

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

JOINT COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

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March 15, 2010

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HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: LEWIS A. FIDLER & AL VANN
Chairpersons

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

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Marissa Sperling
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David Strauss
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Program Coordinator
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CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Good morning everybody. My name is Lou Fidler. I am the Chairperson of the Youth Services Committee, and I am joined by Council Member Al Vann, who chairs the Community Development Committee, as well as Council Members Koo, Rodriguez and Reyna, who are with us today. I am sure we will be joined by a number of others as the morning goes on. And today we are having the preliminary budget hearing on the budget, the Mayor's budget for the Department of Youth and Community Development.

The Department of Youth and Community Developments fiscal 2011 preliminary operating budget is approximately \$289 million, of which a majority is City funding, totaling approximately \$169 million. The Department's overall operating budget fiscal 2011 is reduced by \$99.1 million, or 25%, compared to the operating budget at adoption last year. This large reduction is due in large part to a \$64 million reduction in City funding, of which approximately \$47 million was Council funded discretionary and Citywide initiatives that have not been included in fiscal 2011 preliminary budget. \$35 million of

the total reduction is federal funding.

In a few moments we will hear from the Department's Commissioner, Jeanne Mullgrav--I always tell you my favorite Commissioner; it always gets her into trouble--as to how the Department proposes to reduce its budget to meet the Office of Management's mandated fiscal 2010 4% and fiscal 2011 and out year 8% PEG programs to balance the City's overall budget.

This Committee looks forward to getting a clear and detailed understanding of the proposed reduction to Out of School Time Programming, which would close 33 school year OST programs as well as 30 middle school summer programs. There is a reduction to the Beacon Program in the amount of \$1.6 million in fiscal 2010 and \$2.7 million in fiscal 2011.

I can't even begin to discuss the cuts to the summer job program, which we have already held a hearing on. That one falls largely on our partners in the State and the City. Certainly the elimination of TANF funding from the State budget to zero for summer jobs, is the biggest impact. The City tax levy cut affects a

program that last year had 52,000 enrolled youth by about 662 slots.

The Committee and the Council are troubled that approximately \$47 million in funding that was included in the fiscal 2010 adopted budget has not been included in the fiscal 2011 preliminary budget. In particular, I am extremely disturbed that \$6 million that the City Council allocated for shelter beds for at risk, runaway and homeless youth, has been cut from the preliminary budget. We're talking about beds and services that keep the youth of our City off of the streets. This is clearly money that just common sense dictates ought to be baselined. It's impossible to run a shelter program without some certainty as to funding.

This morning we will ask the Department how it proposes to obtain crucial services to our City's youth in this difficult economic climate. We need to find a way to make sure that our budget is not balanced on the back of our children. And I will say that--and I have said this at other Committee hearings on the preliminary budget--I recognize that these

preliminary budget hearings are probably the most preliminary of budget hearings that we've ever had in my eight years on the Council, due to the vagaries of the State and federal budgets. I'd like to think that when we do eventually hear from the State and federal governments, that it will be good news, but I would be foolish to actually expect that. I expect that things may in fact get even worse. That means that we all have to be realistic about what we can hope to accomplish. But the one thing that I would say, as Chairman of this committee, is that we cannot balance this budget on the backs of our children, our most vulnerable. That is certainly going to be a very, very tough matter of prioritization for this Council, and for this administration going forward. At this point we're probably most, you know, wise to spend our efforts working together to cajole whatever reason we can out of Albany and Washington, so that these cuts are not as painful as they appear to be today and certainly don't get any more painful than they are today.

And so, in that spirit, you know, I expect that that is how we will be working for at

1
2 least the next six weeks or so, and then when we
3 find out what the finite amount of resources is,
4 then we can take out the long knives and fight.
5 So before I go to Commissioner Mullgrav, I believe
6 Chairman Vann has an opening statement as well.

7 CHAIRPERSON VANN: Thank you,
8 Chairman Fidler. Good morning, ladies and
9 gentlemen. I'm Councilman Al Vann, Chair of the
10 Committee on Community Development, and I am
11 pleased to join fellow Chair Lou Fidler and
12 members of the Committee on Youth Services as we
13 will hear from Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav and
14 her staff about how the Department of Youth and
15 Community Development programs and services are
16 being impacted by the current budget deficit.

17 The proposed 25% cut to the overall
18 operating budget of DYCD is tremendous, you might
19 even say disastrous, representing a \$99 million
20 reduction, which is a combination of PEGs,
21 Programs to Eliminate the Gap, State and federal
22 reductions, as well as Council funded initiatives
23 that are not reflected in the fiscal 2011
24 preliminary budget.

25 With reductions affecting core

youth programs, including our Out of School Time, Beacon Programs, literacy services and the Summer Youth Employment Program, without question these are very significant and hurtful cuts. With the proposed \$1 million reduction in City funding to SYEP, the City will lose an additional 662 summer youth job slots.

As Chair of Community Development, I look forward to understanding, or trying to understand, how these cuts will affect community programs funded by DYCD. I know that most of these groups are grassroots, that many of them provide unique social and economic support services that are at the heart of a community's long-term development.

Today's hearing will also provide an excellent opportunity to understand how the \$50.5 million in federal economic stimulus community service block grant funds, which were allocated in fiscal year 2010, were spent; and how DYCD will spend the remaining stimulus funding fiscal 2011.

Two weeks ago my committee, Community Development, held an oversight hearing

on the federal economic stimulus community development block grant funds. Those funds became available to New York City as a result of the Obama Administration American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The focus of that hearing was to look at how these funds contributed to local job creation or retention. It is my expectation that in addition to an analysis of the preliminary budget, we will also hear from the Agency about how the stimulus funds did or did not affect employment outcomes. Hopefully how they affected them.

With that said, I pass it back to my co-chair, Brother Fidler.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you, Al. I do want to acknowledge before we go to the Commissioner, that we are always boosted by our staff, in this case Finance Analyst Rocco D'Angelo, Committee Counsel Jenn Wilcox, and Policy Analyst Mike Benjamin; and Counsel to the Community Development Committee--Al, I'm sorry. What's...?

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Thomas Donaldson.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thomas
Donaldson.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: He was here. He
will return.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Who will
return. Okay. Policy Analyst Amanda Santiago and
Ralph Hernandez, who is our Finance Analyst,
Ralph.

Thank you, Commissioner. I see
you're joined by Mr. Chong and Mr. Cerolia, so the
floor is yours.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you, and
good morning, Chairman Fidler and Vann and members
of the Youth Services and Community Development
Committees. I am Jeanne Mullgrav, Commissioner of
the Department of Youth and Community Development,
and 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 met 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.

While we are seeing some positive indications that the economy is growing again, tax revenues are still running approximately \$2 billion behind. As result, like other City agencies, DYCD has to find additional savings of \$9.58 million this year and \$13.97 million next year. Our preliminary budget for next year is \$228.7 million, of which \$168.7 million is City tax levy.

The Out of School Time program will receive a total cut of \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2010 and \$7.5 million fiscal year 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 \$5.9 million in fiscal 2011 and it 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 next year. Stimulus funding used to support OST Option 2 programs will also expire on August 31st.

It is important to note that OST was launched in 2005 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 underserved 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, 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 this fiscal year and \$2.75 million in the next. 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 programs 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 to maintain the traditional annual budget of approximately \$400,000 for each Beacon program. Next year the 66 City tax levy funded Beacon programs will have an average of \$340,000. Federally funded sites will have an average budget of approximately \$400,000.

Like other programs, the Cornerstone Initiative was subject to budget reductions. In fiscal 2010, \$1.18 million in savings were realized by delays in the openings 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% to achieve a savings of \$449,260 in fiscal 2010 and \$554,268 in Fiscal 2011.

These budget actions are compounded by proposed State cuts. We echo the sentiments of Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn that the State Executive Budget disproportionately impacts the City. It would inflict \$1.3 billion in cuts to the City and propose cost shifts in 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, totaling \$35 million Statewide, including \$19.5 million for the City. Less the \$18.5 million in Workforce Investment Act ARRA allocation and a reduction of \$1 million in City tax levy funding, SYEP will look far different from this past 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 in federal funding, 8,772 youth. And I thank the City Council for its continued support and advocacy in this area.

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 in difficult times we continue to invest in our young people.

I'd like to take a few moments to highlight some of our accomplishments during this past year. 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 assist New Yorkers most impacted by the recession, \$32.2 million is WIA ARRA and \$50.5 million in community services block grant 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 WIA ARRA enabled 22,745 participants to be enrolled in the program. So far they completed 229,000 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 or OSY program.

It provides paid internships to disconnected youth who are not in school and not working. 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 or 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 wide for 2,000 adults who are seeking to develop their English skills 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 \$1.59 million to connect them to job placement, training and 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 initiatives, subsidized jobs and employment assistance for non-custodial fathers who are ex-offenders and at least 25 years old, and 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 and 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 10 years with 52,255 youth enrolled. Given the economy, we also had a record number of 139,597 youth who applied for the program. The funding included \$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.

There also is good news to share about accomplishments achieved by leveraging the City's resources 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 New York City 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 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, and we look forward to continuing it this year.

In September DYCD launched the Out of School Time High School Transition Program. The initiative is built on two objectives, helping struggling freshman adjust to the challenges of high school, and helping high school juniors and seniors prepare for college or join the workforce. And 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, adding to a total of 134 beds; this includes three crisis shelter beds and 15 transitional independent living beds. And our portfolio now has 253 beds. This funding also expanded borough-based drop-in centers. In partnership with the Department of Homeless Services, \$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 New York City Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, Runaway and Homeless Youth. The Commission's objection 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, and 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 ongoing work.

We received encouraging news that the Teen Action Program is making a quantifiable difference in the lives of young people. 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. And we are pleased that another CEO program, the Young Adult Internship Program, is also making an impact on the lives of young people. YAIP provides short-

term paid internships, placement into jobs, education or advanced training and follow up services to disconnected youth ages 16 to 24. Since its inception, the program served approximately 3,170 participants with 88% completing their internships and 72% of these youth being placed in advanced training, education or employment.

Finally, at the start of the year, DYCD launched the Cornerstone Initiative to reshape and enhance services for residence of public housing. This significant milestone was achieved with the support of the City Council. It followed yearlong efforts to ensure that these 25 centers remain open to provide high quality after school program for young people and comprehensive services for adults. And 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, 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. And I am joined by Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services and John Cerolia, Assistant Commissioner for Contract Agency Finance; and we'd be pleased to answer your questions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you, Commissioner. We've been joined by a few additional colleagues; Council Member Oliver Koppel, Council Member Jumaane Williams and Councilwoman Letitia James have joined us. I also want to acknowledge the folks in the balcony from the Center for Family Life in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, who are joining us here today.

And Commissioner, that was a lot of good news and bad news--and we're joined by Councilmember Annabel Palma as well.

Unfortunately, the good news is kind of last year's news and the bad news is kind of next year's news. And I guess we really need to figure out how to make as much of the good news next year's news as possible.

I want to start off with a question that I always start off with. There are a lot of things that have been left out of the Mayor's

preliminary budget; a lot of programs, mostly Council initiatives, a good number of them, and I won't list them all for you. We all understand how the game is played around here in terms of the Mayor not restoring things that had been Council initiatives; even those that make absolutely no sense not to restore, and leaves it to the Council to do.

In the best year, assuming money was no object, do you have a problem--would you in fact restore all those programs? Is there any program that we have funded that you would say, you know what, that's a waste of money, please don't do it?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. I'm glad to hear that. A number of topics I want to run to, and then Council Member Vann and my colleges will pick up.

Obviously, you know, and you answered a lot of our questions during your testimony, the Summer Job Program is a paramount concern to most of us. The City tax levy cut to the Summer Job Program is, in the overall scheme

of things, miniscule. Clearly, the Summer Job Program will be absolutely eviscerated if the State and the federal government don't act. You did indicate that you have made numerous pilgrimages to Albany. Do you--could you speculate or at least give us some feedback as to what you're finding in talking to Albany and to Washington about those funding sources?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I'm here to tell you that you know, I didn't bring back the bags of money that we went looking for. The good news is that I have found widespread support for Summer Youth Employment Program. In my conversations with numerous legislators, nobody has raised concerns about the quality of the program, about the benefits that it has for young people, about the efficiency of the program. And so that's really not the questions that were being raised. I think the questions that were being raised were the ones that we--that are the most difficult to answer which is where does the money come from to support the Summer Youth Employment Program. We'll continue to be visible. I'm working very closely with our Intergovernmental Affairs team

1 based in Albany, and I'll go up as many times as
2 is necessary to have that conversation on SYEP.
3 We are certainly following up with letters, with
4 any articles. I'm sure you followed that piece in
5 the New York Times that profiled SYEP. And we'll
6 continue to make the case that this is a program
7 that is not only a short term program, but really,
8 you know, the more young people work today the
9 more they will work tomorrow. There is
10 substantial evidence that it helps with graduation
11 rates. And these monies, as you know are having a
12 ripple effect in the community. In other words,
13 they're supporting the very families with school
14 clothes, but also the neighborhood businesses that
15 benefit from SYEP. So for all those reasons and
16 many more, we will continue to make that case.

17
18 On the federal level, we were
19 disappointed that the jobs bill did not include a
20 Summer Youth Employment, but we are optimistic
21 about Senator Schumer taking up this effort and
22 making it his priority that the jobs bill include
23 Summer Youth Employment.

24 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, I'm glad
25 you're optimistic. I certainly hope that optimism

1
2 is well placed. I do want to indicate, for those
3 that don't know, that the Speaker and The Council
4 have made the Summer Job Program one of our State
5 budget priorities. And I would urge all my
6 colleagues and everyone in the audience, in fact,
7 to reach out to their State and federal
8 legislators and just reiterate how important
9 summer jobs are.

10 There is very, very little I can
11 do, and there would be very little point, to my,
12 you know, pressing the administration to find the
13 \$35 million that are missing in our summer job
14 program from last year from City tax levy funds.
15 Anyone in this room who thinks that if we don't
16 get the money from the State or the federal
17 government that we're going to be able to make
18 that up in City tax levy funds without destroying
19 the rest of the youth programming in the City of
20 New York is probably, you know, in the twilight
21 zone. It's just not something that is going to
22 happen, so I'm not going to press you on that.

23 But, we all need to be pulling with
24 both oars up in Albany and in Washington with
25 that, and I know that I have reached out to

1
2 Senator Gillibrand about the federal issue and
3 spoken to a number of my State colleagues. And I
4 do find that they are also willing, and I hope
5 that they will find the answer to that.

6 The next item on my agenda,
7 however, is very much a matter of City tax levy
8 money. And I must tell you, it is as big a
9 concern to me personally as the summer job cut,
10 and that is the cut to the out of school time
11 program. Because it's really, you know, a triple
12 whammy in a lot of respects. And you did testify
13 as to the number of kids that would be left out of
14 this program, you know, if the current PEG stands.
15 I'm a little confused as to how you achieve
16 savings in OST in the low--if you're going to call
17 them low need zip codes--and I will get to that in
18 a second and why that's an almost absurd
19 distinction. But, I'm told that the letters went
20 out terminating those programs in July 1 of the
21 next fiscal year. So I don't understand where the
22 savings are coming from in this fiscal year.

23 JEANNE MULLGRAV: Recognizing the
24 hardship that it would place on parents closing
25 the programs in the middle of the school year, I

worked very closely with my budget team to figure out how any accruals could be used to get us through the end of this fiscal year, so that we would not have to close programs in the middle of the school year.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Actually, that's a good answer and I'm glad to hear that in effect the OST cut in this fiscal year is not actually a closing but an accrual issue. That doesn't of course change the reality effective July 1st, and my concern with it. I can only tell you this notion of low priority zip codes is kind of absurd. I know that Council Member James has always pointed out that she has housing projects in the middle of some of the most affluent zip codes in the City. And I know that in my district the--one of the programs affected is Roy H. Mann Junior High School, which is a school that is very, very much in need. The OST program there was brought in largely in response to growing difficulties in the school and has been extraordinarily helpful over the past years. So I would consider it one of the higher need schools in my district. And the other program in my

1 district that's on this list is PS 203, which is a
2 feeder school to Roy H. Mann. So when we talk
3 about lower need, I think that's a real problem.
4 I don't want to see a cut in the OST program at
5 all, at all. But have you looked at the notion of
6 instead of closing, just wiping out service to a
7 couple of thousand kids, of absorbing the cut
8 across the board among all OSTs, if it came to
9 that?
10

11 JEANNE MULLGRAV: There are a
12 couple of things that are operating here. One is
13 that we had to go back to what the founding
14 principles were around OST and the development of
15 OST. As you will remember, the bulk of the
16 resources came from ACS and at that time there was
17 a commitment, and continues to be a commitment, to
18 making sure that we have a space for every child
19 coming out of their childcare program, and
20 prioritizing children accordingly. And we have
21 had separate registration programs to make sure of
22 that, and our computers actually lock other
23 children out to make sure that we can accommodate
24 children from ACS. In that regard, it's been
25 important as we have had to make these reductions

that we preserve as much as possible a system that can continue to make room for children coming out of the ACS system.

At the same time, we know that--and in your opening remarks you talked about preserving services for the most vulnerable.

There's no question that we have poor people living in many, many communities and neighborhoods throughout New York City. That's not at dispute here. But when we've looked at the data, we realized that approximately 23% of the children in more middle class communities fit that definition, compared to communities where, of course, everybody fits that definition. So when we've had to make some of those tough choices, we've had to prioritize the more vulnerable communities and the more low income communities.

The other issue for us that that we have heard from providers that the price per participant is already--presents challenges for them. So an across the board cut would further diminish that price per participant and would not allow us to maintain the system of quality that I know has been critical to being able to make the

case for more resources. For all of those reasons and for some additional reasons that are based in research.

When we were doing the work, in terms of picking of NDAs for example, we worked with Professor Malenkov [phonetic] and Professor Logan, experts in poverty. One of the things they said to us was that poor children and families living in poorer communities are worse off and are less likely to come out of poverty than poor families that live in more affluent communities, because they're not able to take advantage of some of the resources and some of the infrastructure that exists in more middle class communities. Further to that, more recently there was research at NYU that looked at controlling for demographics, same race, same socio-economic status, that children that grow up in housing projects, in other words poor children living, again, among poor families, don't fare as well educationally as their counterparts who may share, again, the same race and the same economics but live in other communities. So all of this taken together helps support this direction.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, Commissioner, I disagree with a lot of the things you said; I'm not going to say that your point, you know, isn't reasoned. And you know, of course you could say this about most of the conversation we're going to have this morning. It's a lousy discussion about lousy choices. And I would say to you that I am more than sympathetic to the providers that are concerned about the price per participant. I mean even in good times we are concerned about the price per participant in terms of maintaining quality programming.

I just would say this to you, first of all, you know, there is no magic to zip codes. That is a boundary line drawn without any regard to anything other than the convenience of the postal service. And I know we use them for convenience, but they really tell us nothing from one block to the next about poverty and need. I would suggest that we might be better looking at our OST programs by free lunch data, perhaps.

I know that when we talk about, and again, we only talk about the things we know, and I'm sure my colleagues could all talk about their

own experiences, the kids who go to Roy H. Mann don't necessarily live around Roy H. Mann. A good number of them, most of them, are coming down Ralph Avenue on the bus from other zip codes. I would imagine that although Roy H. Mann is in my district, probably half the students come from Council Member Williams' district. So, you know, the zip code idea is really in many ways arbitrary.

The other thing I would take issue with is you said, when we go back to the origins of OST. Well, I've been around long enough to remember the origins of OST. And OST was an attempt to coordinate all after school programming in the City of New York and to run it in a more efficient manner, not merely the ACS piece, so let's not forget the rest of it. I mean yes, over the years, OST has been called upon--particularly last year when we were closing ACS sites--to pick up a burden that ACS used to have. But there were multiple different streams of after school programming in the City of New York, all of which morphed into OST. And, you know, I doubt whether or not the kids in the programs--and I've gotten

1 letters from so many of the OST programs that are
2 on your chopping block right now, whether they
3 would consider themselves low need, and whether
4 their parents would consider themselves low need,
5 and whether or not they even care that they're in
6 a zip code that's considered low need. So, I hope
7 that we don't have to get into a discussion where
8 we have to decide whether or not we're going to
9 prejudice the price per participant for all, or
10 eliminate services for thousands of kids who may
11 be in just as high need as the kids who are
12 getting the services. I hope we don't have to get
13 into that discussion, because from where I am
14 sitting, this cut cannot stand. On the City tax
15 levy funds in the DYCD budget, this cut just jumps
16 off the page as unacceptable to me. And I just
17 wanted to lay that out. And I know that things
18 may get worse as we go down the pike. Even if
19 they do get worse, I do not want to see the OST
20 programs cut.

21
22 And we're also cutting the summer
23 programs at a number of the middle schools, and I
24 won't even ask you a question about this, but it
25 should be painfully obvious to everybody here that

that cut on top of the summer job cut is going to make for a nasty, nasty summer for children in the City of New York and that just can't be handled.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I'm glad you all agree, but we're going to try not to do the applause stuff here. All right? Thanks.

So I will ask you about OST 2, which is of course, you know you mentioned in your testimony the funding for that ends on August 31st, based upon--because it was funded with federal ARRA dollars, I believe. What is the prospect for that situation changing?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Not likely.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I'm sorry?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: It's not likely to change. No.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Have we discussed that with Senator Schumer as well?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. I think we need to add that to his hefty work list. That's, you know, quite a large number of programs. And I'm just going to go to one other

1 YOUTH SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 40
2 thing and then I'll turn it over to Council Member
3 Vann and my colleagues. Everybody who, you know,
4 who follows the agenda around here knows that the
5 shelter beds for runaway and homeless youth is
6 something that is very, very important to me and
7 to my colleagues here at the Council. And I
8 recognize, again, how the budget dance goes. The
9 Council puts the money in, the Mayor doesn't
10 include it. We had this discussion around summer
11 jobs in terms of baselining City tax levy money
12 for summer jobs a couple of years ago, although
13 that seems like almost a silly conversation now.

14 It is almost impossible to expect a
15 shelter bed provider that has to contract for
16 space to be subject to the vagaries of a non-
17 baselined budget. How do you expect the people
18 who are contracting for these shelter beds to
19 maintain these programs if they're not going to
20 know until sometime in June whether or not the
21 Council is going to be able to restore the money
22 that the Mayor did not put into his budget? And
23 even in this bleak time, is there no hope that
24 your agency can convince the Office of Management
25 and Budget that it's time to baseline shelter bed

money for runaway and homeless youth?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I think the establishment by the Mayor of the LGBTQ RHY Commission was prompted by the desire to have us take a closer look at many of the issues involving RHY, including the opportunity to think more about prevention. Beds are certainly an important component of the RHY portfolio, but we also believe that there are opportunities that haven't been explored to date with working with families and working with issues of bias that would prevent young people from having to leave their homes in the first place.

And we also, on this Commission, took the opportunity to engage some of our private partners and elevate the importance of this, of this area. RHY is, as you know, a small part of our budget, and perhaps doesn't have the kind of profile that we could have with the Commission and with the experts that have been convened. And so we have many, many private funders that are looking very seriously about future investment in RHY. And we'll work with them and try to see how we can increase the resources for this area.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Commissioner, in all due respect, and I'm not going to pick a fight with you about RHY, because your agency has been absolutely a fabulous partner over the last seven or eight years in the RHY expansion of shelter beds; but 283 beds when we all know there are 3,800 on the average given night, children, on the average given night, sleeping on subway gratings and out on the streets of the City of New York, is disgraceful. So while the issue of prevention is a terrific--terrifically important, I can't--I mean, you know, I raise that every time we have a hearing with Commissioner Mattingly over the ACS or Juvenile Justice, talking about turning off the spigot of kids on to our street homeless through foster care and through Riker's Island and Spofford and places like that. We raise that all the time. And it's wonderful that we have a commission to study it. I think that's terrific too. But money talks. In this case money talks. And you know, you kind of didn't answer the question of how in God's name are places like, you know, Alley Four [phonetic], New York Covenant House, or Turning Point or any of those, you know,

great, you know, organizations are able to run their organization not knowing whether or not the shelter bed money is going to be there.

And it strikes me as--if we're talking about vulnerable populations in the City of New York, when you get to children and teens sleeping on the street, you have scraped the bottom of vulnerable. So I would hope that we're not going to use the Commission as a reason not to do the right thing in that particular area. And you know, I think the Commission is great, but when it really comes down to it, that Commission will mean absolutely nothing if we wind up closing 25, 35, 50 crisis and transitional shelter beds. That would just be the cruelest cut on the whole list, so. Chairman Vann?

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Yeah, thank you, Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I'm sorry. I should have acknowledged Council Members Cabrera and Mark-Viverito have joined us as well.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: As Chair of Community Development, obviously I have oversight over community services, but I share the same

passion with Chairman Fidler around the youth programs or the elimination of such. So I feel very strongly about all the priorities that he has initiated.

However, I must speak to other programs that you are responsible for, for instance, under Community Services Programs you proposed to eliminate \$1.2 million of City funding in this year, fiscal year, and also going forward in out years. That would mean those programs would solely be funded with Community Service Block Grant. Perhaps--can you tell me what the breakdown is of funding with federal, State and City funding so I have a better picture of the totality of the funding for Community Service Programs?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Our community development division is supported by the Community Services Block Grant, and that includes--it's now \$31 million 938. And there's been an increase of 7% of \$1.6 mill, so that was added to the original, which was \$30 million 313. That's pretty much it.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay. Let me--

how much--

JEANNE MULLGRAV: [Interposing] The \$1.2 million was in the form of additional match. We have to match with our federal dollars City tax levy dollars. So we went above and beyond that match to the tune of \$1.2 million, so this latest budget reflects a reduction of \$1.2 million, which was what we did above and beyond the match for the Community Services Block Grant money.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: So that 1.2 is not required for match, it was just support from the City coffers. Is that what we're saying?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Right. It was tax levy that was not required for match, and so it was on the table just like other tax levy programs.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: What funding did you receive from the State this year for community service programs?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: For community services programs--and we don't have--I'm sure we can get that to you, a full breakdown. Are you talking about ARRA monies or...?

CHAIRPERSON VANN: No. Did you

receive State funding other than ARRA, which is essentially federal?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yeah. That's why I'm a little--there's no State--there isn't State funding.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: It passes through the State.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: It passes through the State, and I'm referencing--it's the \$31 million that I talked about that passes from the federal government through the Department of State to DYCD, as a community action agency.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: So it's not really State monies.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay. What programs would be--as you indicated, the 1.2 is not part of a match, but it was a City allocation. And now that we're withdrawing that \$1.2 million, what service programs will be affected by it? Did you contract any of that money with the CBOs for instance?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Absolutely. The bulk of that money was used to support a program

called Health Stat, which contracted with nine community-based organizations and made available health insurance information to approximately 20,000 New Yorkers. We propose to accomplish that in a different way. We have a new data system where we can ask questions about health insurance. For every client who sees us, which is a much more comprehensive approach to getting this done, as well as working with the Health Insurance Access Office at HRA, and this will result in a savings of approximately \$486,000.

Other monies that are realized through this savings include reducing our adolescent literacy program from \$1.2 million to \$1 million. Because it's under a new RFP it does not mean that we will take down any contracts. And then the other monies will be realized through underperforming contracts and accruals.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: So you anticipate--or in anticipation that CSBG funding stops, you're trying to be able to maintain those programs.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We actually are not anticipating that CSBG will stop. We've been

in touch with our intergovernmental team in Washington, and they've assured us that this is a highly supported program, has bipartisan support and in many, actually localities, Community Services Block Grant is sort of the only game in town in terms of supporting social services. Unlike New York City, which brings a lot of resources to the safety net, in many other communities, Community Services Block Grant is really the only thing happening. And so you have a lot of legislators who want to make sure that it stays in place.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Speaking of block grants, you received in federal stimulus money; you received \$50.5 million in Community Services Block Grant money. My understanding is approximately \$32.5 million has been used, and the remaining \$18 million is being rolled over into 2011. Is that correct?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Just a little different term I would use, because it's not actually a rollover. It represents a 15-month period that began on July 1st, '09, and will end on September 30th. And so it's not really

rollover. It's part of--we projected programs to be spent under this money for both fiscal years.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Are we saying that the \$18 million will be spent in the same way and on the same programs as the \$32.5?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes. Obviously in prorated amounts. It's approximately--actually it's approximately \$34 million 114 and then \$16 million 367, if that's for fiscal year '11.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: And what exactly are those programs that will receive that money again?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: The Fatherhood ARRA program, the immigrant ARRA program, the adult literacy including English ESOL and ABE, OST summer program, OST Option 2, Summer Youth Employment Program. We are putting in \$7 million 174 to the Summer Youth Employment Program; and then there are monies for personnel expenses and OTPS.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: So obviously you could prepare for me and the Committee how much each of those programs received of that money.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Right. Can you tell us, could you also let us know how many jobs were either created or retained in each of those programs as a result of this funding?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Is that available?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: And how many people were actually served, received some form of instruction or service.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: That's available or you can make that available to us.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We actually have that now.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Do you want to share it now?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Sure. Looking at the adult literacy and ESOL and Immigrant Employment Services, we had \$4.6 million for ESOL, which is funding 17 CBOs to provide employment related services and 9 CBOs to serve and expanded number of students.

We have under ABE and GED, funding 12 CBOs to provide expanded slots and employment related services. We--in terms of FTEs, it's 1.84 FTEs so far. That's just the first couple of quarters. Of course we're expecting that as the program gets up and running that these numbers will increase. By the end of September, the stimulus funded ESOL programs will serve an additional 540 students. So far we have more than that, actually. We have 575 that have been enrolled. By the end of September we will have provided employment related services to 1,878 participants and we have 127 who have found jobs through these programs.

You know what? Actually since, you know, this is very, very detailed, I might take your first offer to send it to you.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: I might withdraw that offer. Not really.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON VANN: I will stop there, and obviously will come back later. I know there are other members, I'm sure, who have questions.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: And I'll come back. Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you, Chairman Vann. We go to Council Member Reyna, followed by Council Members Williams and James.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so much, Chairs. Good morning, Commissioner. It's wonderful to see you again. And I know that this is perhaps the toughest year since 9/11 budget. I understand that, the constraints you've had to endure, and the expansion throughout the years--we feel like we're going back in time.

I just want to understand a little bit concerning the Beacon programs. The disparity in funding between federally funded Beacon programs at \$400,000, versus City levy funding at \$340,000, what is the reason for that difference of \$60,000?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: The reductions that we're talking about today are reductions in tax levy funds. The corresponding federally funded programs have not taken these reductions, and so we are not reducing those contracts. But I

can appreciate your point, which is that you begin to have, you know, really a two-tiered system.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And I appreciate you concluding what I'm trying to lead into, but even further than just the two tier system of appearance, have we as a City petitioned the federal government to pick up the 66 remaining City tax levy funded Beacon programs at \$400,000 each, considering that they had 14 already federally funded?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: These Beacons are located in communities which make them eligible for that funding, which I know is fully expanded. And so, you know, part of it is having the-- meeting the criteria to be able to even be qualified to receive that funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And--

JEANNE MULLGRAV: [Interposing]
Deputy Commissioner?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Sure.

BILL CHONG: It's Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner. Just to give you more information about the \$60,000 gap, it represents two separate cuts. I want you to understand that.

There was a cut last year of about \$35,000 per Beacon, which was offset by stimulus money, which disappears and then there was another \$24,000 cut this year. So that's why there's such a huge drop from that amount.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So 35 and 24 represents the \$60,000 each in 66 Beacons. I'm missing some money.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So it was off by \$1,000. I was just trying to...

BILL CHONG: We're rounding up.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Rounding up. Okay. The--can you provide us with the list to refresh my memory, at least, of the federally funded 14 at \$400,000? Could you share that with us? And then was the criteria that the 14 have already met based on 2000 census?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Probably. It's poverty data.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Do you believe that with the upcoming census we will be able to see an increase? If the reporting of population to the federal government will meet the

requirements that more Beacon programs, perhaps, can be federally funded 100%?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I'm not willing to project sort of what the demographics will look like, but of course we are taking every measure internally to make sure that we get the message out about participating fully in the Census. It obviously drives a lot of our funding decisions, whether, you know, whether it was the conversation we had about OST or whether it's where we locate our NDA programs, or of course this federally funded program. So we are using our neighborhood advisory boards to get the message out in the community and encouraging everybody to participate.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And Commissioner, do you know if there has been any program in the 66 Beacons picked up in the last eight years by the federal government?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Do you know when was the last year that a Beacon was federally funded from its original amount of programs?

BILL CHONG: They were new

programs. I think this happened sometime in the mid '90s during the expansion of Beacons by the previous administration, that they found a funding stream, Community Development Block Grant Funding, which goes through HUD, and added 14 Beacons that met the low income criteria.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And--

BILL CHONG: [Interposing] So they weren't existing Beacons that were converted; they were just new Beacons.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: And amongst the 66, we wouldn't be able to use the same approach because of the federally mandated poverty levels?

BILL CHONG: I think it's really a function of how much available CDBG money there is to the City.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: It's both.

BILL CHONG: Yeah, it's both.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I mean you have to qualify and we have to have the resources available.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So I just wanted to see if there was a possibility of

getting the 66 remaining City tax levy funded Beacons under the federal government through the CDGB money so that they can stay intact at \$400,000 programs, as opposed to creating a two tiered system. You know, understanding that these are economic difficulties in budgeting all of these programs. Creating a two tiered system perhaps can be the contingency approach, and figuring out a way to have the federal government through this year's appropriations to be able to say, let's pick up more Beacon programs through CDGB allocations, has that been an approach this year?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I think we are always, we are always wanting the federal government, just like the State, to pick up more of the costs that the City assumes for a number of different programs, but I don't think that there are any unspent resources that could be tapped, you know, specifically in that funding stream. I think perhaps long term it's something that we could take a look at, but I don't think that there's any, you know, loose change.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Well, I'd

1
2 appreciate it if you can take a look at it, and
3 I'd be more than happy to work with you as our
4 Commissioner on youth services.

5 You know, these Beacon programs
6 are, as you very well know more so than I, with
7 your background, they're literally the safe house
8 of many of our youths. And so, to see them begin
9 a trend of defunding and creating tiers would be
10 hazardous to the lives of so many affected.

11 The last question I have is more of
12 a request on the OST. The zip codes that are not
13 mentioned here, can we get that breakdown on the
14 list of the OST funding that will be eliminated,
15 so that we have an understanding as to where the
16 impact is and how we're being affected? And in
17 relation to daycare centers. Obviously, this was--
18 -these have been incremental changes in service,
19 not just funding, where we have been assured by
20 ACS and in working in collaboration with DYCD,
21 that kids out of their school day would be
22 serviced. And what we've seen is more of a
23 waitlist, and now with an elimination, it's going
24 to be exacerbated with less seats. And so I'm
25 trying to understand how this impact by zip code

is going to be affecting neighborhoods. And if you could make that available to us, that would be very appreciated.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I'll jump in. We have the actual list of the OST sites that are scheduled for closing, so we will--

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
[Interposing] If you can make that available, Chairman?

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: --get that to you.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you. And thank you very much, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Council Member Williams, followed by Council Member James.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners, for coming out and speaking before us. One, I just wanted to give a shout out to Mary Jo [phonetic] from Cortelyou Library, who I've done a lot of work with. And also I know that Henry Street Settlement is here, and I stole someone from them who is now my legislative director, so I want to give them a shout out as

well. One thing, I do want to take some umbrage with, the notion about kids in poverty in the more affluent neighborhoods being a little better off than people being in all poverty. There's a phrase that I want to re-turn that Malcolm X said, if a knife is in someone six inches and someone else three inches, it's still pretty bad.

So I'm not sure how much it's good to weight where the pocket of poverty is. I think there are still a lot of people in there who need assistance. And one of those, actually, OST programs, