depression.
- Teen unemployment rates varied substantially across race-ethnic groups, ranging from a low of 22 percent among white non-Hispanics; to 31 percent among Hispanics; to 34 percent among Asians; to a high of over 42 percent among black non-Hispanics.
- Teens living in the lowest-income families (under \$20,000) faced an unemployment rate just under 42 percent versus 27 percent for those in families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000; 19 percent for those with family incomes between \$75,000 and \$100,000; and only 16 percent for those with family incomes over \$100,000. Teens in the lowest-income families (under \$20,000) faced unemployment rates that were 2.5 times as high as those of youth in the most affluent families (over \$100,000).

Source: Andrew Sum, Ishwar Khatriwada, Joseph McLaughlin, and Allison Beard. "Historically Low Teen Employment – The Case for a New Youth Jobs Program." Challenge, January-February 2010.

The operation of the City's summer daycamps and programs will also be jeopardized if SYEP is deeply curtailed, since it provides important seasonal staff. 21,803 SYEP participants (41.7%) worked at 2,421 daycare centers and summer camps as counselors, and administrative staff in 2009. Attached to my testimony is a March 9, 2010 New York Times article that UNH helped to place, discussing the value of a summer job as a camp counselor.

## **YOUTH SERVICES**

### **Restore \$15.5 million for Out of School Time (OST)**

Located in high-need neighborhoods across New York City, OST programs provide a mix of academic, recreational, and cultural activities to school-age youth after school hours, during holidays, and over the summer. OST programs offer an important workforce support for parents and provide youth with safe places to go after the school day ends, as well as enrichment

activities that help them succeed. Together, the City's 644 OST programs serve approximately 80,000 young people.<sup>1</sup>

The FY 2011 Preliminary Budget proposes to cut Out of School Time (OST) Option I by \$1.98 million in this fiscal year and by \$7.5 million in FY 2011. These cuts will eliminate 33 school-year only OST programs in elementary and middle schools (4,110 slots) as well as summer programs in 30 middle schools (1,940 slots) in "low-priority" zip codes. In addition, the Preliminary Budget does not include the \$6.0 million in federal stimulus funding used last year to restore Out-of-School Time Option II, a flexible after school program model that leverages private matching funds and serves 10,750 youth in New York City. In total, 20,400 OST slots are at risk of being eliminated. OST Option I providers have already received letters indicating that their programs will end as of June 30, 2010.

#### **Restore \$10.13 million for Beacons**

Beacons are school-based community centers that provide educational and extra-curricular activities to children, youth, and adults after school hours, on weekends and holidays, and over the summer. Services provided in these intergenerational settings include literacy services, tutoring, college preparation services, and recreational activities. Beacon baseline funding has not increased since its inception in the early 1990s.

The FY 2011 Preliminary Budget proposes to cut Beacons by \$1.58 million in this fiscal year and by \$2.75 million in FY 2011. This cut will force 66 of the City's 80 Beacons to reduce their contracts by 6% in FY 2010 and 7% in FY 2011, and will eliminate enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacons/OST middle school programs. Beacon providers have already received letters indicating that they will have to reduce the number of middle school students served in the current FY 2010 budget, by fifty (50). Thirty-three hundred (3,300) fewer middle school youth will be able to obtain youth services at Beacon programs. The Preliminary Budget also doesn't include the \$3.5 million restored by the City Council last year for Beacon programs or the \$2.3 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) stimulus funding used to support Beacons in FY 2010.

#### **Restore \$3.8 million for The After School Corporation (TASC)**

These funds, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget, support 38 TASC after school education and enrichment programs in New York City for 7,300 school-age youth.

#### **Restore \$1.0 million for Neighborhood Youth Alliance/Street Outreach**

These funds, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget, support approximately 40 programs that provide youth with opportunities to participate in community service, neighborhood improvement, and leadership development programs.

#### **Restore \$7.74 million for City Council Discretionary Funding for Youth Services**

This discretionary funding provides critical support to youth development programs in the City's 51 community districts.

### **ADULT LITERACY AND IMMIGRANT SERVICES**

#### **Restore \$5.0 million for the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative**

The Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) supports programs that provide ESOL classes, immigrant legal services, and citizenship assistance. Restored by the City Council last year and not included in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget, IOI helps immigrants integrate into their communities, find employment, and obtain citizenship.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/ost\\_facts\\_figures.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/ost_facts_figures.shtml)



### **Restore \$1.5 million for the Adult Literacy Services Initiative**

With the increase in demand for adult literacy services in this economic downturn, programs are forced to turn away students and or add to already lengthy waiting lists, since there is not enough funding to provide a sufficient number of classes. The Adult Literacy Services Initiative, restored by the City Council last year and not included in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget, funds 62 programs that provide basic literacy, English, and GED classes for immigrant and native-born New Yorkers seeking to improve their skills.

### **Restore \$1.0 million for DYCD's Adult Literacy Programs**

The Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget proposes a 10% cut to 45 adult literacy programs in New York City, with a \$449,000 proposed reduction in the current fiscal year and a \$554,000 proposed reduction in FY 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for today. We look forward to working with the City Council to support vital youth services, summer jobs, adult literacy, and immigrant services in the final FY 2011 City budget.

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*UNH Members: Arab American Family Support Center - BronxWorks - CAMBA - Center for Family Life in Sunset Park - Chinese American Planning Council - Claremont Neighborhood Centers - Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation - East Side House Settlement - Educational Alliance - Goddard Riverside Community Center - Grand Street Settlement - Greenwich House - Hamilton-Madison House - Hartley House - Henry Street Settlement - Hudson Guild - Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House - Kingsbridge Heights Community Center - Lenox Hill Neighborhood House - Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center - Mosholu Montefiore Community - New Settlement Apartments - Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation - Project Hospitality - Riverdale Neighborhood House - Queens Community House - SCAN New York - School Settlement Association - Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc - Southeast Bronx Neighborhood Centers - St. Matthew's and St. Timothy's Neighborhood Center - St. Nicks Alliance - Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center - Sunnyside Community Services - Third Street Music School Settlement - Union Settlement Association - United Community Centers - University Settlement Society*

March 9, 2010

## Budget Boogeyman Stalks New York's Summer Camps

By SUSAN DOMINUS

It took a rainy day and the right job to show Christopher Rivera, then a 16-year-old who lived in a public housing complex on the Lower East Side, that he had something to say, and that when he said it people might actually listen.

Two years ago, Christopher was a few weeks into his first job, as a day camp counselor at Public School 64 on Avenue B. Outside, it poured; inside, 16 fifth and sixth graders with no scheduled activity ran around with the kind of free-floating energy that quickly curdles into frenzy.

"Hey everybody, listen up," Christopher called out, a line that can sound like a feeble prayer or an inviting command, depending on who delivers it. For Christopher, they quieted down and listened. He then taught them, and eventually the rest of the children at the camp, how to play indoor baseball, which proved hugely popular. Shy, and born with a defect in his right eye that forced him to use protective eyewear, Christopher, now a freshman at Fordham University, went from being the "kid with goggles" to the "indoor baseball guy."

As first jobs go, camp counselor is close to ideal. What other opportunity lets those with no experience oversee a team — and a team fully disposed to worship their leader, if that leader seems to care even a little?

The pay has never been great, but with unemployment among young people the highest it has been since World War II, even a modest paycheck is a winning lottery ticket. Christopher made about \$1,000 that summer and again last summer, thanks to the Summer Youth Employment Program, which the city's Department of Youth and Community Development administers. Since the 1960s, the city has provided money for summer jobs for tens of thousands of young people each year, many of them at camps or day care centers.

Like so many other high-functioning social services that are bearing the brunt of the dysfunction in Albany (and on Wall Street), the summer jobs program is in danger of seeing its state financing disappear. Gov. David A. Paterson's proposed budget eliminates the state's \$20 million contribution to the program, leaving about \$25 million in city and federal money — and, officials said, cutting the number of young people served to about 17,000, from last year's record high of 52,000.

The Bloomberg administration has experimented with financial incentives to reward young people for strong school work, paying them in cash or providing cellphones for good test scores. How about keeping that old-fashioned model of financial incentives, the one that rewards young people for working? Perhaps the city, which has also cut financing for the program in recent years, could make up some of what is being cut by the state — paying for camp counselors is a safe investment in young people's futures.

When reviewing job applicants, Doug Herzog, the president of the MTV Networks Entertainment Group, said he would light up if one had experience as a camp counselor. "College is great; everyone who has the opportunity should go to college, but I learned everything I needed to know at camp."

Working as a counselor at Camp Scatico in the Upper Hudson Valley, he said he realized early on that "you can force people to do things, or tell people to do things, but if you're going to be successful, you've got to get them to do things and feel good about it."

Seth Godin, an entrepreneur and author of the best-selling book "Linchpin," considers his work as a counselor at Camp Arowhon in Ontario a major influence on his life and career. "People who have been transformed by summer camp never forget how it felt to have responsibility without a rule book," he said. "They seek to achieve that again in their professional life — and for an underprivileged kid, it's doubly important, because you're not necessarily surrounded by role models who've had experience of leading with responsibility without being told precisely what to do. If a transformation's going to happen, it's going to happen in an environment like that."

When government pays for young people to work as counselors or child care providers, it's a bargain, a win-win-win: good for the young people like Christopher who get transformed into the "indoor baseball guy," good for the low-income children who learn to love indoor baseball; and good for their parents, who get affordable, quality child care.

Christopher said his camp experience led to his two current jobs, as an usher at the family-friendly New Victory Theater, and as a counselor at a teen center run by the Educational Alliance. Starting with that rainy day at P.S. 64, he said, "I've learned to get out of that shell and show the people the talents I have."

**3/15/10 Testimony to Youth Services and Community Development Committees**  
**Julie Quinton, Director of Adult Literacy at Make the Road New York**  
**Re: the Importance of Funding Adult Education- especially English and GED classes**

Make the Road New York's (MRNY's) Adult Education program, run out of our Bushwick, Brooklyn, Jackson Heights, Queens and Port Richmond, Staten Island Community centers currently serves over 800 immigrant adult students a year and this statement is about them.

In a city where only fewer than 6% of those who need adult education have access to it, MRNY's students have been thrown a lifeline in the form of a seat in class. MRNY's 90 GED students a year are a small group of the larger 1.6 million New York residents without a high school diploma who are trying to change their situations. Studying in DYCD grant funded Spanish GED classes, Mauricio Rocha, Cesar Palomeque and their classmates are working hard to pass the GEDs in Spanish before entering CUNY and pursuing better employment opportunities.

Berenice Arriaga, Jeanett Barerra, Gloria Lopez, Lil Calderon, are four of the hundreds of students who study English at MRNY every year, again thanks to funds from over 5 DYCD contracts. These women and their classmates have come out of the shadows and into their children's schools, their local clinics, the workforce and community involvement opportunities with a vengeance. English classes have given them back their dignity and have taught them the skills they need to be able to navigate government agencies and informal communicative situations in the grocery store, on the train, with the landlord.

These women represent a fortunate fraction of the more than one million New Yorkers who struggle to speak English well and yet, it's not often for lack of trying. Despite the vast need for adult education and training opportunities for immigrants during these difficult times, fewer than 60,000 spaces in free or low-cost government-funded adult literacy/English classes are available – leaving over 97 percent of the need for adult education classes unmet.

In this context and with visible proof in our communities of the power of GED and English classes:

We urge that the City to:

- restore the 1 million in cuts that were made to DYCD Adult Literacy Programs in the middle of FY 2010 and for 2011.
- work with the Mayor's office to restore \$1.5 million to the Adult Literacy Services Initiative and \$5 million to the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI). (Both are funded in FY 2010 but cut in the Mayor's 2011 budget.)

DYCD's Adult Literacy grant programs as well as the Adult Literacy Services Initiative and IOI support organizations like MRNY that help immigrant and non-immigrant New Yorkers improve their English, basic skills, and literacy. Through IOI, citizenship and legal services for immigrants are also offered. Like Mauricio, Berenice and the others, immigrant New Yorkers are looking to build their skills to keep their employment and remain competitive in this tight labor market. This kind of funding is critical to our economic recovery.

**3/15/10 Testimony to Youth Services and Community Development Committees**  
**Julie Quinton, Director of Adult Literacy at Make the Road New York**  
**Re: the Importance of Funding Adult Education- especially English and GED classes**

We at Make the Road New York are not naïve. We know that the city and state are facing very difficult economic times. We believe however, that you, our Council representatives are elected to serve your constituents, and to do so with creativity and courage. We urge you to consider every single one of the wonderful proposals made by the city's independent budget office to cut money from the budget this year, of which the soda tax is just one. Please for the immigrant New Yorkers who are the backbone of the city, take creative steps, and please roll back the cuts in adult literacy classes that have already been made and prevent further cuts to DYCD adult literacy funds, the Adult Literacy Initiative and IOI .

Thanks you.

**Testimony of the Samuel Field YM&YWHHA  
And the Central Queens YM&YWHHA  
Before the New York City Council Committee on Youth  
And Committee on Community Development**

**Lew Fidler, Chair on Committee on Youth  
Al Van, Chair, Committee on Community Development**

March 15, 2010

Thank you Chair Fidler and Chair Van for the opportunity to testify, my name is Danielle Algranati Ellman and I am the Director of the Central Queens YM&YWHHA, which is now an affiliated organization of the Samuel Field Y. Together we serve 30,000 individuals annually in Northeast and Central Queens.

We are deeply concerned about the proposed cuts proposed in the preliminary budget in which OST Option 1 programs face a \$7.5 million dollar cut. As you know a total of 33 school year only OST programs serving 4,110 elementary school youth are apart of the proposed cuts. Services in Queens are being exceptionally hard hit, with 17 programs accounting for more than half the total citywide cut. Of the 4110 slots being eliminated based on the \$1.98 million dollar preliminary FY 20011 cuts, far more than fifty percent of the slots will be lost in the borough of Queens. Certain neighborhoods like Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Hollis Hills, Forest Hills, Floral Park, and Bayside will no longer have any free afterschool program for children ages 5-12, in their entire community.

We currently serve three of these neighborhoods. It was shocking news for our agency that these programs would be included in these cuts especially since in the last 4 years of services, we have exceeded all the standards set forth by the Out of School Initiative. Each of these programs currently apart of the proposed cuts, have exceeded the current recommended ROP (rate of participation) with each program having a ROP at least 7 percentage points higher than required. The demand in our schools is enormous, currently each program has a waiting list that exceeds the amount of slots available if every child withdrew. Yet for us what is most troubling about these programs being closed, is that the majority of children who attend these programs, do so because there is no one else to care for them while their parents are at work.

We have been able to offer these youngsters a safe place to be, to offer them interesting and exciting new activities and to support the work of the school day teachers with additional academic programming that has translated into higher academic success. To assume our zip codes are low in priority, or need, contradicts everything we know about the OST initiative which was intended to

create high quality afterschool services that supported parents need to find quality care while at work.

Additionally it divides our city based on an arbitrary definition of income need, refusing to acknowledge the very real need that dual income families have. We believe that should these horrific cuts in services be necessary, that perhaps needs should be defined by access. For instance in the zip code 10003, there are currently 5 OST option 1 programs<sup>1</sup>, the average household income is \$60,891 and home values exceed 1 million dollars<sup>2</sup>, in the surrounding neighborhood ( 10002) there are an additional 5 OST programs. Conversely, in Floral Park Queens, whose average household income is \$55,156, there is only one OST program at PS115 that serves 125 youth. In six of our seven surrounding zip codes there is only one other Option 1 program at PS 150. Both schools in Queens are on the proposed cut list based on non priority zip codes where as there are currently no cuts being proposed in either 10002 or 10003. We believe that these cuts which would eradicate all services in Eastern Queens should be, if ultimately deemed necessary, split more evenly across all of boroughs or where services seem to be saturated. Additionally the decision to cut these programs has not been based on quality of services, or by the evaluation tools DYCD set in place when crafting the OST system. Another alternative to cutting high quality programs is to cut the programs that are low in attendance, or evaluated to be poor in quality and not addressing the needs of a working community. OST is not a need based program and therefore the cuts determined should not be solely defined by the income of any one zip code.

We are asking for the restoration of \$7.5 million dollars in funding for the OST programs in FY11 and \$1.98 million dollar cut in FY 10. Your constituents in Queens are in as much need of these services and this arbitrary definition of need will only cause a rift in city residents at a time when people should be working together toward meaningful solutions.

Another grave concern of ours in the propose budget cuts to the SYEP program. Last year through a combination of City, State and Federal funds totaling 67.5 million dollars, New York City provided 52,255 youth with summer jobs. The proposed New York State Executive budget completely eliminates funding for SYEP (as opposed to the \$19.5 million dollars in funding NYC received last year) and the City's preliminary budget proposes a cut of \$999,000. As a result of these proposed cuts there is currently only funding to support approximately 17,200 summer jobs. Being an SYEP provider of service in Queens (in conjunction with the Henry Street Settlement) and serving as multiple worksites for youth this cut is also devastating to our agency. Each year SYEP saves our agency more than \$200,000 in staffing expenses. Through selecting youth apart of the SYEP program to work at our camps, Beacon centers, OST programs and

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Youth and Community Development Map

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.Zipcode.com>



**FOR THE RECORD**

Chinese American Planning Council, Inc.  
CPC Beacon @ I.S. 220  
4812 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11220  
Tel: 718-436-5270 Fax: 718-436-4268

**Brian Corrigan**  
**Director, CPC Beacon @ I.S. 220**  
**Chinese American Planning Council**  
**NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:**

**Dept. of Youth & Community Development**

**March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Honorable Councilman Lew Fidler and Esteemed Members of the Youth Services Committee:

Good morning, my name is Brian Corrigan and I am representing the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC). Since 1965 CPC has dedicated itself to improving the lives of Asian Americans in New York City. As a large multi service agency with branches in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, CPC's mission is to improve the quality of life of those it serves by providing access to services, skills and resources toward the goal of economic self-sufficiency and integration into the American mainstream..

Beacons are vital to New York City for several reasons. Beacons are truly a hub of the community through which families can access comprehensive services that are offered from a holistic perspective. Beacons offer academic supports that help youth develop the skills needed to perform better in school. They also provide social supports that help participants have better social interaction with peers and adults. Additionally, young people engage in career exploration and leadership development

The Mayor's preliminary budget proposes a six percent cut in funding (\$1.6 mil) for FY 2010 and a seven percent (\$2.7 mil) cut for FY 2011. This means a reduction in existing Beacon contracts as well as no funding for enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST programs. The proposed cuts will substantially diminish the capacity of Beacons to serve the communities that need them most

As a consolidated Beacon/OST program the Mayor's cuts would, specifically, represent a \$200,000 reduction to CPC's Beacon program at I.S. 220 and would result in a nearly 66% reduction in services at a time when the Brooklyn Chinatown community is experiencing a substantial influx of immigration and the services the Beacon provides are particularly critical. Our free summer camp service which served 240 children in the summer of 2009 will now serve only be able to serve 100; our afterschool program which served 150 in 2009 will serve be only to serve 100 in the fall of 2010; our Adult English as Second Language classes will serve 60 fewer participants; our karate program will be cut altogether and many of the community events we sponsor, including our monthly family nights, will need to be discontinued. As noted the Brooklyn Chinatown community now more than ever needs the services the Beacon provides in order to ease the transition of the many new immigrant youth and families now calling the

community their home. These families lack the financial resources to pay for the services the Beacon provides, services which help them to strengthen their community and ease their transition to a new country as they pursue their American dream.

Without a doubt, the ability to equip families with the tools needed to thrive in today's tough economy will be significantly hampered without funding to enhance those programs that need it. While New York City is facing some daunting economic times, and difficult decisions must be made; financial solvency should not be achieved at the expense of one of our most vital commodities, the youth of New York City. On behalf of the Chinese American Planning Council I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today, and appreciate your continued support of Beacon programming.



# New York City Youth Alliance

The After-School Corporation ▶ Citizens' Committee for Children of New York ▶ The Coalition for After-School Funding ▶ Coalition for Asian American Children & Families ▶ The Dryfoos Group ▶ Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies ▶ Human Services Council of New York City ▶ Neighborhood Family Services Coalition ▶ The New York Immigration Coalition ▶ New Yorkers for Parks ▶ Partnership for After School Education ▶ UJA Federation of New York ▶ United Neighborhood Houses of New York ▶ YMCA of Greater New York

## CITY BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

The New York City Youth Alliance is a consortium of youth-focused organizations that together represent hundreds of thousands of youth and families in New York City, advocating on their behalf on both the City and State levels. Below we have outlined those areas in which the proposed FY 2011 Preliminary Budget will impact a variety of youth service areas.

### Out-of-School Time (OST) – Restore \$15.5 million

- Restore OST Option II with \$6 million in funding, which funds 10,750 after-school slots. Eliminating OST Option II impacts non-school based programs and/or smaller community based organizations that reach underserved populations. This program received ARRA funds in FY 2010.
- Oppose Mayor's Preliminary Budget cut of \$7.5 million, which proposes to eliminate 33 school-year only OST programs (4,110 Elementary and Middle School slots), and summer service at 30 Middle Schools, eliminating 1,940 slots.
- Restore \$1.98 million in current FY2010 budget changes.

### Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) – Provide 52,255 jobs through SYEP

- The Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget only includes \$25 million to support 17,200 SYEP jobs. This is a significant reduction from the FY10 budget, when \$67.5 million was available to support 52,255 jobs.
- The significant reduction is attributed to \$20.7 million in summer jobs stimulus funding that was only available for FY 10; a proposed cut of \$19.5 million in State SYEP funding; and a proposed cut of \$1 million from the Mayor's Preliminary budget.

### Beacons – Restore \$10.13 million

- Oppose the elimination of Council supported Beacon enhancement funds. The FY10 budget restored only \$3.5 million of the \$4 million in long-standing City Council funding for Beacon programs. This restoration was not included in the Mayor's FY11 budget.
- Restore \$2.75 million cut in Mayor's Preliminary Budget so that Beacon centers can sustain comprehensive, multi-age community-based programming for youth, parents and seniors. Beacon baseline funding has not increased in 19 years.
- Restore \$1.58 million cut in current FY2010 budget changes.
- In FY10, Beacons received a one-time infusion of \$2.3 million in ARRA funds.

### Runaway and Homeless Youth – Restore \$4.7 million

- The FY10 budget restored only \$1.7 million of the \$4.7 million in longstanding City funds to 11 organizations that provide shelter and support to the city's youth who literally have no other place to go. The remaining \$3 million was to be drawn down from non-City matching funds, but did not occur. This funding must continue in order to support beds in both crisis shelters and transitional independent living facilities.

### Council Youth Initiatives – Full Restoration

- Restore mayoral elimination of the Council After School Adventure (CASA), Dropout Prevention Initiative, YMCA Y After School Program, Teens Take the City, Institute for Student Achievement, Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation, NY Junior Tennis League, Neighborhood Youth Alliance and Street Outreach and Councilmember discretionary programs that provide a range of youth services.
- Restore \$3.8 million to the Council's After Three Program. The Council helps support 45 after-school programs serving over 12,000 students in 38 council districts with comprehensive school-based programs through The After-School Corporation (TASC).

### Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) – Restore \$5 million

- The Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) supports programs that benefit immigrant youth and their families by helping immigrant adults improve their English skills, prepare for the citizenship exam, and obtain immigration and immigrant worker legal assistance. 72 organizations received IOI funding in FY 2010.

### Adult Literacy Services – Restore \$2.5 million

- New York City's adult literacy system also serves older out-of-school youth looking to improve their literacy skills and/or pursue a GED.
- Oppose the Mayor's Preliminary Budget cut of \$1 million to DYCD adult literacy programs, which is a 10% cut to 45 adult literacy programs -- \$449,000 proposed reduction in the current fiscal year and a \$554,000 proposed reduction in FY 2011. Restore \$1.5 million to the City Council's Adult Literacy Services Initiative.



The Children's Aid Society

[www.childrensaidsociety.org](http://www.childrensaidsociety.org)

**Testimony of Katherine Eckstein, Director of Public Policy, The Children's Aid Society  
Prepared for the Joint Hearing on the Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget  
Youth Services and Community Development Committees, New York City Council  
March 15, 2010**

Good morning. My name is Katherine Eckstein and I am the Director of Public Policy at The Children's Aid Society (CAS). I'd like to thank Chairman Fidler and the Youth Services Committee and Chairman Vann and the Community Development Committee for the opportunity to testify regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget.

Founded in 1853, The Children's Aid Society (CAS) provides comprehensive support for children in need, from birth to young adulthood, and their families to fill the gaps between what they have and what they need to thrive. As one of the nation's largest and oldest community-based organizations, CAS serves more than 150,000 children and their families at 45 sites with a network of comprehensive and integrated services that includes community schools, neighborhood centers, adoption and foster care services, after-school, weekend and summer programs, early childhood programs, teen pregnancy prevention, comprehensive health services, and programs for disconnected youth, including programs for young people who have been incarcerated or are at high risk of incarceration.

We understand keenly the challenges of this year's budget given our current economic reality. We see the impacts everyday on the children and families that we serve. Families that are already struggling face additional and compounding challenges in housing, employment, health, education and other vital services. Demand for our programs and services has increased over the past year. Now, more than ever, children and families depend on us for after-school programs, health services, preventive and child welfare services, summer jobs and direct assistance. Some of our after-school programs have waitlists of more than 100 children. And in the last months alone, we have seen a rise in eviction cases and subprime displacement with our families, which has caused us to go from helping two or three per month to over 30 families per month. We are concerned that the proposed budget will *disproportionately impact low-income youth and their families*.

As a member of the New York City Youth Alliance, a confederation of New York City organizations working on youth development, youth employment and disconnected youth issues, we know we are not alone – the experience of The Children's Aid Society reflects that of organizations all over New York. The demand for our collective services is increasing just as public and private funding is decreasing. My testimony today will focus on Out-of-School Time (OST) programs and Summer Youth Employment.

#### **Out-of-School Time Programs**

After-school and summer programs play an essential role in keeping children safe and engaged during non-school hours in addition to being a critical support for working families. New York City's OST Initiative has been a model of what an afterschool system can and should look like to serve children and families with high-quality programs. The Initiative's shared emphasis on academic skills enhancement, cultural enrichment, sports, recreation, community engagement, and leadership development offer children the best of both the youth development and education worlds. The demand and need for after-school programs remain and are increasing. The proposed cuts would dismantle key aspects of this system. The

City's 644 OST programs currently serve approximately 80,000 young people.<sup>1</sup> We urge the Council to restore \$15.5 million in proposed cuts to Out-of-School Time programs, which could represent a loss of nearly 17,000 after-school slots:

- A \$7.5 million cut would eliminate 33 school-year-only OST programs in Elementary and Middle Schools (4,110 slots), and summer service at 30 Middle Schools (1,940 slots).
- A \$6 million restoration of OST Option II (10,750 after-school slots) would save non-school based programs and/or smaller community based organizations that reach underserved populations. \*\*This program received ARRA funds in FY 2010.
- Restore \$1.98 million in current FY2010 budget changes.

The Children's Aid Society recently received letters announcing the elimination of all of our OST middle school summer programs. This means, beginning this summer, we will have to eliminate 400 summer slots for middle school youth in seven of our programs across New York City. This means that 400 young people and their families, who had been counting on a safe, engaging place to be this summer, are left in a lurch. If we know that the middle school years are often challenging years for young people and we know the important role summer programs play in reducing summer learning loss and promoting positive youth development, what message are we sending to children and families if we eliminate these programs? What will children do this summer? Not only does this affect children, but it represents a loss of 80 part-time jobs as well. Our Saturday Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, funded by OST Option II, is the only free city-wide program for deaf and hard of hearing young people outside of school. If the money is not restored, we will face very difficult decisions about the continuation of the program.

### **Summer Youth Employment Program**

We are also deeply concerned about cuts to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which provided 52,255 jobs to young people last summer. The Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget only includes \$25 million to support 17,200 SYEP jobs. This is a significant reduction from the FY10 budget, when \$67.5 million was available to support 52,255 jobs. The reduction is attributed to \$20.7 million in federal summer jobs stimulus funding that was only available for FY 10; a proposed cut of \$19.5 million in state SYEP funding; and a proposed cut of \$1 million from the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

The Children's Aid Society served 735 youth last summer from all five boroughs through SYEP. Of the youth that participated in SYEP with us, 478 were in high school. Youth worked in 60 worksites across New York City – 40 of these sites were in day camps and early childhood settings. There is nothing more powerful or transformative than youth having the opportunity to work with other youth. We know the difference that early work experience has in future employability. We know how many programs depend on summer youth workers to help them provide high quality services. And we know how many young people depend on summer youth employment to gain skills and help their families during these difficult times. While we understand that the majority of the cuts are coming from the federal and state levels, this will deeply affect New York City's young people and families, and therefore oppose any cut at the city level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. The Children's Aid Society is your partner in working to preserve critical programs and services for the children and families who need them the most. When the economy has improved – and it will – it would be a tragedy if we looked back and realized that we cut programs so much that we lost another generation of young people and dismantled key systems that would have actually helped us to be a stronger and more productive country.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/ost\\_facts\\_figures.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/html/afterschool/ost_facts_figures.shtml)



THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION

TESTIMONY  
BEFORE  
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED BY  
JOHN P. ALBERT  
VICE-PRESIDENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
THE AFTER-SCHOOL CORPORATION

March 15, 2010

Good morning. My name is John Albert and I am the Vice-President for External Relations at The After-School Corporation, also known as TASC. I join my colleagues from the New York City Youth Alliance in thanking you for the opportunity to speak to you about the FY 11 preliminary budget and its impact on youth services.

Since its inception more than 10 years ago, TASC has helped more than 300,000 kids by supporting after-school programs in New York City and beyond. TASC-supported after-school programs are operated by community-based organizations (CBOs) with roots in the neighborhoods and schools they serve. Our partnerships with CBOs ensure that programs provide a balanced range of services for children and youth, that includes academics, art, and sports.

TASC works to enhance the quality, availability and sustainability of comprehensive, daily after-school programs and currently serves more than 17,000 students and their families. TASC also funds, monitors, evaluates and supports after-school programs in New York City public schools. This broad experience informs our suggestions regarding the City's preliminary fiscal year 2011 budget.

TASC's testimony acknowledges the budget constraints faced by the City due to the current economic climate. After-school programs are very familiar with these hardships. In a joint survey conducted by TASC and the Partnership for After School Education (PASE) to gauge the state of after-school in New York City, Chief executives of more than 100 agencies that offer comprehensive after-school programs completed the survey and told us about the challenges facing programs in New York City.

Our survey found that the vast majority of New York City's after-school provider organizations—93%—rely on public funds to serve youth. Less than one-third of providers in New York City charge fees. More than one-half of after-school organizations have sustained

budget cuts in 2009 (56%) and 18% sustained cuts greater than \$250,000. Experts noted that after-school agencies have dipped into reserves and rainy-day funds and in some cases lost lines of credit, resulting in programs being less financially stable than before and less able to handle future cuts.

Nearly half of after-school organizations are cutting jobs, leaving program staff at every level unemployed, including group workers and activity specialists, as well as program administrators and data, research and human resources staff. Overall, 40% of organizations served fewer youth and families in 2009, increasing unmet need. More than one in four organizations closed a program (27 %) this year.

We know that these service cuts have already had their greatest impact on low-income and working families. Organizations, particularly those that lost public funding, have redirected services to families and communities that can afford to pay fees to access programs. This exacerbates the existing need for after-school in low-income and immigrant communities.

My colleagues from the Youth Alliance have outlined the cuts to OST, Beacons, Summer Youth Employment and the cumulative impact we project as a result of the proposed cuts. I am here to touch upon the continued need to restore funding for Council initiatives and Council discretionary funds.

The New York City Youth Alliance requests a full restoration to Council Youth Initiatives including the Council After School Adventure (CASA), TASC, YMCA's Teens Take the City, Institute for Student Achievement, Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation, New York Junior Tennis League, Neighborhood Youth Alliance and Street Outreach, funds managed by TASC and Councilmember discretionary programs:

As recipients of these funds non-profit organizations welcome the transparency measures instituted by the Council in the discretionary awards process, as our reputations depend on public

trust in our work with the city's communities. We also embrace complete accountability in spending Council funds. As an example, the \$3.8 million the Council provides to TASC helps support 45 after-school programs in 38 council districts. TASC program officers monitor each of these sites and constantly check for program quality and provide stringent fiscal oversight. TASC and our Youth Alliance partners welcome the continued use of accountability measures and appreciate the assistance DYCD gave to all organizations in completing additional paperwork.

Other City-wide initiatives also need your support. The Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI) requires a \$5 million restoration. The FY10 and FY09 City budget reduced IOI funding to \$5 million, which represented a cut of \$6.25 million from FY08. These programs benefit immigrant youth and their families by helping immigrant adults improve their English skills, prepare for the citizenship exam, and obtain immigration and immigrant worker legal assistance. As a result of these cuts only 72 organizations, compared to 162 in FY 2008, currently receive funding.

We also urge the Council to continue to work with the Mayor to eventually baseline IOI funding. In the long term, additional investments for ESOL classes, immigration legal services, and immigrant worker legal services must be made to meet the need in this City. Baseline funding will ensure resources for program participants and providers on a multi-year basis, as opposed to annually.

Adult Literacy Services requires a \$1.5 million restoration. New York City's adult literacy system serves older out-of-school youth looking to improve their literacy skills and or pursue a GED. Until there is an expansion of youth literacy services, it is important that the adult literacy system has these resources to help serve out-of-school youth.

After-school programs address the needs of kids and their parents. After-school programs are a cost-effective investment in our children. Quality after-school programs do not only provide for the well-being of children, they are being recognized nationally as a potent strategy to address educational achievement gaps among students.

If programs are forced to close, thousands of working parents would lose a dependable source of child care. Parents who place their children in an after-school program are able to focus on their jobs instead of worrying about where their children are after the school day ends. The loss of these services would imperil their ability to retain their jobs or participate in the workforce, threatening family self-sufficiency at a time when the safety net is stretched terribly thin.

The New York City Youth Alliance and TASC encourage the City Council to continue supporting Council initiatives and youth discretionary awards in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget process. Your efforts are truly filling gaps in services. For example the Council's collaboration with Sports and Arts in Schools serves approximately 32,000 youth throughout the five boroughs. Youth who otherwise may not have access to free summer camps.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony before you today. I have faith that you will take the necessary action to ensure that every child has access to quality after-school services.





**Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies**

**Testimony for the March 15, 2010 Hearing  
of the  
New York City Council's Youth Services Committee**

Prepared By:

***Kathleen Fitzgibbons, Senior Policy Analyst for Youth Services***

**Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc.  
281 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10010**

**Fatima Goldman, Executive Director/CEO**

My name is Kathy Fitzgibbons and I am the Senior Policy Analyst for Youth Services from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. I would like to thank the Youth Services Committee and its Chairperson, Councilmember Fidler, for holding this hearing and for providing the opportunity to submit testimony on critical youth services budget items for the 2010-11 budget season.

FPWA is a membership organization with almost 300 community-based social service agencies and church-based human service programs in its network. FPWA strengthens its members through management and technical assistance; training and workshops; policy and advocacy services; and through a variety of grant programs, including camp scholarships, a holiday toy drive, and individual grants for emergency needs through its participation in the New York Times Neediest Cases fund. Among FPWA's membership are 70 agencies that provide services to youth throughout New York City.

FPWA advocates for programs that are essential to the development of youth including after school and out-of-school time programs, academic enrichment activities, job and skill building opportunities and trainings, case management, and summer employment programs for low-income youth. Youth services programs are essential to develop the academic, vocational, employability and life skills of young people to better prepare them for adulthood. FPWA believes that by providing a complete system of supports and activities, the youth of today will be equipped with the tools to become the leaders of tomorrow.

In response to the Mayor's preliminary budget, we are particularly concerned about proposed reductions and eliminations of critical programs and initiatives such as the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Runaway and Homeless Youth Funding, Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention, Beacons and the Teen RAPP. In this testimony, we urge the City Council to take the following actions:

**First, we strongly recommend the City Council restore funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) so 52, 255 jobs can be provided to New York City youth this summer.** The Mayor's Preliminary budget reduces 662 city funded slots in the summer of 2010 totaling \$1 million and does not include the \$20.7 million in stimulus funding included in the FY2010 budget. These factors combined with the Governor's proposal of a \$35 million reduction in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding will result in New York City youth having very limited opportunities for participation in this important program. Last summer, through a combination of City, State, and Federal funds totaling \$67.5 million, New York City had the largest Summer Youth Employment Program in over ten years with 52,255 youth enrolled. SYEP provides youth between the ages of 14 and 21 with summer employment and educational experiences that build on their individual strengths and incorporate youth development principles. Employment opportunities such as those offered by SYEP are critical for youth. Of the nearly 900,000 young adults 16 to 24 years of age in New York City, almost 25 percent live below the federal poverty line, compared to 19 percent of all New Yorkers regardless of age. The summer of 2009 saw the highest rates of teen unemployment since 1948.

In New York City, while 52,255 teens worked in the SYEP, 139,000 had applied to the program. Given the high demand for this program and how youth have been impacted by the economic downturn, we strongly urge the City Council to ensure the funds necessary to provide the 52,255 jobs to New York City Youth this summer are available. The Mayor's

Contingency Plan eliminates 3,000 of 8,600 city funded slots in the summer of 2010 totaling \$4.6 million and we strongly urge that this be rejected.

**Second, we strongly recommend the City Council restore \$5.99 million in Runaway and Homeless Youth funding.** The funding is critical to organizations that provide shelter and support to the youth who have no other place to go. Community-based organizations often provide the support necessary to help both the youth and their families mediate conflicts and develop more healthy relationships. In cases where reunification is not possible, the programs assist youth in progressing from crisis and transitional care to independent living. The FY 2009-10 budget allocated \$5.99 million in city funds. The demand for these services far outweighs the current supply that is available. We urge the City Council to restore this allocation.

**Third, we ask the City Council to restore \$2 million for the Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention (AIDP) Program.** The Mayor's Preliminary Budget does not include funding for Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention (AIDP). AIDP provides students identified as having attendance and academic problems with a variety of services such as counseling, attendance outreach, alternative learning strategies and case management. One of the major goals of the AIDP program is to engage schools in collaborative initiatives with community-based organizations to prevent students from dropping out of school. We strongly recommend a restoration of funds for this important initiative.

**Fourth, we urge the City Council to Support Beacon funding.** There were a number of proposals in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget concerning Beacon programs. The Mayor's Preliminary Budget does not include funding for Beacon program opening fees. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the City Council funded Beacon programs at \$3.5 million to reach 80 programs found among every council district. These funds are critical in paying for a portion of the required Department of Education (DOE) opening fees.

Additionally, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) proposes to reduce 66 city funded Beacon contracts by 6% in FY 2010-11 and 7% in FY 2011-12 and eliminates enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacons/OST middle school programs. Reductions would total \$1.6 million in FY 2010-11 and \$2.7 million in FY 2011-12 and the out years.

Additionally, the Mayor's Contingency Plan proposes to further reduce 66 Beacon contracts by 14% to generate \$2.8 million in savings. After the Mayor's Preliminary Plan for FY 2010-11, this would reduce the average Beacon school budget by \$80,000 in FY 2011-12. Current allocations for these programs do not currently cover the total expenses to operate the program so further reductions would be devastating to service providers and youth.

After school programs can help districts save money over the long-term because of decreased student retention and special education placements. Where there is a decrease in juvenile crime due to a program, communities can also save resources. As referenced in "Safe and Smart: Making After-School Hours Work for Kids," a publication developed by the U.S. Department of Education in 1998, it stated that preventing a youth from lifelong involvement in the criminal justice system saves \$1.3 million-\$1.5 million. We urge the City Council to restore funds for these programs and oppose the Contingency Plan options.

**Lastly, we urge the City Council to Restore \$3 million for the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP).** The Mayor's Preliminary Budget proposes to eliminate funding for Teen RAPP, a model prevention program known throughout the country, that educates and counsels teens about domestic violence and is provided in 62 middle schools and high schools. RAPP prevents young people from turning to public assistance as an option. RAPP staff help students with resume preparation, college essays and letters of support. With the support of RAPP students who were failing out of school have since graduated. This is an annual reduction of \$3 million beginning in FY 2010-11 and is allocated to the Human Resources Administration (HRA) budget. We ask the City Council to restore this critical funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on these important initiatives.

**Testimony to  
City Council Youth Services Committee  
Monday, March 15, 2010**

**Presented by  
Danny Rosenthal  
Chino Okonkwo  
Cary Feliciano  
The Educational Alliance, Inc.**

Good afternoon Chairman Fidler and members of the committee. I am Danny Rosenthal, Senior Vice President for External Affairs for The Educational Alliance and I am joined by Chino Okonkwo, Division Director for Youth Services and Community Schools, and Cary Feliciano, Director of our Out of School Time (OST) program at School of the Future, and we are pleased for the opportunity to offer testimony today.

By way of brief background, The Educational Alliance is a 120-year old community service organization based in Downtown Manhattan. Founded to help Eastern European immigrants assimilate into the American mainstream, our organization's focuses have of course evolved considerably over the decades depending on conditions in our neighborhoods, but our essential aims have remained constant: supporting people in need, strengthening families, building inclusive communities, and recognizing the totality of the person and offering the fullest possible experience by blending human service, education, arts and wellness across our programs.

Today, The Educational Alliance operates from 27 sites around Downtown Manhattan. In all, we serve approximately 30,000 people annually. In addition to extensive youth development services, we are deeply engaged in the realms of early childhood education, services to seniors, mental health and addiction services and arts, culture and wellness.

Our purpose for testifying today is to express strenuous opposition to the Mayor's proposal in the Preliminary Budget to reduce the conventional OST program and eliminate the OST Option II program. For five years, our organization has operated a conventional OST program at School of the Future, a middle and high school on East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and, through that same period of time, we have operated an OST II in our community center on the Lower East Side.

The OST program at School of the Future has proven to be a highly energetic and creative program that is very popular among youth and that is of immeasurable value to working parents. Over 40% of the youth enrolled in the school receive meals for free or reduced fees and a large proportion of these youth attend the program. Most students commute to school from around the city and parents frequently report that the afterschool program is their reason for selecting the school. School administrators are distressed

about the prospect of losing the after-school. All involved believe the program is integral to the experience of youth and that eliminating it would prove a profoundly misguided decision.

Presently, more than 400 young people are members of the OST II program on the Lower East Side, affectionately known as the Edgies Teen Center and, on average, more than 100 participate daily -- figures that exceed our contractual obligations to the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). Over the past five years, the program has consistently been a hub, a haven and a place for learning, growing and receiving support amidst periods of difficulty for many hundreds of high school students from low-income families. We provide a broad and eclectic range of activities including martial arts, Brazilian dance, mural-painting, community service projects, inter-generational experiences, financial literacy classes, cooking, singing, dancing, theater, basketball and beading -- and, three years ago, we launched a comprehensive College Prep program through which we have established a college-bound culture and shepherded hundreds to college and assisted many to obtain financial aid or scholarships. Indeed, to witness the young people flourishing in an atmosphere characterized by respect, creativity, inclusiveness and an attitude that the future is open and replete with possibilities is quite moving.

Much of what has been accomplished is possible because we have annually secured more than \$200,000 above DYCD's \$120,000 contribution (far more than 30% match required by DYCD) to enrich the program -- and we are deeply concerned that we will be unable to continue attracting private funds if the City's base funding is no longer available.

While we appreciate that the present economic downturn requires difficult decisions, we believe strongly and passionately that reducing the OST program and eliminating the OST Option II program would prove an unwise and ultimately expensive choice. We all are too familiar with the shameful rates at which our young people drop from high school and we know that far too many of them engage in destructive pursuits that severely limit their opportunities into adulthood and, far too often, result in costs to society -- costs far greater than that for afterschool programs -- in our criminal justice and public health systems.

Before we depart, we would like to humanize our request, and Chino and Cary will share with you the stories of only a few of the young people who have been supported in our program. Chino, Cary...

**Testimony of Abraham Palma**  
**Program Director, YM & YWHA of Washington Heights & Inwood**

**At the Hearing on the FY11 Preliminary Budget**  
**The Committee on Youth Services - Hon. Lewis A. Fidler, Chair**  
**The Committee on Community Development - Hon. Albert Vann, Chair**

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Chairman Fidler, Chairman Vann, and Chairman Recchia, members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Fiscal 2011 Preliminary Budget. My name is Abraham Palma, and I am the Teen and Literacy Director of the Y of Washington Heights and Inwood.

Eliminating the funding for OST 2 programs will have a significant, negative impact on the over 200 at-risk children we serve.

Our OST 2 funded programs serve over 125 teens that participate in our leadership, career training, computers, anti-smoking, team sports, homework help, dance and cooking programs every evening Monday through Thursday. The teens in this program are at risk of dropping out of school, spending extensive time in unsupervised activities, including gang-related activities. Our programs keep these children engaged socially and academically and also keeps them off the streets and out of trouble.

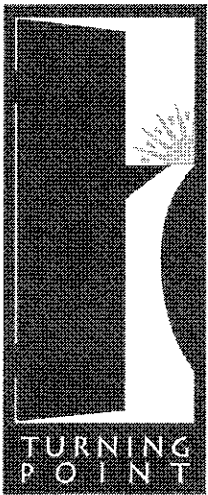
We also have an OST 2 funded program that serves 25 junior high school students, all of whom have emigrated from a Spanish speaking country in the past year. Our program was created to help them acclimate to their new environment and help them succeed academically and socially. They have no other solid support system.

Our OST 2 funded programs also includes literacy programs that operate three afternoons each week, serving over 50 grade school-age children. In these programs, children who are performing below grade level develop a love for reading and improve their reading comprehension skills in a comfortable and supportive environment.

These programs are so vital for our most vulnerable youth. They provide them with a safe environment where they can grow. It opens new doors for those who need support and guidance. It gives them the opportunity to become positive members of the community. Please restore this funding so these children can continue to have a place to turn.



a beneficiary of  
**UJA Federation**  
*of New York*



March 15, 2010

## **ADULT LITERACY SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL**

There are 1.6 million NYC residents 16 years of age or older who are out of school and do not have a high school diploma. In addition, more than 20 percent of New York State's population is foreign-born (twice the national average) and more than one million New Yorkers do not speak English well. Despite the vast need for adult education and training opportunities for immigrants during these difficult times, fewer than 60,000 spaces in free or low-cost government-funded adult literacy/ESOL classes are available – leaving over 97 percent of the need for adult education classes unmet.

We urge that the City restore cuts that were made to DYCD Adult Literacy Programs in the middle of FY 2010 and for 2011.

We also urge the City Council to work with the Mayor's office to restore funding to the Adult Literacy Services Initiative and the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI). Both programs support organizations that help immigrant and non-immigrant New Yorkers improve their English, basic skills, and literacy. Through IOI, citizenship and legal services for immigrants are also offered.

In this difficult economy, programs across the City have seen an increased demand for these services. New Yorkers are looking to build their skills to keep their employment and remain competitive in this tight labor market. We are urging that both programs are fully restored to their FY 2010 funding levels in the final FY 2011 City budget.

Submitted by Dr. Bruce Carmel, Deputy Executive Director of Educational Services at Turning Point



Miguel Roman, parent and community member  
Augustus Roman, child

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Dear council members, I come to you as community member, a friend of the future of our youth and more importantly as a father of a 6 year child attending PS 503.

There is no question that we face tough times. We are reminded every time we turn on the TV or see all the cuts that our schools and community are experiencing. Where do we draw the line, when do we stand up and say enough is enough? The notion of cutting the funding for summer and afterschool programs will destroy the help and assistance this program provides for parents like me. Whether it's the program's ability to provide continued learning activities and trips during the summer or the homework support in the fall, there is no denying that these programs help strengthen our children's learning ability and keep them off the streets.

On September 8, 2009, President Obama sent a message to the nation's children and youth challenging students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning. So how can we consider making even more funding cuts for this support system that these programs provide for the schools, parents and more importantly, our children.

We can't deny what's at stake; whether it's for our children or young teenagers which benefit and look forward to this experience. I too was once a Summer Youth employee and I ask you all to go back in time and remember when you were in the shoes of these young adults. What it was to have a job, to know that the paycheck you earned would help you buy the supplies and clothes to go back to school. Or even more importantly, although I myself did not realize this until I was an adult, this employment experience helped my family and contributed to the molding of the productive and responsible adult I am today.

We also need to remember that in the period of constant discussion of stimulus spending, no group of individuals spends more than our young adults, a loss of this buying power will only lead to even tougher times for our community, city and state.

I urge you to consider the effects of these additional cuts towards the communities' needs, school's and our children. Saving this funding will send a message that we are committed to our future and recognize the importance that these programs provide to the support and commitment that our children as well as our young adults need and deserve.

### I Need CFL Summer Camp

My name is Viviana Vizcaino, and I am here today because I was told that funding for the summer jobs program is in danger and I am willing to whatever I can to help. Summer camp has been important to me because I've learned so many things. I learned that I love dancing because a staff member named Afaliah T. taught me how, and told me how talented I am. Also, because of CFL's summer camp program I made a lot of friends and learned that there are teenagers who care about people younger than them. The C.I.T's were kind, fun, and helpful and were more like my friends than people in charge of me. I really look up to them. I have been a camper at CFL (Center for Family Life) summer camp since I was six years old. Now I am 12 years old and I've been counting down the summers until I can work here too and be just like my C.I.T's helping other kids have the same experience I have had.

When you're a kid it makes a difference when someone greets you with a smile and remembers your name. It makes you feel important. My mother and aunt both worked here and my brother volunteered in the fall and worked in the summer. He would give my mother and I some of his pay check and the rest he spent, but he spent it in the sunset Park community which is good for the economy.

When I turn 14, I look forward to getting a job, but I know that when you're that young many places won't hire you. I know that CFL will hire me because all of the staff actually used to be children in the program. CFL camp is like a puzzle piece in our community and lives and it makes the picture appear. The idea that this puzzle will be missing a piece devastates me when I think about all of the other kids that look forward to seeing the big picture. Consider this when you make budget decisions.

Thank you.

I was 15 years old when I first started working, thanks to SYEP. I remember being so excited because I had a job and I was going to be able to buy the things I wanted without having to ask my mom for a dime. I felt like such a grown up because I was doing something productive with my summer instead of just roaming the streets aimlessly looking for something to do.

Every week I had to go to a workshop where I learned how to prepare a resume, fill out job applications, and how to prepare for a job interviews & how to budget and manage my money. I feel like those workshops were essential to my professional development.

One of my workshop leaders is my boss today. After all the years of SYEP and training workshops I landed a job with the same organization which helped me grow as a person and as a professional .

Now I see all the great youth, which I consider leaders in their community, because instead of being out in the streets hanging out they come into the after school program and volunteer. Some of the youth were kids that I myself had in my unit and are already showing how great their potential is.

It disappoints me to see that this resource is being taken away from our youth because they are not getting the opportunity to gain work experience and to develop themselves to be community leaders. Seeing the youth volunteer in programs such as mines all throughout the city, demonstrates how eager they are to learn and work.

Seeing how these kids are our future it is difficult for me to understand why such a great resource is being taken away from them. I feel that the youth is doing their part in order to get ahead and now is our turn to do ours.

Jaroulyn Valette  
5712 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Apt. 3C  
Brooklyn, NY. 11220

As a Beacon Program Director, and a member of UNH I am impacted by the proposed cuts to Out of School Time, The Beacon Program, and off course the Summer Youth Employment Program. We all know that combined, these programs begin to provide the services that communities need and that not one is more important than the next.

As a parent, I understand your plight. The Council is in many ways the parent of our city's commissions, services, and branches. You are parents of transportation, education, the elderly, the youth, law enforcement, etc. Like most families today, you have limited resources

and yet, all of your children continue to need. It must be unbearable to choose the program, the group or cause to cut or fund.

Parents, cannot favor one child over the other, although by sitting on this committee you show that there is a special place in your heart for us.

Expect to see us back, mobilizing by community, then borough and citywide to ensure funding for programs that support youth and families.

Today, this chamber is not empty and each time more and more of your constituents will find their voice.

On this day, my focus has to be on SYEP.

Talk about the greatest bang for your buck. How else could a city develop and train a new workforce, support local business, provide low cost quality care of children, develop young community leaders, and so much more?

As you know, a little over 139,000 youth applied last summer and we were funded and able to employ 52,000 of them. In my community of Sunset Park, over 3000 youth applied and we successfully placed 1500 in work sites in and around the community. This summer, the number of applicants will grow, and although the need will be greater, we are still asking to secure funding for 52,000 youth. I have brought some members of our community to give testimony about the importance of SYEP and others are speaking, simply by joining us this morning.

Thank you to the chair and committee members for convening this hearing and thus giving our communities an opportunity to express our ideas and concerns.

Amy Latorres-Rios  
Beacon Director  
SCO Family of Services/Center for Family Life  
345 - 43rd street  
Brooklyn, NY 11232  
718-439-5986



Karen Bumiller  
After School Coordinator  
University Settlement Beacon Program  
NYC Council FY'11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Dept. of Youth & Community Development  
Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Good Morning, my name is Karen Bumiller and I am representing the University Settlement Beacon Program. Our Beacon program has been serving the East Village community for 10 years. We provide academic tutoring, cultural enrichment, meals, and childcare to the community. In addition to providing the academic and social support for youth to succeed in school, Beacons also provide support in developing the skill sets that help participants have healthier and more effective social interactions with peers and adults. Moreover, participants are able to engage in career exploration and leadership development.

Our Beacon program reaches out to all members of our community. The services we provide span a wide scope but perhaps none are as crucial as a Beacon's ability to offer a secure and nurturing environment. We offer academic tutoring for all of our k-12 students. Our sports programs allow our members to participate in a myriad of physical activities while enjoying the camaraderie of teamwork. Our dance and arts programs give our participants the opportunity to express themselves through creative outlets that might not have been available to them elsewhere. In short, our services help to enrich the lives of all those who enter our program, providing them with a safe haven in times of trouble and instilling the value of helping out in the greater community.

Many of our employees started with us as participants. Currently, our program employs 18 high school interns, a drop from previous years. These interns form the touchstone of our program; They exemplify the value of a Beacon with a functional budget. These interns serve as role models through the example they set for the next generation of Beacon participants. The proposed budget cuts for fiscal year 2011 have left many members of the community desperate for options, wondering how they will get by. Without continued financial support:

- Our Program may not be able to provide adequate child-care, free of cost to the community



- High school aged youth may face limited opportunity to develop job readiness skills while earning a modest wage
- Families may be faced with critical choices for childcare during school holidays and summer vacations.
- A community risks losing its primary resource for literacy services, academic support and extra-curricular activities.

It is clear that we are facing difficult economic times and tough decisions must be made; however, financial soundness should not be achieved at the expense of New York's youth. On behalf of the University Settlement Beacon Program and the community that we serve, I would like to thank you all for this opportunity to testify before you today. To many members of our larger community, Beacon is like a second home and its continued financial support is vital to the continued progression and development of all our community members.



Gregory D. Robertson  
Deputy Director, Beacon Program  
University Settlement  
NYC Council FY '11 Budget Hearing  
Department of Youth & Community Development

Good Afternoon, My name is Gregory Robertson and I am the Deputy Director of the University Settlement Beacon Program located in the heart of Manhattan's East Village. I have had the distinct pleasure of working at the Beacon for the past 8 years, and in that time I have come to realize what a crucial role our program serves in our Lower East Side Community. For almost 10 years, our Beacon has provided thousands of families in our neighborhood with quality, free programming such as after school, summer day camp, test prep, arts and sports, and so much more. When the school day ends, parents can be assured that we are here to provide their child with a safe, enriching environment filled with caring adults. One parent describes our Beacon as "that second parent that I know I can count on if I am running late for work or if I need a safe place for my child when school is closed." That parent, like many of our other parents, is a single, working mom who would not be able to access these types of services if it were not for our Beacon. With so many people depending on our program, we have to stretch our budget to its limit so that we can meet the needs of the community.

A month ago, our budget was cut by \$23,000 and as we were reeling from that cut, we learned that deeper cuts were in store for FY 2011. Beacons cannot afford to lose this funding. **The working and low income families of our city cannot afford to lose this funding.** Our families are already feeling the impact. Due to losing the \$23,000 this year, we have had to downsize our spring recess camp and are not able to serve our families who have children in grades K-4. Having to tell these parents that we are not able to provide this service is so painful. One of our parents actually began to cry when she found out that spring recess would not be available. She has no idea where her kids will go while she has work during those days. Is Mayor Bloomberg going to provide her with a babysitter?

Last year, our summer camp served over 100 children in grades K-4<sup>th</sup>; however, this year with an even bigger budget cut looming, we are only offering 56 spots for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Our parents do not know what they are going to do. Most are unable to afford private camp fees, so now they are now frantically looking for other options. Many of the families who have utilized our camp for years find themselves without a free camp to send their children. As the deputy director of the program, I feel horrible that my program is unable to provide the constituents of our community with the services they so desperately need.

Our summer camp is also a work site for SYEP. Last summer we provided over 20 young people with a meaningful employment experience. These youth served as role models and mentors for our elementary aged children. They helped ensure that our camp was safe and the children were well supervised. The teens learned valuable employment and leadership skills that they will carry with them throughout life, and at the same time they were able to earn a wage. In some cases, the teens were the only member in the family working, and the money they earned went towards the family's bills and rent. SYEP is the first introduction to the world of work for thousands of teens in NYC. Last year 52,225 NYC youth participated



in SYEP. Under the proposed budget cuts for FY '11, only 17,200 would have jobs this summer. **Please do not allow this to happen!**

With no jobs for teens, no funding for summer camps and the drastic service reductions Beacons will have to make in after school programming, our youth and their families are facing a trying and bleak year ahead! **We are urging City Council to please restore the \$10.3 million to the Beacons, the \$7.4 million for the City Council Discretionary Funding for Youth Services, and the necessary funding to SYEP so that 52,225 youth will have a job this summer.**

The 80 Beacons throughout the five boroughs provide vital resources to some of our city's neediest families and most vulnerable youth. Please do not balance the city's budget on the backs of our working and low income families.

I would like to thank Councilman Fidler and the committee for your time and consideration. Please stand up for New York City's families and youth and restore these funds that are vital to our program.





43-31 39th Street, Sunnyside, New York 11104

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

March 15, 2010

Good Morning. My name is Chaka Blackman, MPA. I am a public administrator who brings eleven years worth of youth development experience to the testimony I am about to offer. I currently serve as Assistant Executive Director for Youth and Family Services at Sunnyside Community Services (SCS). Our mission at SCS is to build community and enrich the lives of Western Queens residents by providing caring, quality services to meet their social, health, educational, and recreational needs and thereby strengthen this multicultural community. As a way of forwarding our mission, we provide a host of services to over 1000 youth participants through Out of School Time (OST), Beacon, College Readiness, Family Literacy and Work Readiness programs. We thank you for the opportunity to speak before this committee today.

We are aware that the preliminary budget seeks to close a \$4.9 billion budget deficit in FY 2011 and contains \$1.1 billion in agency cuts. **Such cuts translate to significant reductions to our youth contracts and impact our ability to provide quality services for elementary, middle school, high school and college aged youth.** We have already sustained cuts to our Beacon and OST contracts and fear there will be cuts to other youth contracts. We are asking you to work with the Mayor to restore funding to affected contracts and to eliminate future reduction proposals.

### Beacon:

**The SCS FY 10 Beacon contract has sustained a 7% cut totaling \$24,000.** This cut has forced us to reduce our middle school program located in Elmhurst, Queens by 50 young people. The program provides academic, recreational and nutritional support to young people in grades K-8 with a particular focus on serving middle school students. This cut affects youth who are at a critical developmental stage. **We are advocating for the restoration of Beacon funds in the amount of \$10.13 million dollars.**

### Out of School Time (OST):

**The SCS OST contract serving PS 150 in Sunnyside, Queens has been cut by 100% for FY 11.** The plan is to cut \$295,828 from a program that has been in existence for over 25 years and now serves 200 children in grades K-6, many of whom belong to immigrant families. Such a cut will eliminate the provision of homework assistance, academic enhancement, arts, recreational, and leadership development activities to 200 children including many who need additional support as their families integrate into a new country. **We are advocating for the restoration of OST funds in the amount of \$15.5 million dollars and for the full restoration of funds to our PS 150 OST program.**

**Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP):**

New York City currently has \$25 million available for SYEP this summer. **This means a program that offered jobs to 52,255 youth last summer can only provide jobs for 17,200 youth this coming summer.** Our Work Readiness Program, which serves 30 disconnected youth who have all transitioned out of high school, incorporates SYEP as a program component that supports the career development aspects of the program. Youth who are accepted to SYEP work in our OST summer camp, and in offices in our agency. In addition to temporarily increasing capacity, SYEP offers our participants practical, “on the job experience” that impacts their ability to build career paths. The proposed 67% reduction would greatly decrease the acceptance rates of our participants into SYEP. **Therefore, we are advocating for the provision of 52,255 for this coming summer.**

We thank you for your ongoing support and urge you to work with Mayor Bloomberg to restore funding at the levels outlined in this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.



# safe space

The first place for a child's second chance.

<sup>Youth</sup> New York City Council  
**General Welfare Committee FY11 budget hearing**  
Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## Safe Space NYC

Hello, my name is Patrick Germain and I am the Director of Policy, Planning & Evaluation of Safe Space NYC, a children, youth, and family serving organization based in Southeast Queens, serving the communities of Jamaica, Far Rockaway, Howard Beach, and Richmond Hill. We partner with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to operate four afterschool programs, an immigrant support services program for women who have experienced domestic violence, a Runaway and Homeless Youth Drop-In Center and Transition to Independent Living program.

Not only were our communities among the first to be hit by the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis that precipitated this recession, they will likely be the last to benefit from the recovery. Foreclosures continue to rock our communities, family income is down, juvenile crime is up, and all of these factors are pushing families in Southeast Queens to the brink of sanity as they struggle to make ends meet.

There was a story in the Daily News a couple of weeks ago about a drug bust in Far Rockaway in which 50 people were arrested, most of whom were youth involved in gangs.<sup>1</sup> As one of the few providers in Far Rockaway, we hope that the City will continue to fund programs in this severely under-resourced community. Without targeted resources, our communities will continue their downward spiral, costing the city unknown millions of dollars in law enforcement, criminal justice, and public safety costs in the future. It is community organizations like Safe Space that can play a role in preventing family and community disintegration and promoting stability and vitality.

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<sup>1</sup> "Drug sweep nets 45 in Queens, including 10 from '08 Roundup." Rocco Parascandola; Daily News, Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2010/03/05/2010-03-05\\_drug\\_sweep\\_nets\\_45\\_in\\_queens\\_including\\_10\\_from\\_08\\_roundup.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2010/03/05/2010-03-05_drug_sweep_nets_45_in_queens_including_10_from_08_roundup.html)

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs**

Each night over 3,800 young adults go without a home<sup>2</sup>, and every year the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) receives 4,000 calls about youth who go AWOL from foster care<sup>3</sup> and these numbers have likely increased in this recession. We would like to thank the City Council, and Councilmember Fidler in particular, for the extraordinary leadership around issues of Runaway and Homeless Youth. In this current economic crisis, we will be relying on your leadership more than ever to ensure that vital services to the RHY population remain sustainable. Last year, DYCD instituted an across the board reduction in the number of Transitional Living (TIL) beds. If it had not been for the reinstatement of beds through the City Council discretionary funds last year, our program would have been forced to close. We will likely be facing a similar circumstance this year. **If our program receives even a minor reduction in funds, our program would likely be forced to close its door because of the high fixed costs associated with operating a residential program.** We operate on an extremely bare-bones budget – for example, we are currently feeding 12 youth on \$41 a day – less than \$3.50 per person per day.

Additionally, ACS cut *all* funding in its FY2010 budget for drop in centers that served older youth who went AWOL from care, leaving the DYCD continuum of services and the adult shelter system as the only resources for all of the runaway and homeless youth in the City. It is critical that DYCD's RHY funding stream be maintained, if not increased, to meet the growing need for the services and to pick up the slack left by the other budget cuts.

It is shocking to learn that LGBTQ youth make up 25-40% of the runaway and homeless youth population, a striking reminder of the unique challenges this population faces.<sup>4</sup> This population is highly vulnerable, and relies upon the RHY continuum for life-saving support. The Mayor recently called together a commission for developing recommendations to meet the needs of LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth. We ask the City Council to consider those recommendations when they are released later this spring and use them to help guide funding priorities and policy making.

### **Recommendations**

- **Fully fund all RHY Continuum of Care programs, particularly the Transition to Independent Living (TIL) programs.**
- **Integrate the forthcoming recommendations from the Mayoral Commission on LGBTQ youth into policy making and budget priorities.**

<sup>2</sup> "2009 State of the City's Homeless Youth Report." The New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations and the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services. 2010. <http://www.empirestatecoalition.org/main/pdf/State%20of%20the%20City%20Report%20FINAL%201-21-10.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Youth who Chronically AWOL from Foster Care. Why the run, Where they go, and What can be done." Vera Institute of Justice, August 2004. <http://www.vera.org/download?file=261/Foster%2BAWOLs.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> "2009 State of the City's Homeless Youth Report." Ibid.

### **Out of School Time**

Jamaica had the highest number of children with an unmet need of OST services of any community district in the City in 2006, with over 10,000 children lacking quality after school opportunities to keep them off the street.<sup>5</sup> For many children, gang involvement begins in elementary school; last year in one of our programs, we found a group of kids engaging in sexual activity as a rite of passage to become a gang member – they were 11 years old. Jamaica had the second highest number of juvenile detentions and the highest number of juvenile arrests, of any community district in the City in 2006, and will likely get worse because of these budget cuts.<sup>6</sup> As these children enter middle and high school, they are entering one of the most critical stages of youth development, and the City cannot afford to leave these kids without a safe and supportive environment in which they thrive.

It is these reasons why we were so shocked to receive notice that every single OST summer program in middle schools was being cut this year. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is on the chopping block as well, which will leave thousands of youth idle this summer and without an opportunity to gain critical work experience. Summer youth employment is one of the most important pre-employment opportunities for our youth. This budget will have a disastrous effect on our children. It is incredibly ill-conceived to be getting rid of after school programs, summer programs, and Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP) at the same time. In 2009 87,342 youth applied for and were turned down from an SYEP placement<sup>7</sup>, and many of these youth remained on the streets all summer without financial resources, undoubtedly leading to increased gang involvement and crime activity. These are very real costs for the City and State's law enforcement and juvenile justice systems. This short-sighted approach to closing the budget deficit will likely result in higher costs and deteriorating communities across the city.

### **Recommendations**

- **Restore funding for OST summer programs for middle schools across the City, specifically for the most at risk communities – including Southeast Queens.**

<sup>5</sup> Keeping Track online. 2008, Citizens Committee for Children, <http://www.cccnewyork.org/aboutkt.html>

<sup>6</sup> NYC Department of Juvenile Justice website at <http://www.ncc.gov/html/djj/html/numbers.html> . Accessed on 3/12/10

<sup>7</sup> "Summer Youth Employment Program 2009 Annual Report." New York City Department of Youth and Community Development. [http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/downloads/pdf/syep\\_2009\\_annual\\_summary101509.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dycd/downloads/pdf/syep_2009_annual_summary101509.pdf) Accessed 3/12/10.

### **Immigrant Support Services**

Fully 46.1% of the population in Queens is foreign-born.<sup>8</sup> Immigrant populations have been central to New York's identity for centuries, and it is no different today. Immigrant communities are often isolated and under-resourced, and face unique challenges, especially with domestic violence. In recent surveys, 48% of Latinas indicated that their partner's violence against them had increased since immigrating to this country,<sup>9</sup> and 60% of Korean women reported being battered by their husbands.<sup>10</sup> Many immigrant women feel trapped in their situation, unable to flee their batterer because of legal or financial barriers. Many immigrant women cannot locate employment, especially when the unemployment rate remains at such high levels. This past year, DYCD was able to secure federal stimulus funds to support an employment training and placement component to its immigrant services contracts. We applaud the City for its ongoing dedication to meeting the needs of this population, and directing some of the stimulus money towards these programs to help immigrant victims of domestic violence locate and secure employment. For victims of domestic violence, having an independent source of income is critical to their ability to leave their batterers. Employment and training programs in our DV program has great benefits. As the stimulus funds begin to run dry, we urge the City to continue to support the economic self-sufficiency of victims of domestic violence.

#### **Recommendations**

- **Sustain funding for the Immigrant Services job training and placement program component, which is set to expire with the federal stimulus funds.**

City, State, and Federal agencies are balancing their budgets on the backs of the communities and families that can least afford to bear that extra burden and many of these decisions will likely result in heightened costs in both the short and long terms. We strongly urge DYCD, the Mayor's office, the Borough Presidents, and the City Council to keep these programs fully funded, knowing that even minor reductions in funding will have ripple effects throughout the City and lead to higher costs down the road.

Thank you.

Contact:

**Patrick Germain** - Director of Policy, Planning & Evaluation  
[PGermain@safespacenyc.org](mailto:PGermain@safespacenyc.org) - 212-226-3536 x 250

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<sup>8</sup> Queens Health Coalition Community Needs Assessment Report of Women's, Infant and Family Health Services, September 2009.

<sup>9</sup> Dutton, Mary; Leslye Orloff, and Giselle Aguilar Hass. 2000. "Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources, and Services Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications." *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy*. 7(2).

<sup>10</sup> Tjaden, Patricia and Nancy Thoennes. 2000. *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. The National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 12, 2010. <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/183781.pdf>.

**Center for Court Innovation Testimony**

**New York City Council**

**Youth Services Committee**

**March 15, 2010**

Good morning Chairperson Fidler and members of the Committee. My name is Christopher Watler and I am the Project Director of the Harlem Community Justice Center, a project of the Center for Court Innovation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

I am here to urge the Youth Services Committee, as it is considering the Mayor's proposed budget, to support funding to help courts and their community and government partners promote the safety of the public while addressing the needs of vulnerable children and families. Recent developments underscore the challenges that New York City and State face in seeking to reform the juvenile justice system. In just the past few months, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a scathing report documenting abuses in four state-run placement facilities; the Governor's Task Force on Transforming the Juvenile Justice published its report which highlighted the degree of disproportionate representation of children of color in the justice system, the absence of sufficient, reliable, community-based alternatives to confinement, the failure of the system to provide mental health and related services, the failure to provide sufficient oversight in placement settings; and, the inadequacy of reentry services which contributes to the shockingly high recidivism rates for children returning home. New Yorker's demand and deserve a juvenile justice system that is cost effective and results oriented. Now is certainly not the time to reduce

or cut funding for programs that engage young people in productive, enriching activities that keep them out of the justice system and help them avoid detention and residential placement.

The Center for Court Innovation is a not-for-profit organization that has proven that courts, government partners and communities, working together, can better address the problems facing young people and families who enter the justice system. The Center seeks to reduce crime, aid victims, and improve public safety by encouraging courts to adopt problem-solving techniques to become more responsive to their constituents. Starting with the award-winning Midtown Community Court, the Center has created more than 15 projects - drug courts, community courts, mental health courts, alternative to detention programs and others - that have had a positive impact on the safety and health of New York's neighborhoods. Researchers have documented that our projects have changed the behavior of offenders, improved perceptions of fairness, and enhanced public trust in justice. The Center's work is one reason that communities from around the country are coming to New York City to learn how collaboration between courts, government agencies and community organizations can help reduce crime, improve outcomes for victims and offenders ,and encourage economic development. Just a few months ago, the Center received the prestigious Peter F. Drucker Award for non-profit innovation, a recognition of the Center's vital role in encouraging common sense approaches to improving public safety.

A key focus for the Center is working with vulnerable children and families. Each year, we serve over 2,300 children who are at varying stages of justice system involvement. Examples of the Center's work includes the youth courts in Red Hook, Harlem, Greenpoint and Staten Island, where local teenagers hear real-life cases involving their peers, using positive peer pressure to



ensure that teens who have committed minor offenses learn from their mistakes, make amends to victims and their community and receive the help they need to avoid deeper involvement in the justice system. The Red Hook and Harlem Community Justice Centers hear the cases of young people arrested on delinquency charges, fostering accountability while linking young people and families to services such as drug treatment, tutoring and job training. In the Bronx, our Bronx Community Solutions project operates a unique service learning program for juvenile probationers required to perform community service. The Crown Heights Community Mediation Center works with community members of all ages to resolve disputes, and facilitate workshops in area schools around conflict resolution techniques. Our Youth Justice Board brings together City teenagers to develop thoughtful recommendations to address public safety concerns and promote improved services for at-risk young people. The Board has examined juvenile reentry, school safety, and the city's alternative to detention programs.

Two and a half years ago, the Center launched the first of the City's new alternative to detention programs: Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens (QUEST). Since its inception the program has worked with over 400 young people who were at risk of being detained. The program has maintained a compliance rate in excess of 80%. During the past year, with the help of support provided by the City Council, we added QUEST Futures, a first of its kind mental health program, to our menu of juvenile justice programming. The QUEST Futures program offers access to mental health services to young people at each stage of the delinquency process, offering judges, probation officers, prosecutors and law guardians reliable assessments, case management and service linkages, filling a chronic gap in the juvenile justice system. As the Justice Department and Task Force reports make abundantly clear, too often young people are

removed from their homes for mental health concerns because judges do not have access to effective community-based services, only to learn to their dismay that such services are also unavailable in placement facilities. And, last April, the Center opened the second of its alternative to detention programs in Staten Island, Project READY, modeled after QUEST. In the coming months, READY will add a pilot respite component in partnership with New York Foundling which will provide temporary housing in the care of trained families to young people who cannot be safely released by courts to their families.

Other Center programs, like Attendance Court, provide schools in Harlem and Red Hook with new tools to address chronic absences, reducing absenteeism for more than two thirds of program participants by at least 33% and helping 95% to move up to the next grade; and Project SOS in Crown Heights, a new anti-gun violence program based on the Chicago Cease Fire model, are testing new approaches to thorny problems that have long fueled delinquency caseloads. None of this work could be done without the support of the City Council and we thank you for your commitment to our work.

Last year, the Center received \$500,000 from the Council. Council support has helped us maintain core operations and launch new initiatives throughout the city, some of which I have already discussed, which collectively serve over 60,000 New Yorkers each year. Among other things, City Council funding in the last year allowed the Center to:

- provide leadership development and meaningful alternatives to formal involvement in the justice system through the sustained operation of youth courts in Red Hook, Harlem and Staten Island;
- provide supportive services to young people, ages 3 -15, who have been subjected to and/or have witnessed abuse and domestic violence, through the Bronx Child Witness Support Program;
- work with school staff and local residents to reduce tensions and conflict in Crown Heights schools, and promote community cohesion by bringing Black and Jewish young people together in a unique entrepreneurship program under the leadership of the Center's Crown Heights Community Mediation Center;
- implement a service-learning program for justice system-involved young people in Harlem that offers opportunities for these young people to engage in meaningful community service while exploring their interests, gaining valuable leadership skills, and enhancing their awareness of issues of concern within the community;
- move forward with implementing recommended reforms to the city's delinquency process generated by the Youth Justice Board;
- help combat chronic absenteeism in schools in Red Hook and Harlem and provide supportive services to juvenile probationers; and
- continue to provide mental health services to young people as an alternative to confinement in Queens.

This year we are asking the Council for \$750,000 to continue this work and to introduce several new programs designed to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers while saving money. We ask for a continuation of last year's level of support (\$500,000), supplemented by a budget enhancement of \$250,000 that will enable the Center to launch several new projects including: the expansion of QUEST Futures to serve as an alternative to violation for juvenile probationers with mental health issues in Queens, and the crafting of a strategic plan to address the emerging juvenile gang problem in Upper Manhattan.

The Center for Court Innovation looks forward to continuing to work with the City Council to improve the justice system's response to the city's pressing problems, particularly those affecting young people and families. We ask that you continue to support our work and the work of other organizations and government agencies who are committed to partnering with courts and system stakeholders to reduce reliance on juvenile detention and placement, and to promote safe, reliable community-based services for young people.

## CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION: RESULTS

The Center for Court Innovation is a public-private partnership dedicated to reducing crime, aiding victims and promoting public confidence in justice. In New York, the Center functions as the state court system's independent research and development arm, developing demonstration projects that test new approaches to public safety problems. Nationally and internationally, the Center performs original research on topics of justice reform and provides consulting services to criminal justice innovators. Researchers have documented that the Center for Court Innovation has helped to enhance the fairness of the justice system, change the behavior of offenders, and improve safety in crime-plagued neighborhoods. Results include:

### ● Reducing Crime

Independent evaluators documented that prostitution arrests dropped by 56 percent after the Center's Midtown Community Court opened in Manhattan. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has hailed the Midtown Community Court for helping to revive Times Square. In southwest Brooklyn, major crime has declined by nearly 50 percent since the opening of the Center's Red Hook Community Justice Center. Red Hook's local precinct was recently named the No. 1 precinct for crime reduction in the city.

### ● Repairing Disorder

Both the Midtown Community Court and Red Hook Community Justice Center sentence low-level offenders to repair conditions of disorder—fixing broken windows, cleaning local parks, painting over graffiti. Each year, the two projects contribute 75,000 hours of community service—more than \$600,000 worth of labor. Compliance rates for community service are consistently 50 percent higher than the national average. One of the Center's newest projects, NYC Community Cleanup, takes this cost-saving strategy one step further by allowing criminal court judges throughout New York City to sentence low-level offenders to community service projects that repair conditions of disorder in neighborhoods affected by their crimes. The goal is to create meaningful community service work projects that emphasize the values of immediacy, visibility, and accountability in neighborhoods where crimes are committed.

### ● Improving Public Trust in Government

The Red Hook Community Justice Center has a 78 percent approval rating from local residents. Prior to the Justice Center's opening, only 12 percent of local residents approved of courts. Moreover, a survey of defendants found that 86 percent said that their case was handled fairly—a result that was consistent regardless of race, gender, or educational background. In a phone survey, two out of three Midtown residents said they would be willing to pay additional taxes to support a community court.

### ● Reducing Recidivism

Participants in the Center's Brooklyn Treatment Court, which offers judicially-monitored drug treatment instead of incarceration, re-offend at a rate that is 27 percent lower than offenders who go through conventional courts. Through training and technical assistance, the Center has helped spread the drug court model throughout New York State—over 50,000 New Yorkers have participated in 170 drug courts, which are located in every county of the state.

CENTER  
FOR  
COURT  
INNOVATION

● **Improving Victim Safety**

New York's 75 domestic violence courts—based on a model created by the Center for Court Innovation—handle over 32,000 cases each year, linking victims to counseling, shelter, and other services while strengthening the monitoring of those accused of battering.

● **Promoting Reentry**

The Center's Harlem Community Justice Center helps parolees transition back to the neighborhood following incarceration by providing community-based services and intensive monitoring. Less than 25 percent of graduates are rearrested 12 months after leaving the program.

● **Enhancing Mental Health**

The Center's Brooklyn Mental Health Court, which offers long-term treatment to mentally-ill individuals instead of incarceration, has reduced both hospitalizations and re-arrests among participants.

● **Changing Sentencing Practice**

The Center's Bronx Community Solutions project, which seeks to combine punishment and help for misdemeanor offenders, has cut the use of jail by a third and doubled the use of community-based alternatives in the Bronx.

● **Replication**

Each year, the Center's demonstration projects are visited by more than 400 criminal justice officials from around the world. Many end up replicating, either in part or in whole, what they see. For example, there are six dozen community courts around the world based on the Center's model, including projects in England, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

● **Research and Dissemination**

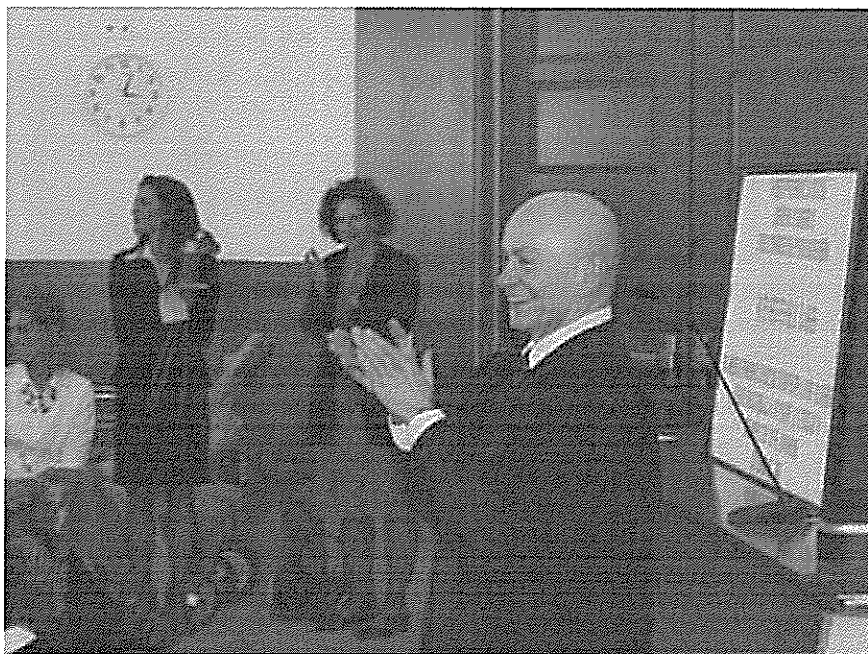
The Center has conducted much-cited studies on justice system reforms, including a randomized trial examining the effectiveness of batterer intervention programs and a multi-site analysis of the efficacy of judicially-monitored drug treatment. Authors from the Center wrote the first-ever book on problem-solving judicial reform—*Good Courts: The Case for Problem-Solving Justice* (The New Press). The Center's award-winning website, [www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org), receives 60,000 visitors each month; visitors download an average of 28,000 documents—research reports, how-to manuals, interviews with leading scholars and practitioners—each month.

● **Awards**

The Center for Court Innovation has received numerous awards for its innovative projects, including the Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation, and the the Innovations in American Government Award from Harvard University and the Ford Foundation. Additionally, the Center has received national prizes from the American Bar Association, the National Criminal Justice Association, and the National Association for Court Management.

## Problem-Solving (and Award-Winning) Courts

By: Erik Hayden | October 30, 2009 |



"Succor. Succor in the Court" in the August 2008 issue of Miller-McCune highlighted the Center for Court Innovation. Courtesy of San Francisco Superior Court

Problem-solving" courts — only a small percentage of the national total — have become increasingly effective due to their ability to rehabilitate low-level offenders (mostly drug offenders) while saving taxpayer money by eschewing traditional incarceration methods.

The only problem, it seems, is that the public seems largely unaware of the success of these courts — although readers of Miller-McCune may remember Bernice Yeung's article in our August 2008 issue on the Center for Court Innovation. "You can continue to cycle these people and do nothing with them, or you can try to do something with them that's meaningful," the center's executive director, Greg Berman, said at the time "To ignore these people with individual problems and say, 'Courts shouldn't be doing this,' I would argue that that's inhumane and passing the buck."

The Drucker Institute, a think tank that sponsors and promotes ethical leadership throughout the country, must agree — it just awarded the center its 2009 Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation, plus a check for \$100,000.

The center is instrumental in furthering court reform in the greater New York area. The nonprofit, a recipient of numerous awards dating back to 1994, has also received a grant from the Federal Second Chance Act to support rehabilitation work with Harlem parolees.

Perhaps increased awareness (beyond just San Francisco and New York), and maybe a few more awards, will pave the way for taxpayers to open their wallets and support the fledgling rehabilitation system.

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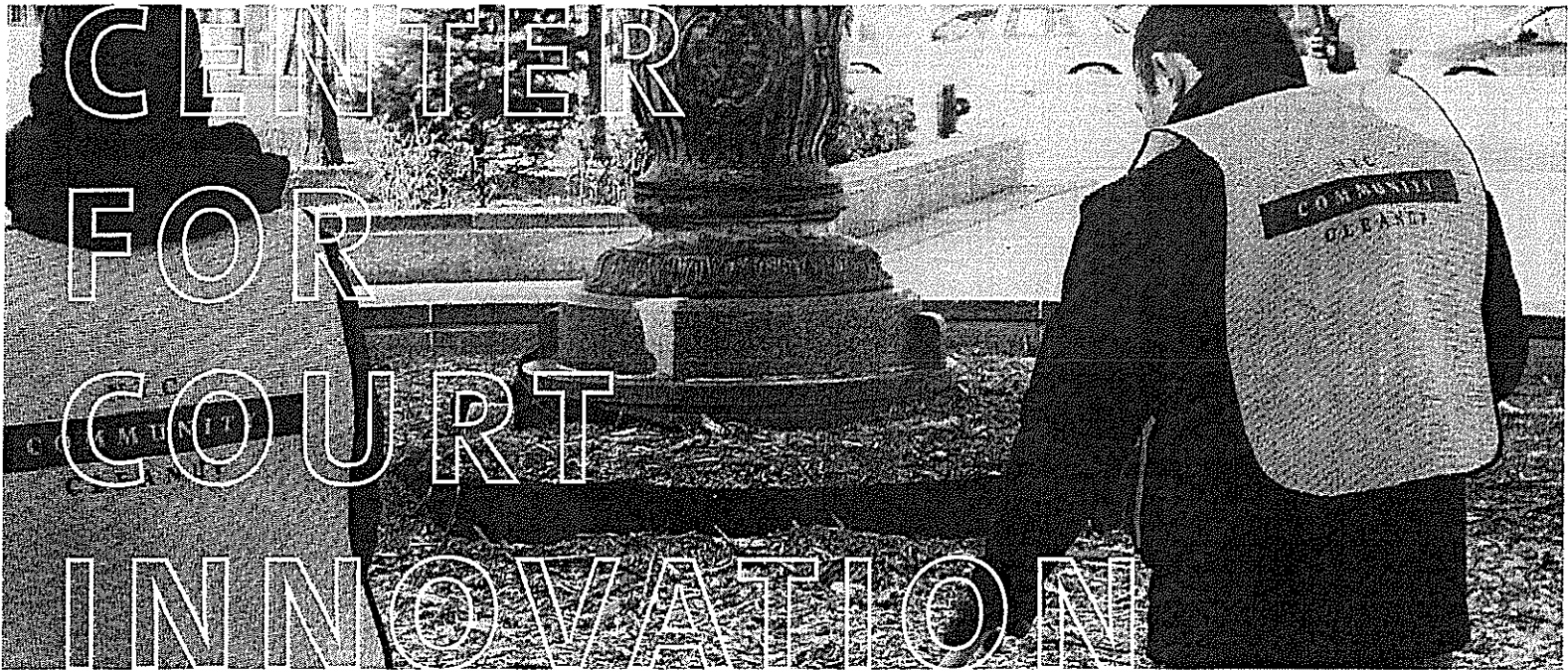


Photo: Manuel Larino

2009



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2009

The Center for Court Innovation is a public-private partnership that works with the justice system to reduce crime, aid victims, and improve public trust in justice. It pursues these goals in a variety of ways: through demonstration projects in New York that test new approaches to justice; through hands-on training and technical assistance with criminal justice reformers around the U.S. and the world; and through the dissemination of cutting-edge research and ideas about how to improve the justice system.

The year 2009 was a time of both challenges and opportunities. The global economic crisis forced the Center to tighten its belt and make hard choices about its priorities. Yet even in the midst of fiscal uncertainty, the Center remained committed to its core mission: seeking out new ideas and testing their application in real-world settings. Among the new initiatives launched in 2009 were:

- New York City Community Cleanup, a citywide community service program modeled after the work pioneered at the Midtown Community Court, Red Hook Community Justice Center, and Bronx Community Solutions;
- QUEST Futures, an initiative to provide intensive mental health services to young people so that judges in Queens Family Court have options beyond incarceration; and
- The Staten Island Youth Justice Center, which seeks to reduce both youthful offending and the justice system's dependence on detention.

Other programs in the planning stages include a community campaign to end gun violence in Crown Heights and a respite program designed to offer a community-based alternative to youth prisons for those who do not present a serious risk to the community but who cannot return home for one reason or another.

In recognition of the Center's track record of justice system reform, it was awarded the 2009 Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation, a distinction that includes a \$100,000 prize. Selected from a field of

over 650 organizations, the Drucker Award committee recognized the Center for, among other things, changing “the way that the major players in the system—judges, attorneys, criminal justice officials—think about their jobs and the impact they’re having.” Coming a decade after the Center received the Innovations in American Government Award, the Drucker Prize is testament not only to the Center’s staying power but also its ability to remain at the cutting edge of justice reform.

This report documents some of the Center’s primary accomplishments during 2009.

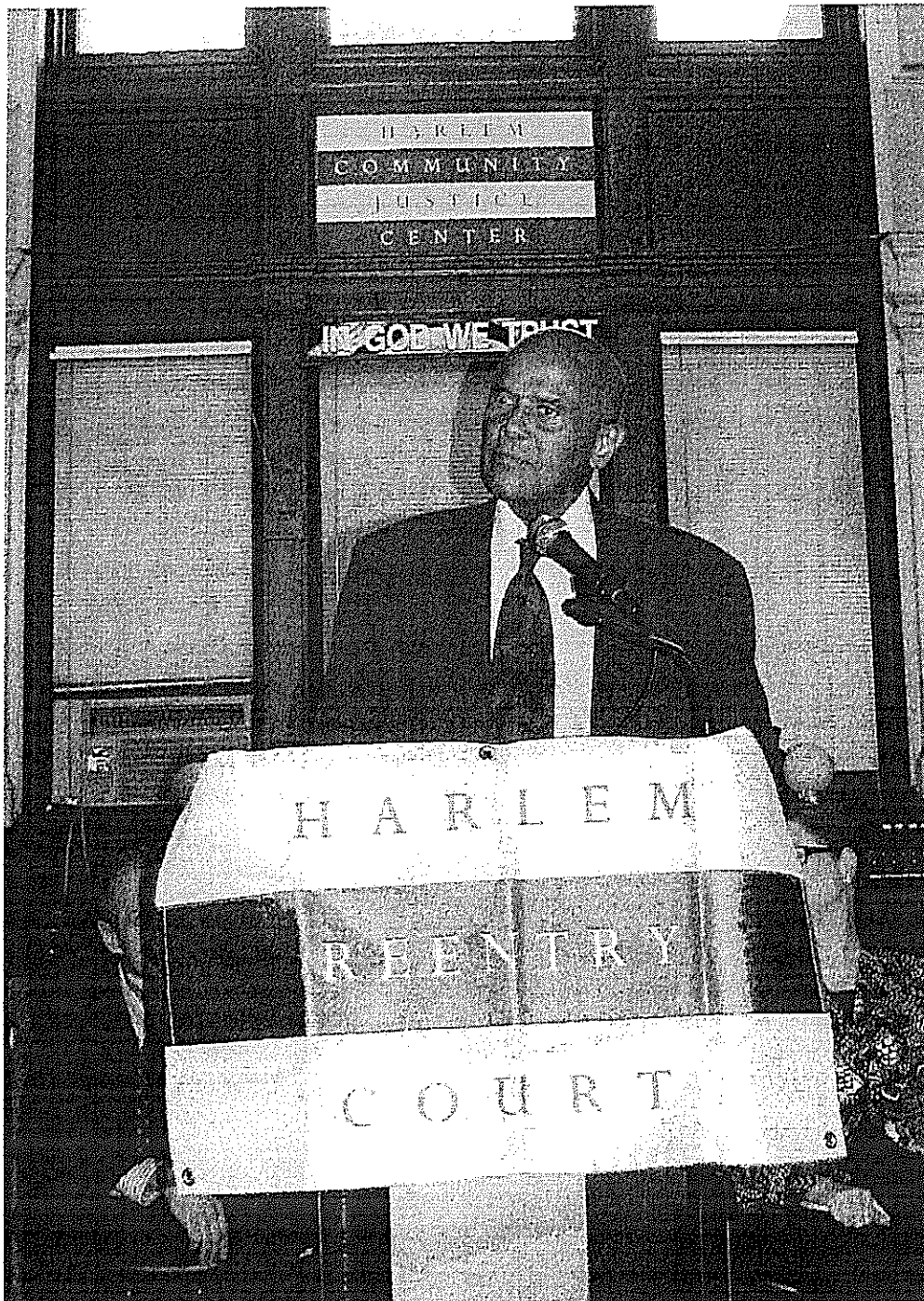
## JUVENILE JUSTICE

In the wake of a U.S. Department of Justice investigation that revealed widespread abuse in New York State’s “youth prisons,” the cause of juvenile justice reform gathered considerable momentum in 2009. The Center for Court Innovation operates a broad range of juvenile justice programs, including programs to help young offenders avoid future involvement in the criminal justice system, programs that work with at-risk youth to help them stay out of trouble, and initiatives that address the needs of crime victims, helping them heal from trauma.

One of the Center’s newest programs is QUEST Futures, which expands on Queens Engagement Strategies for Teens, an after-school program for youth who have delinquency matters pending in Queens Family Court. QUEST Futures is specifically geared to young people with mental illness. Guided by a clinical team that serves as a bridge between the juvenile justice and mental health systems, QUEST Futures works with young people beginning at the earliest stages of the delinquency process while their cases are being adjudicated and remains involved with them throughout the life of their cases, facilitating screening, assessment, treatment, and case management. By the end of the year, QUEST Futures had accepted 79 program participants, both as voluntary referrals and mandates from Family Court judges. Encouraged by this promising start, in late 2009 the Office of Court Administration asked the Center to expand its QUEST Futures program to serve as an alternative to placement for adjudicated delinquents with mental disorders.

The Center’s presence on Staten Island expanded with the establishment of the Staten Island Youth Justice Center, which consists of two principal components: a youth court and an alternative-to-detention program. Modeled after QUEST, the Staten Island alternative-to-detention program opened in April and is designed to reduce the likelihood of offending, ensure attendance at all required court appearances, and promote school attendance for young people with cases pending in Richmond County Family Court. Through rigorous monitoring combined with social services and support, virtually all people who successfully complete the program go on to receive community-based dispositions. In its first eight months, the project enrolled 40 youths and maintained a compliance rate of 72 percent.

Other juvenile justice initiatives include the Youth Justice Board, an after-school program that engages teens in public policy debates; attendance court, a school-based early intervention program for chronic truants; and youth court, which trains teenagers to serve as judge, jurors, and advocates, hearing actual cases involving their peers. The Center’s first youth court, located in Red Hook, held 160 hearings in 2009 and had a compliance rate of 91 percent. In the years since creating the Red Hook Youth Court, the Center has replicated the model in



Harry Belafonte speaks at a Harlem Parole Reentry Court graduation in September.

*Photo: Robert V. Wolf, Center for Court Innovation*

Harlem, Crown Heights, Greenpoint, Newark, N.J., and Staten Island. The Staten Island Youth Court is expanding the model by handling more serious cases: in collaboration with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, the Staten Island Youth Court became a condition of disposition in selected low-level criminal court matters for defendants between 16 and 18. Participants who successfully complete their sanction receive a conditional dismissal of their charges. In 2009, the Staten Island Youth Court handled 135 cases and posted a compliance rate of 85 percent. In addition to operating youth courts, the Center is leading a statewide effort to formulate and disseminate recommended practices for the nearly 100 youth courts around the state.

The Center also participated in New York Governor David A. Paterson's Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice. Deputy Director Alfred Siegel co-chaired a sub-committee of the task force, which garnered headlines in December with the release of its report, "Charting a New Course: A Blueprint for Transforming Juvenile Justice in New York State."

In the months ahead, the Center plans to continue to deepen its involvement in juvenile justice reform, creating new options for Family Court judges so they don't have to rely so heavily on custodial dispositions and seeking to promote a deeper system-wide investment in prevention and evidence-based practices.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILD PROTECTIVE INITIATIVES

The Center for Court Innovation provides support to the New York State Unified Court System in the development and operation of a statewide network of domestic violence courts and integrated domestic violence courts. The Center also serves as a national resource encouraging innovation around the U.S.

In 2009, the Center planned and hosted two national domestic violence open houses—one in New York City, the other in Ann Arbor, Michigan—which allowed participants to share ideas and observe first hand how domestic violence courts work. In addition to the open houses, the Center held a national web-based conference (or "webinar") for sites interested in starting or enhancing a domestic violence court.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Center also aided reformers around the country through the National Passport to Adulthood program, which offers tools to ensure that the complex issues faced by youth in foster care are addressed in a timely and thorough manner.

In New York, the Center worked with the court system to implement the Integrated Domestic Violence Court Initiative (IDV-I) in seven counties upstate. This project is an effort to provide the benefits of a traditional integrated domestic violence court to counties that do not yet have one and to serve areas with smaller and more dispersed populations.

With funding from the National Institute for Justice, the Center for Court Innovation recently completed a study of criminal domestic violence courts across the country that explores the rationale for specialized courts, how they operate, and how they vary from state to state.

In the year ahead, the Center plans a special focus on women arrested for prostitution who are also victims. For example, with support from the Oak Foundation, the Center will work to identify trafficking victims arrested

for prostitution at the Midtown Community Court and Queens Criminal Court. And, with funds from the Office of Violence Against Women, the Center will provide services to prostitutes who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at Midtown Community Court and Bronx Community Solutions.

## REENTRY

The Harlem Parole Reentry Court, which helps parolees make the transition from life in prison to responsible citizenship, entered its 10th year of operation in 2009.

The court is a project of the Harlem Community Justice Center, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and the Division of Parole, linking parolees to a wide range of social services, including drug treatment, vocational services, health care, and mental health treatment. To promote increased accountability, participants are required to return to the justice center frequently to meet with case managers and parole officers and appear before an administrative law judge, who closely monitors their compliance with court orders.

In 2009, the Parole Reentry Court was awarded one of 15 National Second Chance Act Demonstration Grants, which will allow the court to increase its number of participants and expand service provision. The year ahead will see the publication of an impact evaluation of the Harlem Reentry Court. Preliminary results indicate reduced re-arrests and re-convictions among participants but also increased revocations for technical violations.

In 2009, the Harlem Community Justice Center also continued to host the Upper Manhattan Reentry Task Force, a collaboration of state and city government agencies, community-based organizations, and academic partners seeking to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. In February, the Task Force launched a blog, <http://rethinkingreentry.blogspot.com/>, which attracted visitors from 60 countries. Also in 2009, the Task Force received additional funding through the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, which will allow it to implement a pilot collaborative case management initiative with the New York City Police Department, New York State Division of Parole, and Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

## ADDICTION

On April 7, 2009, New York Governor David Paterson signed into law a bill that dramatically changed drug sentencing laws and significantly expanded the pool of offenders eligible for diversion to drug treatment. The New York State Court System, under the leadership of Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and Chief Administrative Law Judge Ann Pfau, has enlisted the Center for Court Innovation's help in responding to this dramatic change in the law.

The Center worked closely with the court system to identify all eligible offenders, ensure sufficient substance and alcohol treatment, provide technology for tracking and evaluation, and train key court staff, including judges. The New York Community Trust has helped to underwrite some of this work.

The Center for Court Innovation also developed the first statewide online learning system for drug courts. The system, which will go live in 2010 and be regularly updated and expanded, includes presentations by nation-

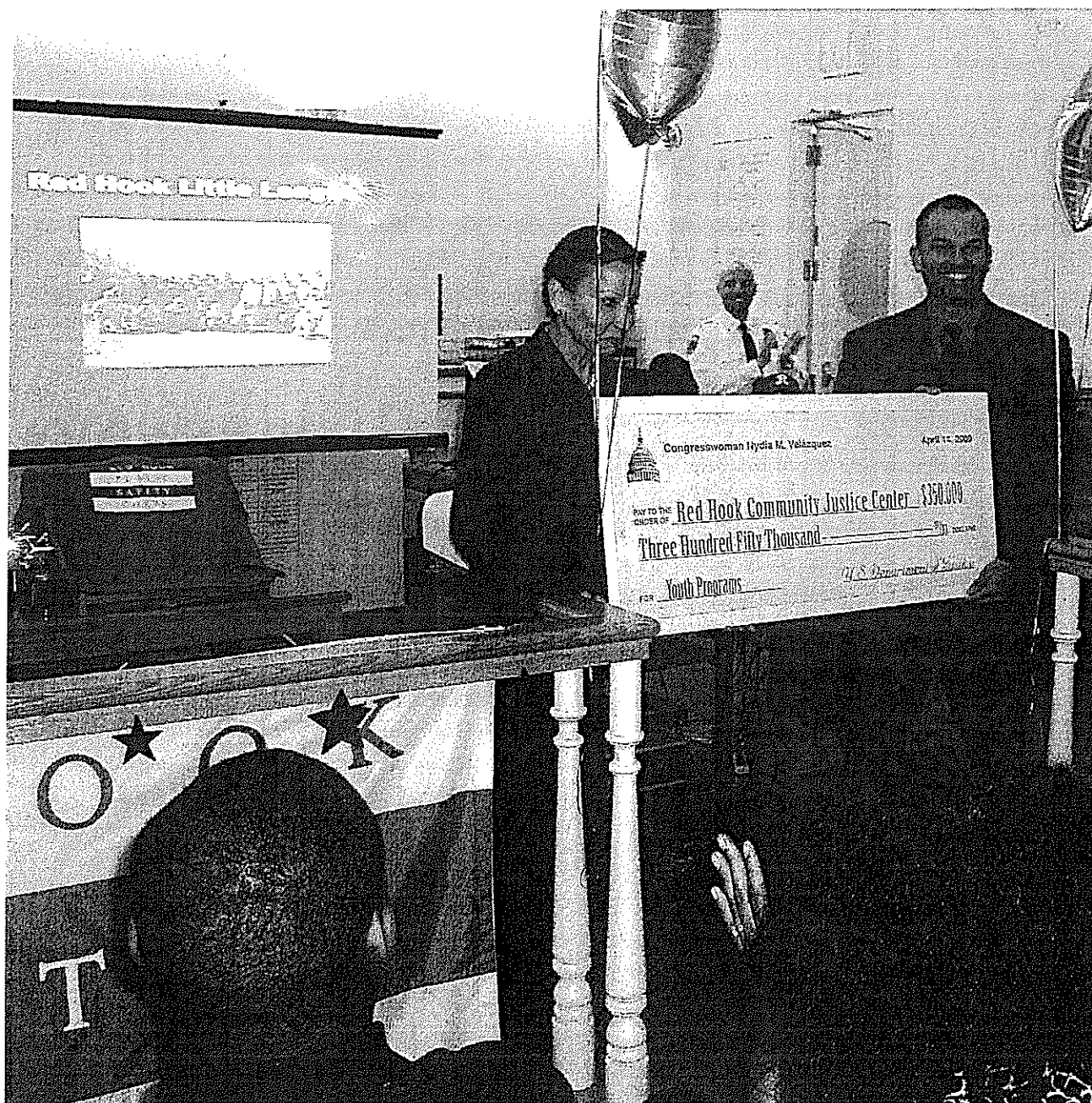


Photo: Roberto Julbe, Center for Court Innovation

Rep. Nydia Velazquez is the keynote speaker in April at a ceremony celebrating youth programs at the Red Hook Community Justice Center.

al experts, a resource library with materials on best practices, video interviews of drug treatment court practitioners, and a virtual tour of an established adult drug court.

In Nassau County, the Center supported the implementation of new evidence-based screening, assessment, and treatment practices for juvenile offenders. The effort is part of the Reclaiming Futures model, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which encourages better coordination of resources and more effective delivery of services to juvenile drug court participants.

In the coming year, with support from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Center for Court Innovation will continue to support the work of drug courts nationally, providing training and technical assistance to states that are seeking to institutionalize drug court operations into a statewide system, investigating legal and ethical concerns raised by drug courts, and studying several locations where drug courts have run into challenges in order to mine lessons for the field.

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE

In June 2009, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other city, state, and federal officials announced the launch of a new Center for Court Innovation initiative, NYC Community Cleanup, a court-mandated community service project that seeks to address neighborhood hot spots and eyesores. NYC Community Cleanup puts low-level offenders to work repairing conditions of disorder throughout New York City. The goal is to create meaningful work projects that emphasize the values of immediacy, visibility, and accountability. In the initiative's first three months, participants collected over 3,000 bags of trash and contributed the equivalent of over \$30,000 in labor toward making New York City neighborhoods cleaner and more livable.

Meanwhile, the Center's community courts continue to test new strategies to improve neighborhood quality of life. A community survey, conducted annually in Red Hook, Brooklyn, found that 94 percent of residents feel positively about having a community court in their neighborhood—a dramatic turnaround from the days before the Red Hook Community Justice Center opened when only 12 percent expressed support for local courts.

In June, the Midtown Community Court expanded its catchment area to include a new police precinct on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The court also enlarged its menu of alternative sanctions to include an onsite psycho-educational group designed to motivate homeless offenders to access permanent housing. Another new Midtown Court program seeks to vacate homeless individuals' old warrants in exchange for the completion of social services, including substance abuse detox and psychiatric evaluations.

The Harlem Community Justice Center expanded its work on several fronts. In addition to enlarging its work with prisoners returning from prison, the justice center received funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to launch a Juvenile Gang Task Force, which will assess the extent of gang presence and influence in East and Central Harlem and make recommendations to increase public safety. In a similar vein, the Center has also begun planning the implementation of a new anti-violence program designed to prevent gun violence in Crown Heights, which will be based at the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center and modeled after Ceasefire in Chicago.

The Center's Bronx Community Solutions seeks to increase sentencing options for judges handling misdemeanor cases. Research indicates that Bronx Community Solutions has reduced the use of jail at arraignments by 40 percent, raised the rate of compliance with alternative sanctions to 70 percent, and, through the provision of community restitution sentences, invested 70,000 hours of labor each year to help improve the borough.

Beyond New York, in 2009 the Center worked with the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance to select community courts in Dallas, Hartford, and Seattle to serve as regional mentors for jurisdictions seeking to improve their handling of low-level criminal cases. The Center also supported numerous other jurisdictions in their efforts to build or expand community court programs. Among the new community courts slated to open in the coming months is one in Newark, New Jersey, where the Center has played a hands-on role in planning and implementation.

By the end of 2009, there were over 70 community courts in operation around the globe based on the model created by the Center.

## TRIBAL JUSTICE

With the support of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Center continued to provide tribal communities with technical assistance, encouraging formal collaborations between traditional tribal justice systems and state and local court systems and identifying and disseminating best practices developed in Indian country that could help strengthen public safety initiatives elsewhere in the United States.

The initiative, which is called the Tribal Justice Exchange, offers a range of services including on-site needs assessments to assist tribal communities in developing community-based problem-solving strategies and visits to the Center's demonstration projects to see problem-solving justice in action. The Center's activities in 2009 included consulting work with the Navajo Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Winnebago Tribe, and Sokaogon Chippewa Community. The Center also hosted Navajo Nation Chief Justice Herb Yazzie and other Navajo judges at the Red Hook Community Justice Center. The Center will work with the Navajo Nation in the coming year to help develop the first community court in Indian country, to be located in Aneth, Utah.

The Center is also helping the Leech Lake-Cass County Wellness Court, the first joint jurisdiction state-tribal court in the country, to become a "mentor court" for other jurisdictions seeking to promote new state-tribal court collaboration.

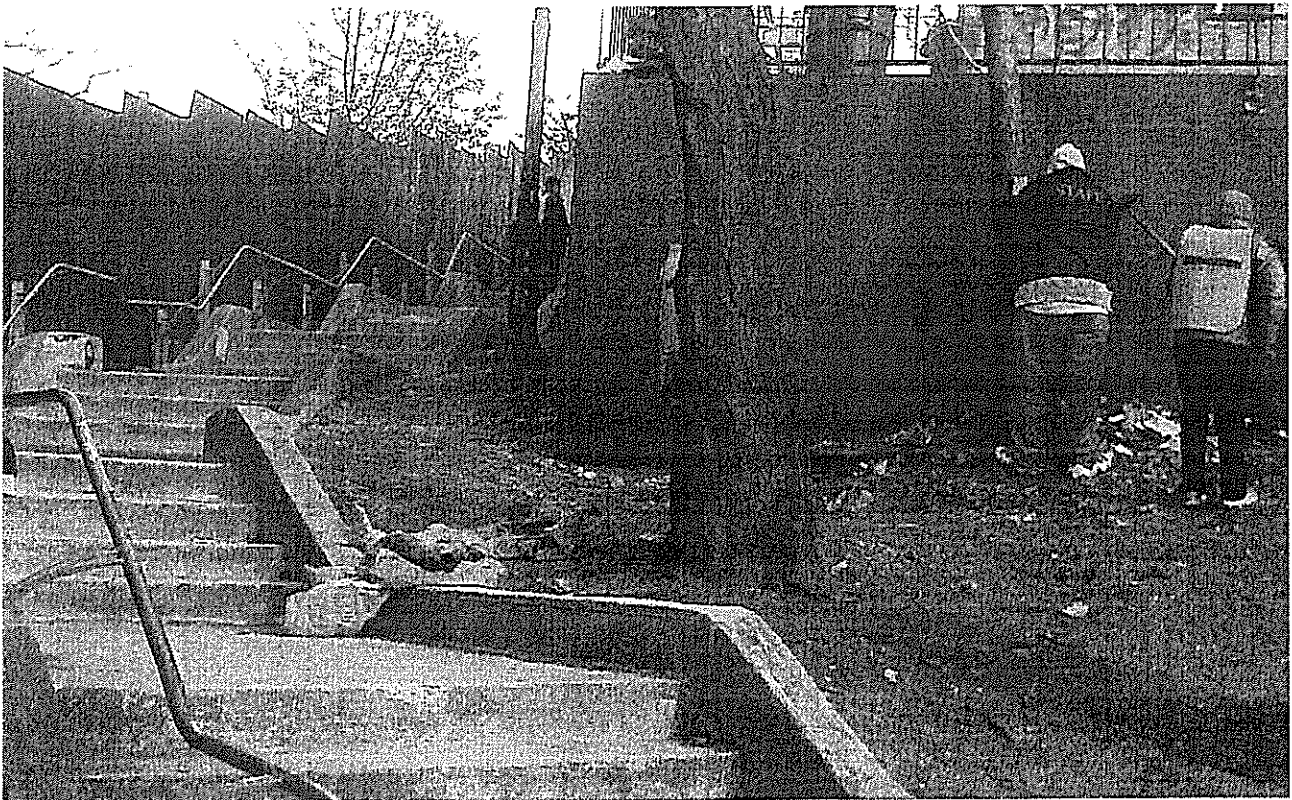
## EXAMINING FAILURE

With support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Center for Court Innovation continued its multi-faceted policy inquiry designed to identify and share lessons from failed criminal justice reform efforts. This included interviews with more than 70 practitioners and policymakers (offering real-life examples of how reform efforts sometimes fail to achieve their objectives); multiple conference presentations, including events hosted by the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University; the creation of a web portal (<http://www.courtinnovation.org/failure>); two monographs on lessons learned from failure ("Avoiding Failures of





After a neighborhood resident submitted a photo, left, of graffiti and trash at 64th St. and 53rd Ave. in Maspeth, Queens, a court-mandated crew from NYC Community Cleanup addresses the problem, below.



*Photo: Jason Collazo, Center for Court Innovation*

Implementation: Lessons from Process Evaluations,” and “Embracing Failure: Lessons for Court Managers”); and articles in the *National Law Journal*, *Court Manager*, *Executive Exchange*, and the *Journal of Court Innovation*. In 2010, the Urban Institute Press will publish a book by the Center on the topic of failure.

## BEYOND THE UNITED STATES

In 2009, the Center continued its efforts to work internationally.

Interest in the Center’s work remains particularly keen in the United Kingdom. In England, the Ministry of Justice released a report recommending the adoption of problem-solving principles in Magistrates Courts across the country. In addition, after visiting the Red Hook Community Justice Center, the Commission on English Prisons Today issued a report, in which it noted that “New York City illustrates that it is possible ... to reduce the prison population, to reduce crime, and to create safer communities.” The report credited the work of the Center, which it said had “pioneered a wide spectrum of justice strategies designed to rebuild communities and divert offenders from custody.” And Policy Exchange, a British think tank, released a report—written in collaboration with the Center—on the state of problem-solving courts in England and Wales. Building on this interest, in 2010 the Center will explore the possibility of creating a “Centre” in London working with the Hadley Trust and the Young Foundation.

Interest in the Center’s work is also keen in Asia and the Southern Hemisphere. New South Wales, Australia, launched a pilot designed to replicate Bronx Community Solutions. And Kristine Herman, a member of the Center’s domestic violence team, spent three months working in Afghanistan helping to establish the first specialized prosecution unit dedicated to investigating and prosecuting crimes of violence against women.

## RESEARCH

The Center’s vigorous investment in research was reflected in the publication of more than a dozen new reports as well as the launching of several new research initiatives. Among the reports completed in 2009 were:

- *Evaluating the Mentors in Violence Prevention Program: Preventing Gender Violence on a College Campus:* Researchers completed an evaluation of a project designed to reduce gender violence at Syracuse University. The study found that the project was implemented with high fidelity to the intended program model, and produced a significant decrease in sexist attitudes and an improved sense that participants could intervene to prevent gender violence.
- *Teens Educating about Community Health: Examining the Efficacy of an HIV/Substance Abuse Peer Education Program:* Researchers completed an evaluation of a teen peer education program. The study found that program participants gained significantly greater knowledge than a matched comparison group of the risks associated with HIV and substance abuse. Participants also showed a lower propensity for sexual experimentation and unprotected sex and less stereotypical attitudes regarding sex, race,

gender, and sexual preference than the comparison group. However, the program did not appear to influence attitudes related to alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs.

- *Children and Trauma: An Evaluation of the Bronx Child and Adolescent Witness Support Program:* Researchers completed the first-ever examination of the Bronx Child and Adolescent Witness Support Program. The study found that after participating in intensive therapeutic services, child and adolescent witnesses to violence experienced a significant reduction in multiple symptoms of trauma and that more time spent receiving program services was associated with a greater symptom reduction.

Going forward, the Center will begin a national study of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Funded by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the study will involve victim interviews and analyses of the victim service communities in six different cities as well as analyses of arrest, prosecution, and recidivism patterns nationwide. Other new research projects include an effort to develop a child welfare data metrics report for Family Court and an impact evaluation of more than 80 New York State drug courts—potentially the largest such study ever completed.

## SPREADING THE WORD

The Center for Court Innovation disseminates lessons learned from its experiments through monographs, videos, on-line learning tools, roundtables, and presentations at conferences. In 2009, its web site, [www.courtinnovation.org](http://www.courtinnovation.org), reached over 88,000 visits a month and distributed over 343,000 copies of Center publications. The web site offers interviews, original research, and tools for practitioners. The Center also grew its web audience through the production of podcasts, which document conversations with leading thinkers and reformers. The podcasts are available for download directly from the Center's web site or for free from the iTunes store.

In addition to "virtual" visitors, the Center attracts flesh-and-blood visitors to its demonstration projects—in 2009, 650 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, court managers, social workers, law enforcement officers, and others paid their own way to visit the Center's projects. Seventy percent of visitors said they intended to put ideas they learned from their trip into practice in their home jurisdictions. To give just one example: In September, the New Orleans District Attorney adopted a database created by the Center to track assessment interviews and social service compliance for their adult diversion, juvenile diversion, domestic violence victim/witness, and criminal victim/witness caseloads.

The Center also assisted the Bureau of Justice Assistance in bringing together experts from around the country to discuss solutions to the inter-related problems of mortgage fraud, foreclosures, and neighborhood instability. The event was memorialized in a forthcoming report entitled, "A Full Response to an Empty House: Public Safety Strategies for Addressing Vacant and Abandoned Properties."

Other publications from 2009 include "Race, Bias and Problem-Solving Courts," published in the National Black Law Journal of Columbia University Law School, which discusses what is currently known about the inter-

section of race and problem-solving courts and highlighting key concerns that are ripe for future exploration and analysis, an analysis of innovative technology for the National Center for State Court's annual review of new court trends, and a toolkit created by the Youth Justice Board for schools, after-school programs, and not-for-profit organizations that are interested in engaging young people in local policy development.

The Center's work was featured in numerous newspapers and other media outlets in 2009, including stories on the Brooklyn Treatment Court on CNN and on the Brooklyn Mental Health Court on the BBC.

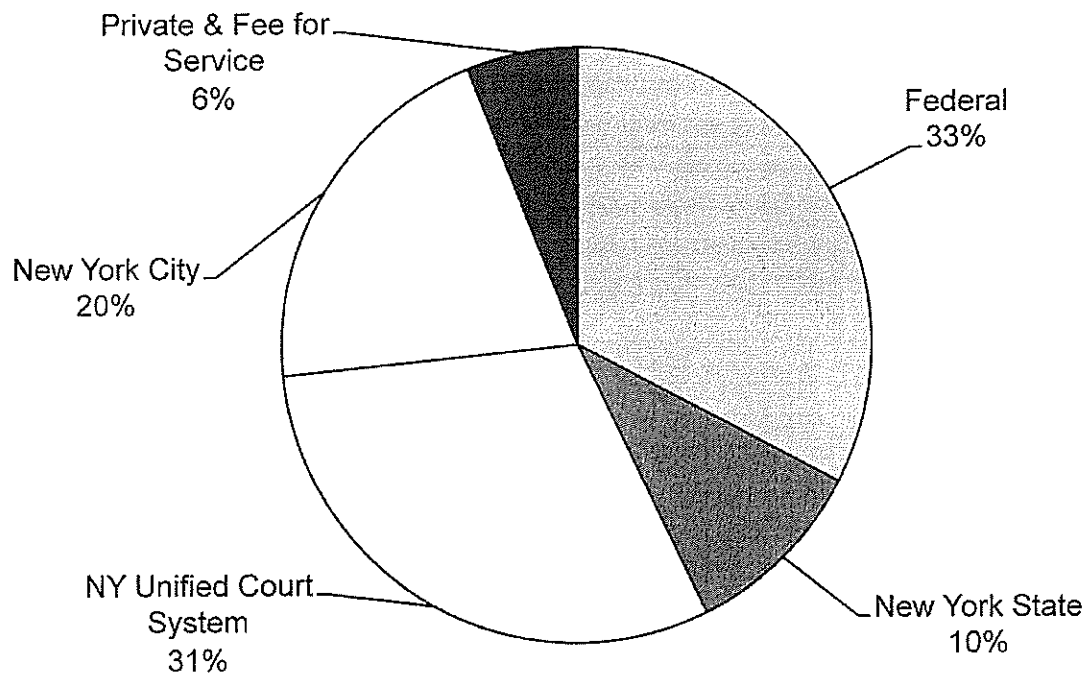
## CONCLUSION

The story of the Center for Court Innovation is one of constant experimentation. Through good times and bad, the Center remains committed to providing its constituents—that is, the judges, lawyers, litigants, victims of crime, community members and anyone impacted by the justice system—with new ideas and the tools needed to make the justice system both more fair and more effective.

With the help of its partners in government and the non-profit sector, the Center looks forward to the year ahead with renewed energy as it seeks to help the justice system live up to its highest ideals.

Center for Court Innovation  
Fiscal Year 2009  
Sources of Funding

Total Funding = \$15.4 Million



CENTER  
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COURT  
INNOVATION

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## FOR THE RECORD

Testimony submitted by Sarah Zeller-Berkman, Director of the Beacons National Strategy Initiative.

Youth Services Committee members,

I am writing today to implore you to stave off the cuts to Beacons. Beacons are a vital community infrastructure. With one model established over 20 years ago, you have both a youth and community development strategy. Beacons have established relationships in communities with youth, adults, community partners, and whole families. Due to the fact that Beacons serve people from <sup>ages</sup> 6-60 cuts to the base funding would be disastrous for many.

The youth leadership, service and job training that happens at Beacons helps our city capitalize on an untapped resource, our youth. There are countless stories of the youth leadership with their peers, younger children, and communities through service. This must be maintained. Our city needs the services that these programs allow our youth to provide to others.

Beacons are already severely underfunded and the model will undoubtedly be compromised if these cuts are instituted.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Zeller-Berkman

**Louis DeLuca  
Chief Executive Officer**

**United Activities Unlimited, Inc.**

**NYC Council FY'11 Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Dept. of Youth & Community Development**

**Date of Testimony  
March 15, 2010**

**Good morning Chairman Fidler, Council members and friends  
my name is Lou DeLuca and I am representing United Activities  
Unlimited, Inc., Staten Island.**

United Activities, is a community based agency that provides educational, recreational, counseling and social programs for Staten Island teenagers and young adults.

United Activities Unlimited was incorporated in 1977 as the result of a community initiative by concerned citizens who responded to the challenge of providing positive alternatives to young people in the wake of the financial crisis of New York City that forced the closing of many of the Board of Education afternoon and evening centers. A situation very similar to the fiscal crisis facing us today.

Since then UAU has grown from a single recreation center to a borough wide network of recreation centers and summer camps that offer quality programming in response to community needs. The activities centers offer tutorial and homework help, clubs, cultural enrichment and counseling as well as, after school child and sports concentrations. In addition, it provides a wide range of programs at its Beacon Center P.S. 18 for pre-kindergarten to Senior Citizens, such as tutoring, counseling, G.E.D., English as a Second Language, weight training, golf, karate, dance, ect.,. Our goal is to provide Island youth with positive alternatives for the use of free time. Currently United Activities Unlimited provides 31 centers for youth throughout Staten Island.

Beacons are vital to New York City for several reasons. Beacons are truly a hub of the community through which families can access comprehensive



services that are offered from a holistic perspective. Beacons offer academic supports that help youth develop the skills needed to perform better in school. They also provide social supports that help participants have better social interaction with peers and adults. Additionally, young people engage in career exploration and leadership development.

The Mayor's preliminary budget proposes a six percent cut for funding (\$1.6 mil) for FY 2010 and a seven percent (\$2.7 mil) cut for FY 2011. This means a reduction in existing Beacon contracts as well as no funding for enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST programs. The proposed cuts will substantially diminish the capacity of Beacons to serve the communities that need them most.

Beacons are more important than ever. As they did during difficult times over the past 20 years, Beacons remain open, a safe place to go despite strain and disruption in so much of the rest of the city's life. Beacons serve youth of all ages to meet their educational, social and civic goals, as well as adults. People of all ages benefit from opportunities for safety and belonging. Beacons have a pulse on community needs, because of established relationships with residents, community advisory boards and host of partnerships with other community-based organizations. Beacons provide cities with a local infrastructure on which to rapidly mobilized resources that build on community assets to meet the needs of neighborhood residents. Youth and adults members of the Beacon are encouraged and supported by the Beacon to take action to improve their own communities.

Moreover, the ability to equip families with the tools needed to thrive in today's tough economy will be significantly hampered without funding to enhance those programs that need it. Without question we are facing some daunting economic times, and difficult decisions must be made; however, financial solvency should not be achieved at the expense of one of our most vital commodities, the youth of New York City. On behalf of 16,000 youngsters in our programs. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify before you today, and appreciate your continued support of Beacon programming.

LD/ca



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

JOINT HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2011  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**TESTIMONY OF MELISSA NIEVES  
DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION  
UNION SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION**

March 15, 2010

Chairperson Vann, Chairperson Fidler, and members of the Committee on Community Development and the Committee on Youth Services, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today.

My name is Melissa Nieves, and I am the Director of Adult Education at Union Settlement Association, which is one of the oldest and largest social service providers in East Harlem, and has been serving that community since 1895. Union Settlement currently provides a wide array of services and programs, including early childhood education, youth academic, arts and recreational programs, job readiness and training, college prep, adult education, senior services, mental health counseling, home care and more.

I know that the scope of today's hearing covers a broad range of programs and services offered by or through the Department of Youth and Community Development. Union Settlement is a member of United Neighborhood Houses (UNH), and some of my colleagues from UNH are testifying today about cuts to youth programs, such as Out-of-School Time (OST), Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), and other essential services. I will not repeat any of the points they are making, and will simply note that Union Settlement strongly supports the restoration of cuts to these programs.

Instead, I will focus on the need to reverse the significant cuts to Adult Literacy and Immigrant Services. I have been in the field of Adult Education since 1991, and have seen tremendous progress in the financial and legislative support of Adult Education

in that time. Indeed, although we have grave concerns about current proposed cutbacks in this year's preliminary budget, I want to commend both the City Council and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for the past support you have shown for Adult Learners and the immigrant community as a whole.

In 2007, the City Council supported baseline funding for Adult Education and we have been able to create and sustain an effective program for our community as a result. Union Settlement Association has established a learning academy for adults, offering literacy and other classes from Level 0 through GED in three languages, and a job training and placement program. We are presently the only program in East Harlem offering Adult Education with the support of full comprehensive services. We change the lives of more than 1200 urban and immigrant adults and their families each year.

Unfortunately, our community is at risk of having their education and job training opportunities fall apart, unless we are able to restore the cuts in the preliminary budget – and in particular, the \$5 million for the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, \$1.5 million for the Adult Literacy Services Initiative, and \$1 million for DYCD's Adult Literacy Programs.

I urge the City Council to consider Adult Education not just as a program to help individuals transform their own lives – which it certainly is – but also as a vehicle for economic development. The tax dollars spent on Adult Education are a vital investment to rebuild impoverished neighborhoods through the investment in people.

At this time we are experiencing even a higher demand for classes, which we currently cannot meet, especially for adults at the lowest levels of literacy and English who cannot enter the job market due to their literacy challenges. Union Settlement's Adult Education program is also seeing higher numbers of young adults ages 17-24 who are out of school and out of work, many of whom are homeless and surviving the negativity of street life. Increased baseline funding is essential to handle the high demand and increased needs of adults registering for our services.

In East Harlem, we have a particular need to serve the large Spanish-speaking population, and the recent influx of native French speakers, particularly immigrants from West Africa. Adult Learners with higher literacy levels in their Native Language learn English faster, and have a more solid literate foundation to build upon in order to complete their GEDs and enter trainings or postsecondary education.

In order to assist low-literacy immigrant Adult Learners, we need funding that supports Spanish and French basic education and GED classes. GED in Spanish and French is an under tapped resource for the immigrant community. More outreach needs to be done to make adults aware of this opportunity to complete secondary education and acquire the credentials needed to qualify for employment, and to enter training programs or to enter college.

Another significant problem is that the adults we are serving are suffering from the economic downturn and the high cost of food and transportation. Many of the adults we serve are unemployed, surviving on public assistance, SSI or Social Security benefits, or do not have any type of income. Many others are under-employed in low-wage jobs that do not provide sufficient income to support their families. We are witnessing more and more the need to support our participants with transportation. Although we serve primarily adults from the local community, who are within walking distance, we also have students who are from other neighborhoods who would like to access our services but cannot afford the transportation cost.

We also have challenges sending adults on job interviews or job training, because they do not have transportation money. Our low-income students, many of whom receive food stamps, are finding that by the end of the month their food pantry is bare. Many adults come to school hungry, opting to save food and their money for their children. Adult Learners cannot successfully be retained in programs, if we cannot assist them in accessing our programs, and getting to and from the job interviews that will allow them to obtain employment and support their families.

There is no question that New York City's investment in Adult Education reaps a many-fold return to the City's taxpayers. Individuals who lack literacy and English language skills have an extremely difficult time entering the workforce, and must rely upon City-funded housing, food, and other services. However, if we provide these individuals with educational opportunities, they will be able to find employment, pay

taxes, start businesses, and support themselves and their families. This has been true of generation after generation of immigrants in New York, and these difficult economic times are the worst time to cut the vital lifeline that these educational classes provide to these families.

Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to testify today. Union Settlement looks forward to continuing to serve the Adult Learners of New York through this challenging economic time. I urge the City Council to support us in our effort to continue this mission and to strengthen our local economy through education.



# CAMBA

where you can

**Valerie Barton-Richardson**

**Deputy Executive Director**

**CAMBA**

**Written testimony submitted to the  
Youth Services Committee of the New York City Council  
Lew Fidler, Chair**

**NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Department of Youth & Community Development**

**March 15, 2010**

Good afternoon. My name is Valerie Barton Richardson and I am a Deputy Executive Director at CAMBA. Thank you to Committee Chair Council member Lew Fidler and the entire Youth Services committee for this opportunity to submit written testimony at today's hearing.

Founded in 1977, CAMBA has grown in direct response to the needs of the Brooklyn community and provides services to 35,000 individuals and families annually through an integrated set of six program areas: Economic Development, Education and Youth Development, Family Support Services, HIV/AIDS Services, Housing Services and Development, and Legal Services. Through a diverse and dedicated staff of more than 1,400 employees, CAMBA connects people with opportunities to enhance their quality of life. As a UNH member CAMBA embodies a neighborhood based multi-service approach to improving the lives of New Yorkers and the communities in which they live.

In tough economic times, more than ever, the City needs to maintain the vital youth services our families depend on. Cutting these cost effective services now will have tremendous impact in the long term on children's opportunities to learn, grow and be safe... on parents' abilities to hold onto their jobs and their homes. ... on young people's opportunities to enter college or complete their college education and find jobs. It impacts on the City's ability to be responsive, as in supporting the hundreds of thousands of families affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. And we know these services help to prevent more costly expenditures in the future.



The magnitude of the proposed cuts to the support system of families is staggering, well over \$39 million dollars<sup>1</sup> from DYCD's youth services portfolio alone, including cuts to:

- **OST** that will eliminate 33 school-year only programs in elementary and middle schools (4,110 slots) as well as summer programs in 30 middle schools (1,940 slots.) In addition, the Preliminary Budget does not include the \$6.0 million in federal stimulus funding used last year to restore OST Option II, a flexible after-school program model that leverages private matching funds and serves 10,750 youth in NYC.
- **Beacons** that will force 66 of the City's 80 Beacons to reduce their contracts by 6% in FY 2010 and 7% in 2011, and will eliminate enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST middle school programs. The Preliminary Budget does not include the \$3.5 million restored by the City Council last year for Beacon programs or the \$2.3 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) stimulus funding used to support Beacons in 2010.
- **SYEP** that will decrease the number of summer jobs available for youth from 52,255 (as was available in summer 2009) to 17,200. The Preliminary Budget proposes to cut SYEP by \$999,000 in FY 2011 and does not include the \$20.7 million in stimulus for SYEP included in the FY 2010 budget.

What will happen to families? I'd like to share the collective effect of some of the cuts on a neighborhood we serve.

CAMBA's Kids World program located at PS 269 in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, has one of the 33 OST Option I school-year only contracts slated to be totally eliminated. The summer camp component of Kids World is funded through the Option II contract that is not included in the preliminary budget. Together these 2 contracts offer year-round services to over 200 children.

Kids World provides literacy development, academic support aligned to the school day curriculum, exposure to the arts, conflict resolution and mentoring in a safe environment that working parents depend upon after-school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and on school holidays and during the summer from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The program has 93% daily attendance rate and a waiting list of 35 children.

If the OST cuts are approved, more than 200 children will be left without a safe place to be after-school, on school holidays and in the summer...that's more than 1000 hours of programming to keep children safe and engaged...GONE.

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<sup>1</sup> United Neighborhood Houses FY 2011 City Preliminary Budget Priorities

Why? In making the OST cuts, DYCD used education and poverty data to identify priority and non priority zip codes and the configuration of contracts, school-year or year-round, as criteria to decide which programs would be preserved and which would be completely defunded in FY'11.

Kids World, located in PS 269 sits 1/2 block outside of 11226 which is a priority zip code. The school's zip code is instead 11210, a non-priority zip code. It's in Community District 17, which has families in great poverty, low-income working class families, and dare I say, some middle class families. It is also a heavily immigrant neighborhood, with 16,000 families from Haiti and as we know in the 2000 census count, Brooklyn was very undercounted. It is not the poorest neighborhood in the City but it is far from being the wealthiest. Does this mean the children and parents of Kids World should have their after-school program completely eliminated? I fear that the proposed approach represents a step towards dismantling of the idea that all children and all families need after-school, not just those poor enough to qualify for it or those with the means to pay for it, but everyone.

What will happen to the children if the OST cuts are approved? They will have nowhere safe to be after-school. Despite close proximity to targeted zip codes, three of the four OST programs serving elementary school children in zip code 11210 are slated for elimination. The one remaining OST program in the zip code is at capacity and more than 1/2 mile away. In neighboring zip codes 11226, 11203 and 11218: all the OST programs serving elementary school children are at or above capacity. What will happen to the children who attend Kids World if the OST cuts are approved? Children will be alone at home, in our parks and playgrounds, or on the streets after-school and in the summer. Parent will have to choose between keeping their jobs and keeping their children safe.

They will not have the neighborhood Beacon Center to fall back on due to cuts slated for Beacons. CAMBA's Beacon Center program is also located at PS 269 and in fact works in tandem with Kids World to provide parents with seamless care. This Beacon is one of the 66 already experiencing a 6% cut this fiscal year FY10 and even deeper cuts next fiscal year with a 7% cut to base funding and a loss of city council enhancements. The priority target population for Beacons is middle school students, not elementary.

CAMBA's Beacon Center at PS 269 is well known as a hub for families to access integrated and comprehensive services including after-school for middle school youth, summer camp, summer jobs, and other educational and recreational activities during the evening and on Saturdays. This year, we're serving 1,200 people, including 288 middle school youth. Our Beacon features a middle school club model where young people can choose between a books & basketball program, dance classes, media/technology workshops and other clubs that deepen their learning by combining practice in academic and communication skills in the context of activities they love. Evening and Saturday activities feature Karate and we have over 110 members participating, including a father

and son who both gained their brown belts together. We also offer chess, soccer, robotics, academic tutoring, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. We offer pathways for young people to grow via our Leadership Council and college tours that expose them to educational options. These young people move into employment in after-school and other CAMBA programs. In addition, our Beacon offers opportunities for youth to give back as many did recently in raising over \$1,788 for Haiti Relief.

If the Preliminary Budget is approved, the neighborhood will lose more than 45% of its current funding between the loss of the Kids World Option I and II contracts, the cuts to the Beacon base budget and the loss of past City Council restorations.

In order to support New Yorkers who are struggling across our communities, to prevent more costly and serious problems including poverty, homelessness, and increased unemployment, and to preserve the health of our city as a whole, I ask that you fully restore all cuts to youth services as follows:

- \$15.5 million for OST
- \$10.13 million for Beacons
- needed funds for SYEP to provide 52,255 to NYC youth this summer
- the \$12.54 million combined for TASC, NYA/Street Outreach, and City Council Discretionary Funding for Youth Services.

In order to mitigate the negative impact of the economic crisis and put NYC on track for long-term success, I ask that you consider implementing revenue and cost-saving measures including: adopting an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, adopting a tax on plastic bags, and increasing the use of alternatives for incarceration of juveniles.

Thank you again.

**Amoy Belvett**

**Parent**

**Written testimony submitted to the  
Youth Services Committee of the New York City Council  
Lew Fidler, Chair**

**NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Department of Youth & Community Development**

**March 15, 2010**

My name is Amoy Belvett. My two children Samoi and Andrew attend the CAMBA Kids World OST program and summer camp. I am a working parent and I'm also attending college. After-school is essential to my family because when my children leave school there is no one home to watch them. If there was no after-school my children, who are in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, would have to stay home alone.

I like that they do homework in after-school because when I come home from school or work, I can spend more quality time with them, and not have to worry about homework. I also appreciate the holiday program, because if there was no program, I would have to take the day off from work because I have no other child care.

Please restore \$15.5 million for Kids World and other Out of School Time programs that working parents like me depend on. Thank you.

**Annette Alvarado**

**Parent**

**Written testimony submitted to the  
Youth Services Committee of the New York City Council  
Lew Fidler, Chair**

**NYC Council FY '11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:  
Department of Youth & Community Development**

**March 15, 2010**

My name is Annette Alvarado and my daughter Alexis attends the CAMBA Kids World OST program and summer camp in East Flatbush, Brooklyn.

I think the city is doing a disservice for the children and leaving them with no place safe to go. There is nowhere for the children to go in the afternoon - the only park in the neighborhood is the one next to the school, but the park is unsafe because there are adults in the park doing things that children should not see. The city is sending a message to the children that they don't matter.

Up until last year I was a stay at home mother, but that changed when my husband lost his job. My family experienced financial hardship, including being in danger of eviction. Crystal, the coordinator of the Kids World OST program, was able to put me in contact with support services at CAMBA. I went back to work to help support my family. My husband and I are now working. If there is no after-school next year, I don't know who would watch my daughter Alexis. I am also worried about what will happen to my daughter this summer - I don't know what I will do if there is no summer camp.

Please restore \$15.5 million for Kids World and other Out of School Time programs that working parents like me depend on. Thank you.

TESTIMONY

by

Marissa Sperling

*Director, Horizons Academy*

Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Inc.

at the Preliminary Budget Hearing of the

New York City Council Youth Services Committee

3/15/10

\*

My name is Marissa Sperling and I serve as the Director of Horizons Academy at the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, a not-for-profit, community-based social service agency, founded in 1973, which, provides a wide-spectrum of senior citizen, youth, vocational, immigrant and educational services to the frail elderly, educationally at-risk youth, immigrants and vocationally disadvantaged poor of the communities of our City. In addition, we provide technical assistance services to enhance the management capacity of nonprofit organizations throughout New York, through our acclaimed NonProfit HelpDesk division.

Rabbi Wiener, our Executive Director, our Board of Directors, our staff and, more importantly, the clients we serve, remain profoundly indebted to Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav and her dedicated staff for their outstanding, visionary leadership over the past years in preparing for and implementing critical changes to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the administration of the services DYCD provides.

Horizons Academy is an initiative that was spawned in 2006 through a generous grant from the Youth Workforce Development Initiative of the NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) which allowed us to serve an average of 200 students each year under the initial 3 year In School Youth (ISY) contract.

Horizons Academy is home based out of Abraham Lincoln High school and was designed to encourage 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to develop high-reaching, long-term aspirations focusing on successfully transitioning to college and careers following graduation. The students who comprise the program are Coney Island or neighboring area residents who are hand-selected to participate because they have been identified as at-risk for reasons that include a low income

level, below average academic performance or other disadvantages and barriers. Horizons Academy's mission is to inspire these students to remain in school and graduate with a high-school diploma. Beyond that, we provide them with tools to enter post-secondary education or some form of paid employment following graduation.

The program encourages student involvement in secondary education preparation, community-minded activities and career training. With the support of DYCD, Horizons Academy has been able to further expand its programming to include S.A.T. preparation, college counseling, tutoring, job and internship placement assistance, computer studies and yoga. In 2007, DYCD allowed us to develop a state of the art 15 computer station tech lab fully equipped with color printers, fax machine, color copiers, scanners and a multitude of cutting edge software.

The students who benefit from this program, children of low-income Coney Island families coming from a cycle of dependency, would never otherwise have access to the career training and educational opportunities they have at Horizons. As a result, they are overcoming the odds that have been stacked against them. The impact is profound and Horizons can best be illustrated by the students themselves.

Among them is Sonia Isaac. Sonia's mom passed away when she was only two years old. She's been raised by her sisters. She is proud that this June, she will be the first person in her family to attend college. In her own words, "Horizons Academy is the best thing to have happened in my life. The jobs that they offer have prepared me for the real world. I was able to do something that I love through Horizons Academy. I was able to teach children at a day care center and get hands-on teaching experience. Horizons Academy was also a great place to go and ask questions from educated adults who are always available to answer all your questions."

Bismah Shaukat says, "From my perspective, Horizons Academy is the backbone of Abraham Lincoln High School. It is a key part of what makes Lincoln's sense of school spirit. It keeps reminding every student that, other than the basic requirements of high school education, we have a responsibility to participate in community activities. To me, Horizons Academy is a major part of my education. I got help for my SAT as well as a job for the summer."

Then there's Sedaine Mason. The eldest of six children in her family, she was raised by a single mother. Sedaine helps cook meals, take care of her siblings and even finds time to work at her uncle's restaurant. Her dream, however, is to one day work as a pediatric nurse. Through the JCC, she secured an internship at the Roberta Bright Early Learning Center, giving her work experience in her desired field. According to Sedaine, "I didn't even know that I could get a job like this before Horizons Academy."

And there are those like Infra Walayat. For her Horizons Academy has become a part of her family. She says, "A major part of my senior and junior years have been spent involved in Horizon's Academy. Horizons Academy is a great program that has lots to offer. Ever since I joined this program, I feel as if I became part of a family. I'm remarkably grateful that Horizons

**Helena Ku**  
**Director, School Based Youth Development Centers,**  
**Queens Community House**



**Written Testimony submitted to the**  
**NYC Council FY'11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:**  
**Department of Youth and Community Development**  
**March 15, 2010**

Good Morning Chairman Fidler, Chairman Vann and Councilmembers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and submit written testimony to the Youth Services Committee and Community Development Committee of the New York City Council regarding the Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary Budget. My name is Helena Ku and I am the Director of School Based Youth Development Centers of the Queens Community House. Queens Community House (QCH) was established in the tradition of the settlement house, is a member of United Neighborhood Houses and Neighborhood Family Services Coalition. QCH is a multi-service agency that through broad based innovative leadership offers programs and services which help all people improve their lives and work together to strengthen their communities. I have worked for the Community House for the last 17 years and started there as a social work intern, and currently supervise our school based programs located in 9 public schools throughout very diverse and high need areas of Queens.

We serve over 6000 youth and their families annually throughout Queens, both new immigrants and long time residents, young and old, from poor and working class families and diverse ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds that is representative of the county of Queens.

I am here to speak on behalf of the Beacon Model of Programming today. As you know there is one Beacon in every city council district. Beacons are community hubs and essential supports located within schools that offer an array of comprehensive intergenerational programming. We are open year round, on Saturdays, for holiday camp and for summer camp. We provide supports academically, socially, recreationally and economically. We promote a partnership between community and school. Research documents how well the positioning of a Community Based partner can serve the needs of the families and the community of a school. That as equal partners that promote all day learning, we collectively can promote, extend and expand the learning of not only our students, but the family and community. Yet, at this time, while at the Federal Level there is greater recognition of many community and school partnerships as ideal models to be expanded upon our city locally is looking to cut out the infrastructures and core components that position us so well to serve both school and community.

The Mayor's preliminary budget proposes a six percent cut in funding (\$1.6 mil) for FY 2010 and a seven percent (\$2.7 mil) cut for FY 2011. This means a reduction in 66 existing Beacon contracts as well as no funding for enhancements at 11 consolidated Beacon/OST programs.

(over—p.1)

**Queens Community House**



Our Beacon has been operational at the same middle school for the last 10 years and has had the same level of funding over the last decade as well. We serve over 200 middle school youth a day and over 1000 community members annually. Yet we have seen increased risky behavioral issues, families under more duress and the school experiencing tremendous pressures and accountability requirements. We have been the continuity to our school community when they experienced school administration changes, helping families to navigate the country, helping our students become leaders whether by going up to Albany to speak about the importance of summer jobs or civic action and community engagement where they were successful in getting a stop sign put up near our school in the last few months. We have provided jobs for many of our young people and trained and developed them into educators, youth leaders and some are on staff with us today. We have been a site for training over 400 young people last year for summer jobs.

The proposed cuts would mean fewer families are served but more importantly a stabilizing hub for our community would be compromised. Reduced hours, reduced staffing, reduced activities and opportunities all will hamper our ability to equip our families meet their increased needs and reliance upon the human service field. That now when our vulnerable families need us even more, we will be severely limited in our capacity to serve those ever growing needs.

I understand many difficult decisions have to be made during these economic times, however financial solvency should not be achieved at the expense of our youth, the Beacons, and the human service field that need to address all the more the increasing demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I appreciate and urge your continued support of youth services and Beacon Programming. We endorse the revenue and cost-saving measures that could help balance the budget and avoid cuts to vital human services. These include the adoption of an excise tax on sugar-sweetened beverages; adopting a tax on plastic bags; increasing the use of alternatives to incarceration for juveniles; and reducing the use of high-priced, for profit professional consultants.

Testimony to the Youth Services Committee and Community Development Committee of  
the New York City Council  
By Queens Community House  
March 15, 2010

Good afternoon, Chairman Fidler, Chairman Vann and Councilmembers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the devastating impact of the proposed cuts in youth and community services to young people and families in our Queens communities that include Jamaica, Corona/Elmhurst, Forest Hills, Rego Park, Flushing, Jackson Heights and Astoria. Queens Community House is a member of United Neighborhood Houses and Neighborhood Family Services Coalition and endorse their call for restoration of funding for youth services and adult literacy.

**Though our DYCD-funded programs, Queens Community House (QCH) serves over 6000 young people through programs funded through Neighborhood Youth Alliance, City Council Discretionary, Summer Youth Employment, Out of School Time, and Beacons.** Our trained staff engage youth in the streets and local hang-outs, schools and word of mouth through the neighborhood.

Through city funding we provide the essential supports for children to be safe and positive from age 5 into adulthood. Our families are mostly low-income working people, including many immigrants, who have no alternatives for safe after school other than our free programs. Without Beacons, OST and Neighborhood Youth Alliance funds, we will see children roaming unsupervised during after school hours, putting them seriously at risk of harm.

**The Summer Youth Employment Program is a critical** to the system of care for children, and has become an essential part of the social service infrastructure. Most of the city's free summer camps rely on SYEP for staffing. **As you can see from the attached list of worksites, 17 childcare and summer camps, 5 cultural organizations, 13 non-for-profit social service centers and 7 health care providers benefited from the work of the Queens Community House summer youth.**

The need for summer jobs is pressing. In our area of Queens we received 2110 applications for only 430 slots last year. This year, with the proposed reduction to 35%, we will have only 150 jobs. **That means that only 1 in 14 job-seeking youth will be able to work in Central Queens.** These jobs are essential to the youth's future success; many spend their modest wages on essential household expenses, school clothing, and transportation and textbooks for college.

As important for the survival of New York's immigrant families is Adult Literacy and Immigrant Services funding through the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI), City Council Adult Literacy Services Initiative, and NYC DYCD Adult Literacy Programs (NYCALI). Too often we hear complaints that people who immigrate to the US should speak English. With existing funding we **teach English to 2500 people each year (650 a**

**day), and turn away 1 in 4 applicants** during our busiest times whose needs we cannot meet at current funding levels. Without free English language instruction, parents cannot communicate with their children's teachers, health care is inaccessible, and fair employment elusive.

On behalf of the more than 8000 families in Queens that QCH serves through youth and community services we urge restoration for youth and community programs. We endorse the cost-saving measure proposed including taxes on unhealthy items such as sweetened beverages, taxes on polluting plastic bags, elimination of high-priced for-profit consultants, and alternatives to incarceration for juveniles.

Susan Matloff-Nieves, Associate Executive Director  
Queens Community House  
108-25 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive  
Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375  
[smatloff@queenscommunityhouse.org](mailto:smatloff@queenscommunityhouse.org)

# SYEP - Worksite Applications Report Write Report

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### Worksite Report Writer For 2009

Worksite Name	Worksite Type	Industry/Sector	Industry/Sector Other	Worksite Address	Worksite Borough	Worksite Zip Code	Participants Assigned
A G Media Corp	Private/For-Profit	Advertising	Advertising	67-53 Woodhaven Blvd, Suite 103	Queens	11374	0
A Zephyr Design, LLC	Private/For-Profit	Event Planning and Coordinating	Event Planning and Coordinating	122 W27th Street	Manhattan	10001	0
ARGO Mechanical Services, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Air Conditioning/Heating Service/Installation	Air Conditioning/Heating Service/Installation	36-14 32nd Street	Queens	11106	0
P.S. 136 (Camp Kingdom)	Private/For-Profit	Education, Arts, Recreation Day Camp	Education, Arts, Recreation Day Camp	201-15 115th Avenue	Queens	11412	30
Spish Management, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Outdoor pool and recreation center	Outdoor pool and recreation center	61-26 Grand Central Parkway	Queens	11375	14
The Genesis Society, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Fitness/Health	Fitness/Health	102-06 Metropolitan Avenue, Lower Level	Queens	11375	4
Volunteers of America - New Hope	Non-Profit	Emergency transitional domestic violence shelter	Emergency transitional domestic violence shelter	P.O. Box 070460	Brooklyn	11207	0
AI Center Recreation Center	Government	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	131-40 Fowler Avenue	Queens	11355	13
Arrow Community Center	Government	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	35-30 35th Street	Queens	11106	3
Lost Battalion Hall	Government	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	93-29 Queens Blvd.	Queens	11374	7
My Gym Childrens Fitness Center	Private/For-Profit	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	176-60 Union Turnpike	Queens	11366	2
Racine Berkow Associates, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	37-05 Greenpoint Ave.	Queens	11101	2
The Foundation for Filipino Artists, Inc.	Non-Profit	Arts and Recreation	Arts and Recreation	31-31 60th Street	Queens	11101	1
Kehliak Septhdim	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	150-62 78th Road 1st floor	Queens	11367	18
Melcom X Day Care Center	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	111-12 Northern Blvd	Queens	11366	9
Queens Community House, Inc. - Pomonok Center	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	67-09 Kissena Blvd	Queens	11367	11
Queens Community House - Forest Hills Site	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	108-25 62nd Drive	Queens	11375	68
Queens Community House - Jackson Heights Site	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	74-09 37th Ave, Suite 400	Queens	11372	4
Queens Community House - Beacon at JHS #190	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	68-17 Austin Street	Queens	11375	4
Queens Community House-Generation Q	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	30-74 Steinway Street- 2nd floor	Queens	11375	13
Queens Community House-Kew Gardens Comm. Center	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	80-02 Kew Gardens Road- Suite 202	Queens	11103	5
Queens Community House-Rego Park Senior Center	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	93-29 Queens Boulevard	Queens	11415	2
SNAP (Services Now for Adult Person, Inc.)	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	80-45 Winchbury Blvd, building 4	Queens	11374	2
South Asian Youth Action (SAAYA)	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	54-05 Seabury st.	Queens	11427	4
The Center for the Women of NY	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	Queens Borough Hall 120-55 Queens Blvd	Queens	11373	1
United Hindu Cultural Council Senior Center	Non-Profit	Community/Social Service	Community/Social Service	118-09 Sutter Avenue	Queens	11424	4
Lewis H. Lattimer House Museum	Non-Profit	Cultural Program	Cultural Program	34-41 137 street	Queens	11420	6
123 Little Steps LLC	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	198-07 Murdock Avenue	Queens	11354	4
Blue Dolphin Summer Camp	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	88-24 Myrtle Avenue	Queens	11412	4
Brighter Days Daycare	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	145-55 105th Avenue	Queens	11385	4
Central Queens YM & YWHA	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	75 Colonial Springs Road	Queens	11435	13
Childrens Camps, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	164-26 Grand Central Pkwy	Queens	11435	3
First Baptist Church of Corona	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	100-10 Astoria Blvd	Queens	11432	4
10 BASE CHILDCARE, LLC	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	9115 79 STREET	Queens	11369	4
Kissena Park: Park House	Government	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	100-10 Astoria Blvd	Queens	11369	11
Korean Church of Queens Summer School	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	9115 79 STREET	Queens	11369	2
Mt. Olivet Christian School	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	Oak Ave. and 164th street	Queens	11421	2
Noahs Ark Progressive Learning Center	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	89-00 23rd Ave.	Queens	11355	6
Queens Community House- M.S. # 217 Site	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	33-27 97th Street	Queens	11369	3
Queens Community House-Early Childhood Center	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	38-20 Bell Boulevard	Queens	11368	7
Raymond O'Connor Day Camp	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	85-05 164th Street	Queens	11361	9
South Queens Boys and Girls club	Government	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	110-01 62nd Drive	Queens	11435	5
Tender Years Day Care Center	Non-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	33rd Avenue and 210th Street	Queens	11375	13
Via Victory Group Family Daycare	Private/For-Profit	Day Care/Day Camp	Day Care/Day Camp	110-04 Atlantic Avenue	Queens	11361	4
Girls Inc. of NYC- 120 Wall Street NY, NY 10005	Private/For-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	199-15 Linden Blvd	Queens	11419	9
Harlem Childrens Society	Non-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	211-19 99th Ave	Queens	11412	4
IMPACT Coalition	Non-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	283 Adams Street #202	Queens	11429	2
Queens Community House-Voyages Prep. H.S.	Non-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	536 East 82nd Street	Brooklyn	11201	0
The Urban Assembly	Non-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	330 West 42 Street	Manhattan	10028	1
The New York City Police Museum	Non-Profit	Educational Services	Educational Services	45-10 94th Street- 2nd floor	Manhattan	10036	1
State Farm Insurance-John Hogan Insurance	Private/For-Profit	Financial Services	Financial Services	100 Old Slip	Queens	11373	1
State Farm Insurance-Mark D'Angelo Agency, Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Financial Services	Financial Services	90 Broad Street, Suite 2101	Manhattan	10005	5
State Farm- Darryl Dodson Agency	Private/For-Profit	Financial Services	Financial Services	112-34 Francis Lewis Boulevard	Queens	10004	0
State Farm-Edward Min Insurance Agency	Private/For-Profit	Financial Services	Financial Services	222-18 Union Turnpike	Queens	11364	1
Office of NYS Assemblymen Jose Peralta	Government	Financial Services	Financial Services	172-15 Hillside Ave	Queens	11364	2
Boulevard AIP Associates	Private/For-Profit	Government Agency	Government Agency	205-07 Hillside Ave, Suite 11	Queens	11432	1
BQLL Area Health Education Center-Queens Hosp Site	Non-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	82-11 37th Ave, Suite 709A	Queens	11423	0
Castle Senior Living at Forest Hills	Private/For-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	7161 159th Street	Queens	11372	2
Forest View Center for Rehab and Nursing	Private/For-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	82-68 164th Street	Queens	11365	1
Integrated Medical	Private/For-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	108-25 Horace Harding Expwy	Queens	11432	7
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center	Non-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	71-20 110th Street	Queens	11366	7
New York State Veterans Home at St. Albans	Non-Profit	Healthcare/Medical	Healthcare/Medical	150-31 Union Turnpike	Queens	11375	3
EXIT Kingdom Realty	Private/For-Profit	Real Estate/Property	Real Estate/Property	6900 Van Wyck Expressway	Queens	11367	1
				178-50 Linden Blvd	Queens	11418	6
				68-56 Groton Street	Queens	11434	10
					Queens	11375	2

EZS&Gold Inc.	Private/For-Profit	Retail/Trading	21 W 47th street suite 501	Manhattan	10036	7
Harlem Live Inc.	Non-Profit	Technology	135 W 123rd Street Basement	Manhattan	10027	3
Peoples Production House	Non-Profit	Technology	265 Canal Street Suite 410	Manhattan	10013	1

Number of records returned: 66

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# QUEENS COMMUNITY HOUSE

108-25 62<sup>nd</sup> Drive, Forest Hills, New York, 11375

Phone: (718) 592-5757 Fax: (718) 592-2933 [www.qchnyc.org](http://www.qchnyc.org)

**Jennifer Buffa**

Children's Services Coordinator, Queens Community House

## Written testimony submitted to the

### NYC Council FY'11 Preliminary Budget Hearing:

Department of Youth and Community Development

March 15, 2010

Thank you, Chairman Fidler, Chairman Vann, and Council Members, for this occasion to address the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget. My name is Jennifer Buffa, and I coordinate an OST-I-Funded After School Program at the Queens Community House in Forest Hills. The Queens Community House (QCH), is a member organization of United Neighborhood Houses, and we champion their appeal to restore OST-I and -II funding for programs like ours. QCH's Out of School Time programs are scheduled to be eliminated in the new fiscal year.

### OST-I

Over the course of last week, I watched as our OST-I parents and children grappled with the news of the program's FY'11 elimination. Overwhelmed by questions and confusion, I took a moment to absorb the impact of the 75 devastated families. The QCH disadvantage, I explained to them, is our proximity to the higher income neighborhoods in Forest Hills. From the City's perspective, ours is not a neighborhood in need. I am here today to share with the Council more accurate and representative information about the Queens Community House families:

- 70% of our OST-I-funded children qualify for free or reduced lunch at school
- 23% of our OST-I-funded children belong to families led by single mothers
- Our daily Rate of Participation is at 95%
- 48% of our children have siblings that currently attend, or plan to attend, our program
- Our families have a **critical need** for free programming

**Scenario for Thought:** As our OST-I slots are limited, and enrollment is first come, first serve, our registration day is not unlike a zoo. As desperation takes over, our parents arrive at 5:00am, young children in tow, hoping to get through the line and secure a spot before they have to be at work. Crowds of hopeless parents are turned away due to lack of available spots. Without OST funding, we will have to fall back on fee-based programming. Some parents will scramble, borrow, and sacrifice to pull together the fees. Others, those who are most in need, will have to go without After School for their children. Registration day will roll around this September, and the Community House lobby will be quiet; no lines, no crowds, no desperate parents to turn away. Why stand in line for a program you can't afford?

## **OST-II**

Many of QCH's parents have children in both our OST-I and OST-II programs. Our OST-II programming is widely known and has a long history of targeting at-risk youth. Over **600 young people** attend our "Teen Center" activities each week, 400 of which meet the participation rate required by OST. Within the walls of the Community House, these teens are safe, supervised, and each individual's emotional and physical health is evaluated regularly. During evening programming, I often find myself navigating through crowds of energetic, opinionated, bright, eager teens, all of whom have chosen to attend free programming at a community center rather than to engage in destructive or unrewarding behavior.

**Scenario for Thought:** Last Friday evening, I stayed at the Community House late to finish up some work. I could hardly concentrate due to the 150 thunderous, break-dancing teenagers right outside my office. They arrive between the hours of 7:00pm and 10:00pm, without fail, every Friday night. Those who have attended the free programs for years help the newer, younger dancers to feel welcome. Around 9:00pm, the gym is packed with young people, music blaring, groups cheering each other on, and me, trying to finish my work a mere twenty feet away. The truth is I stay to absorb the environment. The power of 150 young people, gathered at a community center on a Friday night is moving. This OST-II program is not scheduled to receive funding as of July 1, 2010. Just what will these hundreds of teens do with all that unoccupied time on a Friday night?

### **Our Appeal to You:**

We urge the Council to restore the \$7.488 million OST-I funding that keeps 4,110 elementary children safe and engaged when they're not in school and the \$4.6 million initiative that provides 10,750 teens with free and fun, supervised services.

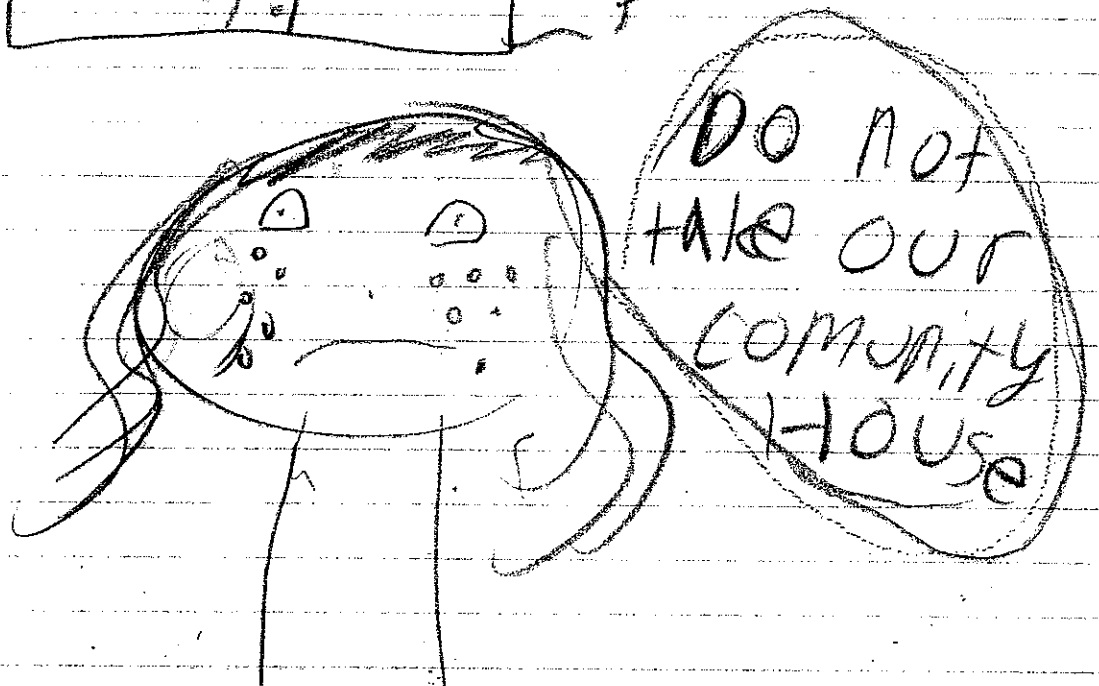
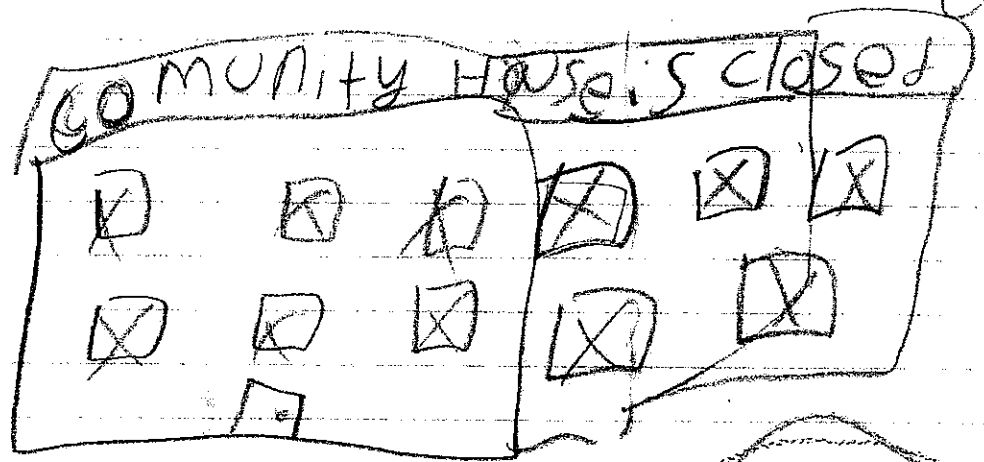
Please see the attached letters from a concerned parent and child.

Thank you.

7/10/17, Natalie FV2019

Dear goverment

Please, please, please do not shut  
down our comunity House I beg you  
my mom has to go to work and  
she can not pick me up at 2:40  
at school or else she will get  
no money I beg you so so so  
much





03/09/2010

To whom it may concern,

This is the first time my child has attended the after school program. As a single mother I find it very difficult to find affordable and convenient child care. I work full time and attend college during the week, and I cannot provide my child with the activities she needs if she was not enrolled. The after school program provides this. They have helped me maintain my employment and college education. My child receives the home work help she needs and participates in activities that has helped her perform better at her school (P.S 220). This afterschool program has made my child become more social with other children and has helped my child control her behavior at PS.220. The after school program staff has always kept me informed of my child health and behavior. They have given me updates on my child performance and communicate with my child's school when I am not able to. They have worked with me and my child and there has been improvement. Funding is needed at the after school program and to discontinue these funds would cause a great deal of problems for both parents and children. Please continue to support the program.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Pena". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Testimony of Rukia Lumumba,  
Assistant Director of Youth Advocacy Services, Center for Community  
Alternatives  
New York City Council  
Youth Services Committee  
March 15, 2010

Good afternoon Chairman Fidler and other Council members. My name is Rukia Lumumba. I am the Assistant Director of Youth Advocacy Services for the Center for Community Alternatives, also known as CCA which provides alternative-to-incarceration (ATI) and reentry services for youth and adults. I am speaking here on behalf of the ATI and Reentry Coalition whose membership includes CASES, Fortune Society, the Osborne Association, the Women's Prison Association, the CEO and the Legal Action Center.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today, and first would like to thank the Council for its ongoing support of CCA's programs, in particular its support of our alternative-to-detention and incarceration services for youth who are in the Family Court system.

We understand the difficult economic circumstances and challenges facing the City of New York. Yet even in the face of these challenges, continued support for youth development programs in general and programs that serve youth in the juvenile justice system are imperative. As we now know as a result of the State Task Force on Reforming Juvenile Justice and the U.S. Department of Justice report, conditions in the State's juvenile justice facilities are deplorable and unsafe for children. As a result, judges are referring increasing numbers of youth to CCA and other ATI programs. In fact, this year, CCA met our annual

contract goals and objectives for our Council-funded program in the first six months of the year.

ATI programs for youth are able to serve youth in the community in ways that achieve better outcomes for children, cost savings for taxpayers and public safety for communities. For example, last year, 93% of the youth in our Council-funded Family Court program remained arrest-free. The cost for our programs and most ATIs funded by the Council is about \$10,000 per participant compared to annual per person costs of juvenile incarceration of \$210,000 or adult incarceration of \$45,000.

In order to sustain our successes, ATI programs need continued, if not expanded, support so that we can serve the increasing number of youth who courts now want to send to our programs and provide youth development services in addition to the community monitoring. The ATI and Reentry Coalition is requesting Council funding of \$4.889 million, a return to the funding that we received in Fiscal Year 2008. This will enable us to deliver the youth-specific ATI services that directly affect youth, as well as services that help their parents become effective parents and safe and productive individuals.

We see the challenges that youth at risk face in their daily lives, challenges that undermine their ability to make sound and healthy decisions about their future. Yet we also see the strength and survival skills of these young people and youth development programming can promote and support these youth to fulfill their dreams.

Most young people with whom we work are economically disadvantaged, have had difficulties in school and are, at best, marginally attached to school. They come from impoverished families and communities - conditions that in turn undermine strong family life. The young women have unique needs - are all too frequently victims of sexual abuse - incest and relationship violence - and they are also at high risk of becoming teenage moms.

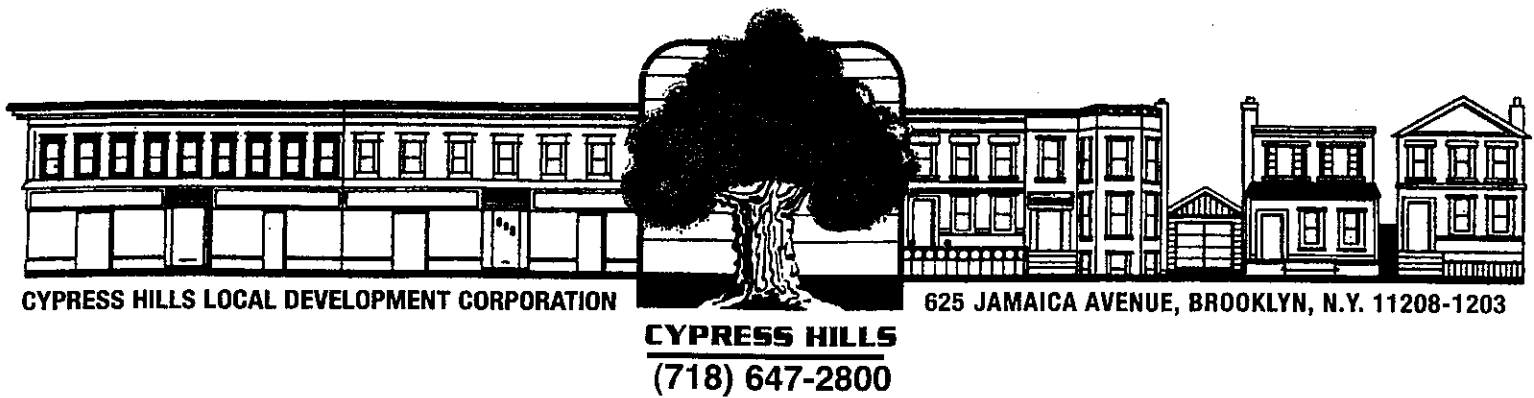
Risks are present in the lives of these young people at every corner. But because of their own unbelievable strengths, these young people can be empowered to make healthier, life affirming choices. ATI programs provide an opportune venue to provide youth development opportunities to help kids turn away from the streets, drugs and crime. The more youth development services that we can provide - from tutoring, arts-based work, peer leadership training and community service opportunities - the more likely we are to retain young people in our ATI program and make a real difference in their lives.

Conrad is just one of the young people that CCA has helped. Conrad was arrested at age 15. Through CCA's court advocacy, Conrad was released to CCA's Youth Services program. At the time Conrad and his family were homeless and barely surviving. Conrad words tell what the CCA ATI meant for him: " CCA has offered me hope, food, and support. CCA provides me with one-on-one support, life skills' workshops and a variety of after school programming opportunities. My participation in CCA has truly changed my life for the better. I have improved my relationship with my mother. Through CCA I completed my first internship program, obtained my first position as a peer leader and

recognized my potential." Conrad successfully completed the CCA program and now serves as a peer leader.

Given the large numbers of young people, like Conrad, who are caught up in the juvenile and criminal justice system, ATI programs become an integral part of the City's overall strategy for improving outcomes for its young people.

On behalf of the City's ATI community, I want to thank you again for your time today. We hope that you will be able to provide continued support for our work on behalf of the City and in support of the well-being of young people in our communities.



I am pleased to submit testimony to the Youth Services and Community Development Committees of the NYC Council regarding the Mayor's FY 2011 Preliminary budget.

I am here today on behalf of the 980 youth who applied for jobs last year at the Cypress Hills Educational Choice Center. At current funding levels, only about 150 of them will be able to get jobs this summer.

I am also here as part of a larger network of agencies, namely, the United Neighborhood Houses, that has a long history of being the voice of youth, families, and communities. Together, we say give our youth a chance to work! Fund 52,000 jobs again this summer.

I am joined today by Damian Humphrey, a youth who will be able to articulate far better than I can the real impact of reducing funding to the Summer Youth Employment Program.

It is not only these youth who will be hurt, but it is also the businesses and community programs that depend on their valuable work. Young people like Damian raise the toddlers and school-age youth in other programs. Removing his contribution will have a rippling effect to those programs throughout our neighborhood.

I would also like to publicly thank Councilmember Dilan for his long-standing support of youth and families.

And now, here's Damian.

Lowell Herschberger  
Director of Career and Education Programs  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

### **Adult Education Program: 10% Funding Reduction**

At the Arab American Family Support Center, we have a thriving adult education program which serves 110 immigrants on a weekly basis. About 80% of our students are women and due to cultural preferences of some coming from more conservative countries, we provide three classes for women only. The cultural perspective of our students that will be mentioned in this report pertains solely to our students and should not be taken as a generalization of all Arab cultures.

Because of the 10% budget cut, we have had to reduce the class hours in two of our women's classes. They now have four fewer hours of instruction a week than before. The effect that this cut will have on the lives of these women is as follows:

1. First of all, fewer hours of English means slower progress toward students' goals. These goals include helping children with school work, talking to their children's teachers, being able to communicate at the doctor's office, earning their GED, going to university in the United States and finding a job or a job training program. For some of these women, meeting these goals quickly is crucial. Some need to enroll in a job training program as soon as possible because their families need the extra income.
2. Secondly, we will offer too few hours of class for them to register for subsidized childcare. In order to receive childcare, a student must be in a program 20 hours a week. We will not be able to offer this many hours to them, so they will not be able to attend class. This crucially affects approximately 1/3 of our students, those who don't have much familial support for taking care of their children. These unsupported women are those who need our services the most.
3. Thirdly, education is related to empowerment in our program. Most of the women we serve in the classes we cut hours in never had the opportunity to go to school when they were children. Learning is important for them in order to grow as individuals and embrace their rights. We provide extracurricular activities and workshops for them such as health and nutrition, sewing classes and exercise to enhance our English as a second language classes.
4. Lastly, educating immigrant women from more conservative countries, which in our case includes the Middle East and North Africa, is crucial in creating a better American society. As Kwegyir Aggrey said: "If you educate a man, you educate an individual. If you education a woman, you educate a nation." Because of the traditional role these women play as

homemakers, they are the first and most influential teachers their children have. Living in American society, which is so drastically different from their native country, makes it import for these women to have a grasp on English as well as an understanding of American culture. They need to understand that their children are caught in the middle of two very diverse cultures and it is crucial that they know how to help their children cope with the differences. A small example of this idea playing out in larger society is as follows: According to several New York City public school Teachers I've met over the years; children, whose parents are from this region of the world, find it difficult to integrate into class with other students as well as to adhere to disciplinary measures. Educating mothers on these cultural differences will help them help their children adjust to the school system and give them a better chance for success in life.

### **SYEP Volunteers State Funding Cut**

- We get 4 to 5 SYEP volunteers helping us with our Summer Youth Program that caters to 20 children ages 7-12yrs.
- They provide the support and assistance that is needed to run this program since our funding is limited.
- It would be a tremendous burden to carry out the program without such assistance and the children who need the recreational and enriching activities will go without them.
- SYEP also helps the participants understand what a real job situation in their future would look like; provides them with a great role model who helps them understand the process.
- Today, one of our SYEP volunteer who worked with us 3yrs ago actually was planning on coming to testify; she is in her 2nd yr of college and could not be here due to test in school.
- Summer employment for the youth helps them stay safe, without getting into trouble by hanging out with the wrong crowd as well as some of them help their families by financially supporting them, saving up for school, etc.
- Reducing the slots would affect the most vulnerable population, our youth, in a great way.



**CIG Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Youth Services**

**March 15, 2010**

Good morning, Chairman Fidler and esteemed Committee Members. I am David Strauss, Director of External Affairs of the Queens Museum of Art and I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

I am here speaking not on behalf of the Queens Museum, but rather as a member of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), a coalition of 33 art, science, and performing arts institutions throughout the five boroughs, including internationally renowned institutions like The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bronx Zoo, The Museum of Natural History and Carnegie Hall, as well as smaller community anchors like the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, the Staten Island Children's Museum, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

I know the primary purview of this committee is the wellbeing of New York City's youth, with special concern for those who are high-needs or at-risk, and that much of that service is provided through your oversight of the Department of Youth and Community Development. I am before you today to provide context for committee members about the myriad ways in which the members of the CIG – as an essential component of their compact with the City – are serving this same population, through the DYCD, other NYC agencies, and through private funding that we leverage based on the public funding you provide.

Guided by the fundamental philosophy that Culture is Social Service, the CIG offers significant and innovative services to New York's City youngest population—providing interactive, hands-on programming at cultural institutions, schools, and community centers throughout the City; creating activities that not only offer valuable exposure to the arts and sciences, but often involve key skill-building that will serve our youths throughout their lives.

Each year, CIG institutions serve more than 2.3 million of the city's children through enriching school partnerships, class trips, and the valuable Out of School Time programs that keep children engaged on weekday afternoons, weekends, and over the summer break, three crucial times when there is minimal parental supervision and the maximal opportunity for kids to get into trouble. Understanding that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, CIG institutions engage the City's youth, in many cases furthering the educational foundation provided during the school day, and in too many cases, providing the only direct exposure to artists, performers and scientists that they will ever receive throughout their educational experience. Each of the 33 CIGs has created revolutionary initiatives for the city's youth, programs that have been replicated throughout the country, and programs that are in jeopardy if the proposed budget cuts are not eliminated. Please allow me to provide a few examples:

- For the past 40 years, the **New York Aquarium's Summer Teen Docent Program** has educated thousands of at risk teens on marine diversity, environmental science and public speaking, and then placed them in positions where they can pass those lessons on to the hundreds of visitors they interact with on a daily basis.
- The **Brooklyn Children's Museum** has offered **Museum Team**, a program for hundreds of children in grades 2 – 12, for the past 20 years, offering science and culture programs for the younger kids, peer mentoring opportunities and part-time employment for the teens, and college preparation assistance for those in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 300 elementary and middle schoolers participate in the **New York Hall of Science's After School Science Clubs** each year indulging their creativity, conducting experiments, learning from each other, and experiencing science without having to open a textbook. Students can eventually become Club Captains, where they learn what it means to be leaders and mentors among their peers.
- The **Studio Museum in Harlem** has been engaging local youth through its **Expanding the Walls** program for the past decade. This eight-month program offers high school students the opportunity to explore ideas of community, identity and history as they

learn the fundamentals of photography with teens working with curators, educators, and artists building their artistic, art appreciation, and leadership skills, all while receiving a \$500 stipend, and a 35-millimeter camera which they keep upon completion of the program.

- Since 1989 **Project Green Reach**, the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden's** science-focused school outreach program, has given 2,500 children from Brooklyn's Title 1 elementary schools a unique, hands-on opportunity to learn about science, ecology, and the environment in their classrooms and in their neighborhoods with lessons that are designed to meet all National, State and City science standards.
- And at the **Queens Museum**, our **Queens Teens** program engages local high school students through weekly after-school workshops building art, art interpretation and life skills while exposing them to possible careers in the art. On weekends the Teens return as paid staff members assisting artists and educators in the galleries and interacting with the public. The program was recently honored at a White House ceremony with the First Lady, giving the one lucky teen representative, Champagne Young, the experience of a lifetime.

These programs and the dozens I haven't mentioned, each offered free of charge, are exacting real positive change in our communities, change that is essential to the future of our young people. Research shows that at-risk youth are less likely to become involved in the juvenile justice system when they are connected to and view themselves as contributing members of their respective communities and have recognized skills. Each of our programs addresses this directly. We know firsthand what happens to children who do not have these programs to turn to, as the CIG institutions also provide services to the kids who are attending schools on Rikers Island and those who have just been released. Essentially, we offer both the prevention and the cure.

I and my colleagues understand that these are challenging times, and speaking not only as an advocate for the Queens Museum and the CIG, but also as a lifelong New Yorker, I know that

each of you are charged with making difficult decisions on what to cut funding to and what to hold harmless. We are making those very same decisions on a more personal level at the city's cultural institutions as we absorb year after year of cuts in city funding by laying off staff so that we do not have to cancel successful programs when funding evaporates. We have always done more with less but if the proposed FY11 cuts are not eliminated, you unfortunately see us doing less with less.

The City's non-profit cultural community has always recognized that culture can provide a useful service to the all segments of our community – from seniors to families to new immigrants – but what makes our Youth Services initiatives so crucial to the success of the city is that our programs are insuring that the next generation of cultural leaders and council members exceeds the accomplishments of the current generation.

We commend the Council for its support last year and we urge the Council to maintain its commitment to New York City's youth as the budget dance unfolds in the months ahead. It is critical that the City supports innovative cultural programs and services that contribute to the overall well-being of our children and young adults because we only have one chance to help these children. They are only young once.

We ask that you support the CIGs request for a restoration of FY10 funding of \$16 million, the FY11 proposed PEG of \$8.7 million, and the \$2 million that was not restored in FY10 for a total request of \$26.7 million. With your leadership and support, we can continue to provide our youth – and all the segments of the city's population - with enriching and engaging services and cultural programming.

We look forward to working with you and exploring options that will maintain and preserve the integrity of the City's cultural institutions for this generation, and many more to come.

Thank you.



**THE COALITION FOR ASIAN AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**New York City Council Youth Services Committee  
FY 2010-2011 Preliminary Budget Hearing  
March 15, 2010**

**Prepared by Harjindar Lally, Program Coordinator**

My name is Harjindar Lally and I am the Program Coordinator for the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF). As the nation's only pan-Asian children's advocacy group, CACF is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Asian Pacific American (APA) children and families in New York City. We are comprised of over 40 member organizations that provide social services to the fastest growing community in New York City, Asian Pacific Americans.

CACF would first like to thank the New York City Council and the Youth Services Committee for holding this important hearing. We are deeply concerned about the reduction of funding for Beacon, Out of School Time (OST) and Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP) proposed in the FY 2011 Preliminary Budget. During these difficult times, CACF urges the City Council and the Mayor to protect one of the city's most vulnerable populations: children and youth. To ensure that Asian Pacific American youth have an equal opportunity to thrive in New York City, CACF urges the City Council and the Mayor to take the following actions:

1. **Restore \$10.13 million to Beacon contracts in order to prevent 66 City funded Beacon contracts from receiving 6% and 7% reductions in 2010 and 2011 respectively.**
2. **Restore \$15.5 million to OST programs to prevent the elimination of 33 School-Year-Only and 30 summer Middle School programs.**
3. **Restore \$1 million annually to Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to ensure 662 City funded slots for youth in summer 2010.**

**BACKGROUND**

New York City has the largest Asian Pacific American population of any U.S. city. In fact, with a population over 1 million and nearly 12 percent of the city, there are more Asian Pacific Americans in New York City than there are total residents in San Francisco. According to the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity, Asian Pacific Americans have the second highest rate of poverty (25.9%) among all racial groups. Those struggling with poverty are also more likely to be recently arrived immigrants, limited English proficient individuals, children and seniors. One out of four Asian Pacific American students does not graduate from high school on time or at all. One out of five English Language Learners in New York City public schools are Asian Pacific American.

Despite these needs, the model minority stereotype that all Asian Pacific Americans are successful has caused this community to be overlooked when allocating resources for youth services. For example, a study by the Asian American Federation of New York in 2000 showed that only 0.24 percent of City contracts for social services went to the Asian Pacific American community. Preliminary studies by CACF show that less than 1 percent of the FY 2008 City Budget went to the Asian Pacific American

community. Similarly, a recently published study by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy show that only 0.38 percent of foundation grant dollars go to the Asian Pacific American community. This means that the increase in the Asian Pacific American community of New York City has been met with a decrease in financial resources and hence, a decrease in much needed youth services. This means that any cuts to youth services will have a negative and disproportionate impact on Asian Pacific American youth.

#### **BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

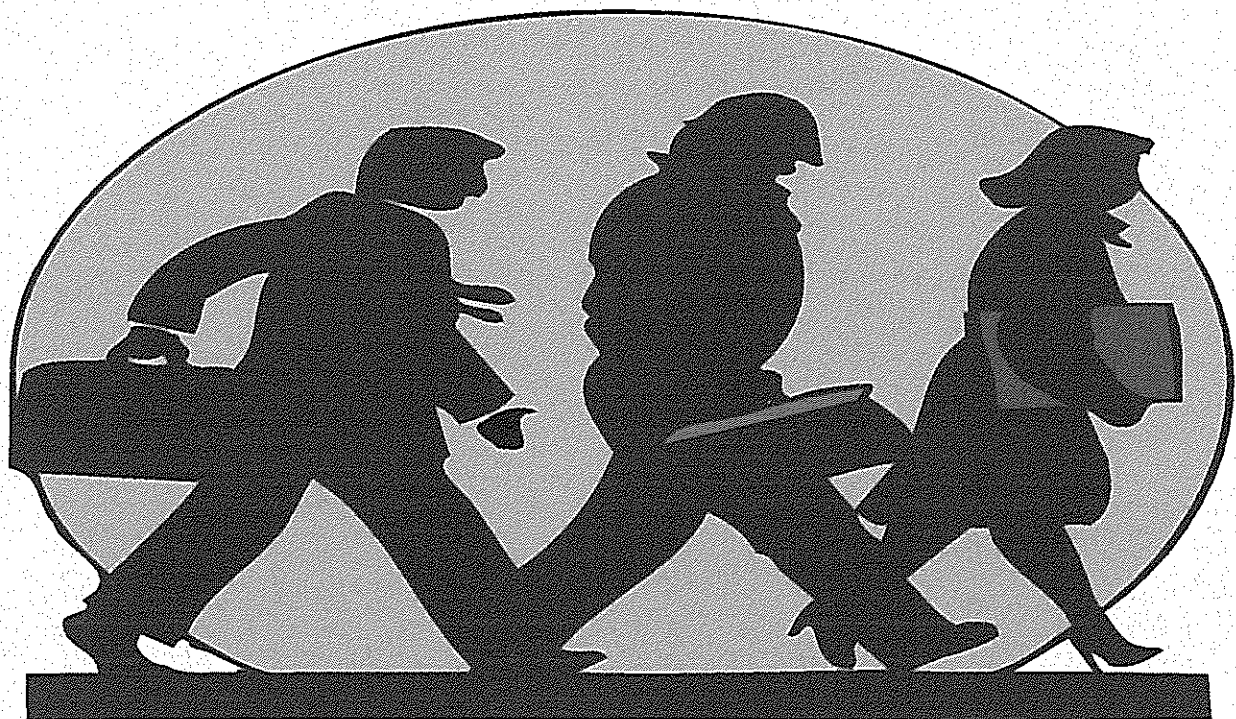
Although we understand the City's difficult financial situation, we are concerned that the cuts proposed in the Mayor's Preliminary Budget will seriously affect our city's children and youth. Beacon, Out of School Time (OST) and Summer Youth Employment Programs (SYEP) provide opportunities for underserved children and youth, who struggle with low academic scores, high dropout rates and limited avenues for social, emotional and academic growth. These programs are located in neighborhoods where underserved youth live and employ thousands of individuals from these neighborhoods. If Beacon, OST, and SYEP are cut, this means that there will be fewer services for children and youth and fewer jobs for New Yorkers. We urge the City Council to do the following:

- 1. Restore \$10.13 million to Beacon contracts in order to prevent 66 City funded Beacon contracts from receiving 6% and 7% reductions in 2010 and 2011 respectively.**
- 2. Restore \$15.5 million to OST programs to prevent the elimination of 33 School-Year-Only and 30 summer Middle School programs.** Out of School Time programs provide children and youth with a supportive environment for a range of activities that address their emotional, social and academic growth helping them succeed to their greatest potential. Out of School Time programs also help support working families who often cannot afford high childcare costs for their children.
- 3. Restore \$1 million annually to Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to ensure 662 City funded slots for youth in summer 2010.** Reducing the number of Summer Youth Employment Programs puts youth at risk of unhealthy behaviors in months that they are not attending school. The Summer Youth Employment Program not only provides youth with opportunities to be active and engaged in summer months, but also provides them with much needed leadership and employment skills. The work experiences youth obtain through the Summer Youth Employment Program prepare them for high demand jobs and develops their competitiveness in the workforce.

CACF urges the New York City Council and Youth Services Committee to dedicate resources and services for the youth of New York City including youth from the fastest growing group in New York City, Asian Pacific Americans. With a critical lens on how funding is not being allocated equitably to the Asian Pacific American community, you can demonstrate visionary leadership by ensuring that underserved populations from all backgrounds have an equal opportunity to succeed and become a productive part of New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

COMMUNITY BOARD 9Q  
TESTIMONY  
MARCH 15. 2010

BY MARY ANN CAREY, DISTRICT MANAGER



TESTIMONY AT NYC COUNCIL  
PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING  
MONDAY MARCH 15, 2010  
BY: MARY ANN CAREY, DISTRICT MANAGER

All fourteen Boards testified at every meeting and hearing, concerning the proposed cuts to our budget. The DM's met with Councilman Leroy Comry at his office and met with Speaker Christine Quinn during a near blizzard at City Hall where 13 of the 14 District Managers were present. We want to thank the Queens Delegations and the speaker for the support and encouragement they have given us. Despite your support the may has relented and we face annihilation without your commitment to restore our budget.

While our offices' are small, usually two or three employees, we service up to 250,000 constituents. We provide them with services in their "hometown" Down the block, across the street, or around the corner. We have worked with many of you and together we have fought this battle year after year.

We would prefer to be working on community projects and issues of concern to the City Council, the

Community Boards and our "community's" instead of being preoccupied and forced to spend precious hours testifying. Not tht I mind seeing you and your friendly faces. But it is a little embarrassing to come here year after year, hat in hand, and beg to be funded.

Almost since we wee established in 1975, the brain child of Robert Wagener, Sr. and Jr.



we have been the target of budget cuts. Staring in 1992 to the present we have been under the gun.

We have testified at every hearing regarding the dedication hard work, time and man hours of expertise our members give without compensation. Our members, lawyers, architects, engineers, accountants, educators, even doctors who participate in committee meetings, long into the night after a work day. Where can the city ever hope to receive this expertise, pro bono? We are unique and the concept works. We need security and safety in the city charter to insure the continuation of this experiment in community participation and input in the future. Of immediate concern, and what we are requesting is a restoration of our meager budget of \$198,895 and a freeze on budget cuts

Thank you for your attention and your continued support.



**HARLEM RBI**  
PLAY • LEARN • GROW

**Testimony before the City Council Youth Committee  
March 15, 2010**

Good afternoon Council Member Fidler and members of the Youth Services and Community Development Committees. Thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to address an issue that is critical to the youth and families of New York City.

My name is Megan Demarkis and I am the Director of Organizational Excellence at Harlem RBI. I am here today to represent HRBI and the families and youth who play learn and grow in our free after school and summer programs.

Today I would like to focus on two of the city's proposed cuts and illustrate how these cuts will limit opportunities and put our young people and working families at risk.

The OST Option 2 program and The Summer Youth Employment Program

In New York, 25% (779,281) of youth, starting as early as Kindergarten are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. Adolescents compose the majority of this group. Research tells us that youth, particularly adolescents, who are unsupervised after school are more likely to experiment with drugs, become victims of peer violence, and engage in unsafe sex.

At Harlem RBI we serve 100 students in our OST Option 2 program. In this program Middle school and high school students participate in life skills workshops, receive access to tutoring and social work services, improve physical fitness by playing on a baseball or softball team, and build relationships with caring adults in a safe and positive learning environment.

This year, through services in this program nearly 100% of our 28 seniors have already been accepted to college which is phenomenal given that in East Harlem only 13% of our residents hold college degrees.

Our OST Option 2 programs also provides support to young people who are struggling to finish high school. For the past 5 years, more than 95% of our seniors have earned a high school diploma.

Cutting OST Option 2 funding will jeopardize our ability to engage adolescents with high quality programs and will limit our ability to expand our services to more teens.

Summer is a critical time for young people in New York City. Youth, particularly teens, struggle to find meaningful activities that continue their learning when schools are closed. Most teens look forward to the summer as a time to explore the world of work. In 2008, 103,000 applications were submitted to the Summer Youth Employment Program, SYEP was able to provide meaningful employment for nearly 43,000 youth.

SYEP allows young people the opportunity to gain valuable work skills, build self-confidence and contribute to their families.

At Harlem RBI we serve over 200 youth who are eligible for SYEP and we are a SYEP "work site". Over 40 of these youth work in our summer camp program, REAL Kids, which serves more than 350 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their families with free high quality programming from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

Without our team of SYEP day camp counselors, we could not provide our elementary youth with adequate supervision during the summer and our teens would have nothing to do all summer. Research shows that teens who engage in meaningful work experience during high school are more likely to matriculate to college. SYEP gives young people the confidence and leadership skills they need to be successful in adulthood.

**Visiting Neighbors, Inc.**  
**City Council Youth Services Committee Testimony**  
**March 2010**

Good morning. My name is Dr. Cynthia Maurer, and I am the Executive Director of Visiting Neighbors, Inc.

Through our award-winning Intergenerational program, Visiting Neighbors has been working with youth from throughout the five boroughs for more than 30 years. We have students from over 100 high schools, with our staff training; they help our frail and homebound elderly clients; they assist the seniors with errands and shopping; they escort them to medical appointments, and they help bring them into contact with the world outside their apartments. Many close relationships have been formed, benefiting both the students and the seniors.

I have seen the difference this program has made, and continues to make, in the lives of thousands high school students. Many of these students have not succeeded in traditional high schools and attend alternative schools. Many of the students we have worked with were at risk of dropping out of school. They had poor attendance records, did poorly in their academic subjects, and had poor self-esteem. Their lives were headed towards poor outcomes.

I am proud to say that we have seen many of them turn their lives around, with the support and dedication of our staff, and mentoring by the seniors the students assist. Students who were part of our youth programs develop better communication skills, they learn to appreciate and accept people different from themselves, they handle interpersonal conflicts without becoming physical, and they adopt good work habits that will help ensure success in future endeavors.

Let me share one of our many success stories with you. Nikesha, age 17, was struggling to overcome the negative influences she faced every day. With few positive role models, this bright young woman had assumed an angry look that keep people at a distance. She actually was a sensitive, caring young woman who didn't know where to turn. She had no plans for her future, or as she said, "Why plan for my future? Nothing good ever happens to me anyway."

She developed a close relationship with one of our seniors while regularly shopping and visiting her. Rose, a retired teacher, recognized Nikesha's potential and encouraged her to complete high school and continue her education. One day, at their regularly appointed time, Rose called the Visiting Neighbors' office saying she didn't want any help or company. Nikesha found that odd, since Rose needed weekly groceries and loved her company. When she called her, Rose didn't sound right. With support and guidance from the Visiting Neighbors' staff, she asked Rose if she could come over anyway. When Nikesha arrived at her apartment, she found that Rose was feeling ill but resisted going to a doctor. Nikesha got her to agree to go to the emergency room and stayed with her until she was seen by a doctor. Rose had pneumonia, which could have been fatal for a 93-

year old had she not been given immediate attention. Nikesha did graduate from high school and ultimately went into nursing. Years later, Nikesha surprised our staff when she appeared in her uniform, smiling from ear to ear. "I knew everyone here would be very proud of me," she said. We were.

Community service is a vital part of education, as important as academics, sports and other extracurricular activities. It should be a mandate to give our young people an opportunity to learn about themselves, to help others, and to make a difference if we want them to become responsible members of society.

Last year, the City Council rescued 85% of our Intergenerational programs, including ours, after an ill-conceived cut by DFTA. With your support, we have been able to have a positive impact on the lives of more than 200 students this year, keeping them off the streets, helping them cope with negative circumstances or influences they may face, and making sure they remain in school, while encouraging them to plan for their future.

I am here to ask your continued support of DFTA's Intergenerational programs, and to encourage more funding of youth service programs through DYCD. These are cost effective programs that work. They help make New York a more livable city by bringing generations together to learn from each other and help one another. Our youth learn valuable lessons they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

We urge the Council to support funding for Youth Services, so the young people of our city can have an opportunity to learn, grow and thrive, and make New York a better city for them, and for all of us.

Dr. Cynthia Maurer, Executive Director  
Visiting Neighbors, Inc.  
611 Broadway, #510  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 260-6200  
[www.visitingneighbors.org](http://www.visitingneighbors.org)

March 15, 2010

TESTIMONY TO NY CITY COUNCIL

My family has been a part of the Y After School program at PS 22 for 5 years. First, with my eldest son who is now in the 4th grade followed by his twin brothers who are now in the 2nd. The YMCA's DYCD Out-of-School-Time program has become an important part of my family. This program offers my children a safe, and fun learning environment that we won't get anywhere else. I get an immense sense of comfort knowing that my kids are happy and enjoying the time they spend in the Y After School with their peers and with the Y Staff. Every cycle is a new and different experience. Whether it be exploring their talents in fashion, art, or learning about diversity of cultures all over the world. This past cycle, my son learned all about photography. He learned how to take pictures, the types of pictures, and the invention of the camera. Now he is saving his money, not to buy video games, but to buy his very own camera. My twins have been learning how to swing dance and everyday they come home enthusiastic to show me the new moves they learned. But behind all these lessons, my children are learning about friendship, respect, understanding, and consideration for others.

On behalf of the families of PS 22, I am reaching out to you today to share with you my disappointment. Although we understand that difficult times call for difficult decisions, I am asking you to reconsider these cuts. Many families, just like mine, need this program. Not only does this program enrich the lives of the children who attend, it is also vital for working families who need a safe for their children after school in order to keep their jobs. This program provides a safe atmosphere for my children, while instilling in them the importance of being productive students after school. Learning that PS 22's OST Y After School program was one of the highest performing after school programs in the city, I am confused why DYCD did not take performance into consideration when identifying schools to cut. With over 200 children enrolled the PS 22 Y After School program, which is over 100% of their capacity, and with almost all children attending every day I am shocked that programs like this were even considered to be closed. It is also important for you to know that at one time, the Y After School program at PS 22 was the only accredited after school program in NYC.

The OST Y After School program at PS 22 gives my kids an opportunity to grow as people and to find new interests that they never knew they had. To take that away from them and the entire community would be devastating. Please help.

Thank You,  
Hanan Farraj

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/11/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Shahen Ullon

Address: 1 Centre Street

I represent: LPC

Address: S/A/A

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn Grossman

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: City Planning

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CAROLE POST, COMMISSIONER

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Do IT

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mark Sillerman, General Counsel

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Landmarks Preservation Commission

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:46

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chaka Blackman

Address: 43-31 39th Street Sunnyside

I represent: Sunnyside Community Services NY

Address: 43-31 39th Street Sunnyside NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Viviana Vizcaino

Address: 330 60th street, Bklyn 11220

I represent: Center for Family Life (child participant)

Address: 345-43rd street, Bklyn 11232

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Amy Latorres-Rios / Jaroulyn Valette

Address: 234-61 street, Bklyn 11220

I represent: Center For Family Life

Address: 345-43rd street, Bklyn 11232

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: MARY JO CULLINAN

Address: 1825 Foster Ave 5C

I represent: Midwood Development Corp. School

Address: 1414 ave N 11230

#206 Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Miguel Roman

Address: 330-60th street, Bklyn 11220

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 345-43rd st. Bklyn, 11232

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ysmeli Rosa

Address: 2410 Amsterdam Ave NYC 10033

I represent: Alianza Dominicana

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Moises Perez

Address: 2410 Amsterdam Ave NYC 10033

I represent: Alianza Dominicana

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 3115/2010  
☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARGARET AZPILAR  
Address: 2410 145th St. Jamaica NC 10033  
I represent: Albion Dominican  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:15

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Greg Robertson and Monique Flores  
Address: 420 E 12th St  
I represent: University Settlement  
Address: 420 E 12th St, NY NY 100

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:15

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Greg Richard  
Address: 301 Henry St New York, NY  
I represent: Henry Street Settlement  
Address: above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:08

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

Name: Helena Ku (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 108-25 42nd Dr. Forest Hills

I represent: Queens Community House

Address: Same

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:15

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: David Lantle (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 420 E 12th St

I represent: University Settlement Bklyn

Address: 420 E 12th St NY NY 10009

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:07

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

Name: Susan Matloff (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 108-25 42nd Drive Forest Hills 11375

I represent: Queens Community House

Address: Same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

18:66

Appearance Card

10:06

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Derek Perkins with Rob Abbot

Address: 625 Jamaica Ave

I represent: Cypress Hills Local Development Corp.

Address: 625 Jamaica Ave

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:07

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jennifer Buffa

Address: 108-25 102nd Drive Forest Hills 11375

I represent: Queens Community House

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

18:66

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rob Abbot (w/ Derek Perkins)

Address: 625 Jamaica Ave. Bklyn, NY 11208

I represent: Cypress Hills Local Dev. Corp.

Address: 625 Jamaica Ave. Bk, NY 11208

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:06

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lou De Luca

Address: 485 Clawson St. S.I.

I represent: U A U.

Address: same

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:00

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Valerie Barton Richardson

Address: CAMBA, 1720 Church Avenue Bklyn

I represent: CAMBA

Address: ~~172~~ 1720 Church Avenue Bklyn 11226

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

5

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 9:59

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 5/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Melissa Nieves

Address: 2163 2nd Ave. N.Y., N.Y. 10029

I represent: Union Settlement Association

Address: 237 East 102nd St. N.Y. 10029

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card 8

8

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 9:59  
☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Cary Feliciano (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 197 E. Broadway

I represent: The Educational Alliance

Address: School of the Future-127 E. 22nd St.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card 8

9:58

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Bruce Carmel (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 5220 4TH AVENUE

I represent: TURNING POINT

Address: 5220 4TH AVE BROOKLYN

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card 8

8

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 9:59  
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

Name: Anthony Ng (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 70 W. 36th Street 5th Floor

I represent: United Neighborhood Houses

Address: Call me up as part of the NYC Youth Alliance  
panel

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

9:53

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Abraham Palma

Address: 54 NAAGLE AVE

I represent: YM-YWHA OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & INWOOD

Address: 54 NAAGLE AVE. N-Y NY 10040

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

9:53

Appearance Card

9:53

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alyson Grant

Address: ~~130 E 59th St~~ 300 W 5th St NY NY 10029

I represent: WA - Federation of New York

Address: 130 E 59th St NY NY 10022

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

9:58

Appearance Card

9:58

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katherine Eckstein (Yatl Alliance)

Address: 105 E. 22nd St. Childrens

I represent: Children's Aid Society Aid

Address: testifying as part of NYC Youth Alliance

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

9:53

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lowell Hershberger and Damien Humphrey

Address: 625 Jamaica Ave., Brooklyn, 11208

I represent: Cypress Hills Educational Choice Center

Address: 99 Jamaica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11208

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

9:58

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN CIROLIA

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DYCD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

9:58

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BILL CHONG

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DYCD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

9:34 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-15-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Watler

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Center for Court Innovation

Address: 520 8th Ave NYC 10018

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:17

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniel Garcia

Address: 345 43rd Street - BK, NY

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 345 43rd St - BK, NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:17

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Viviana Vizcaino

Address: 345 43rd St - BK, NY

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 345 43rd St - BK, NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

9:35 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN P. ALBERT

Address: jalbert@fascorp.org

I represent: The After-School Corporation

Address: 1440 Broadway NY NY 10018

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

9:53

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEANNE Mulligan, Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DYCD

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

9:40 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERT Townley

Address: 120 WARREN ST

I represent: MANHATTAN YOUTH

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

10:17

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Adriana Torres

Address: 345 43rd St. BK NY

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 345 43rd St BK, NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

10:17

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Jaroulyn Vallette

Address: 345 43rd St BK NY

I represent: Center for Family Life

Address: 345 43rd St BK NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

9:53

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9:53

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Patricia Germain

Address: 295 Lafayette St. suite 920 NY, NY

I represent: Safe Space NYC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:17

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Miguel Roman

Address: 345 43rd St. BK, NY

I represent: Center For Family Life

Address: 345 43rd St BK, NY

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: D. Lunofky De Jesus

Address: 1214 Stakes Road

I represent: Alianza Mosaic Beacons

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:25

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paulina Morales

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Alianza Mosaic Beacons

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:27 AM

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Kathy Fitzgibbon (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 281 Paul Ave S.

I represent: Federation of Protestant Welfare

Address: Agency

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

10:35

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Egi Li (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Neighborhood Family Services

I represent: Coalition &

Address: NYC Youth Alliance

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:10

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

Name: Cynthia Maurer (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Uptown Neighbors Inc.

I represent: 611 Broadway Suite 510

Address: NY NY 10012

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:36

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: David Strauss - Queens Museum

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Cultural Institutions Group

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:24

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Hanan Ferrag

Address: 7 Comstock Avenue ST NY 10314

I represent: PS 22 After School

Address: 1860 Forest Avenue ST NY 10303

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:20

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Marissa Spelling

Address: 268 Bay Ridge Pkwy, Bklyn NY 11209

I represent: JCCBCI

Address: 3001 West 37 Street, Bklyn NY 11224

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:52

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rikia Lumumba

Address: 25 Chapel St. Brooklyn 11202

I represent: CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ATTENTION

Address: 25 Chapel Street Brooklyn, NY 11204

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:45

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Danny Rosenthal / Chino Okonkwo

Address: Cory Feliciano

I represent: Educational Alliance

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

11:37

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ebon Brown

Address: 145 Brooklyn Ave 11213

I represent: Brooklyn Children's Museum

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID FREUDENTHAL

Address: 881 7th Ave

I represent: CARNEGIE HALL - CIG

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARY ANN CARE

Address: Bowling Green

I represent: Budget

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Megan Demarkis

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Harlem RBI

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/15/2010

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Harjinder Lally

Address: 50 Broad St, 18th floor NY, NY 10004

I represent: Coalition for Asian American Children and

Address: Same as above Families (CCTF)

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/15/10

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Amoy Bolcott

Address: 520 K 71 Street

I represent: CAMBA

Address: 1720 Church Av

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms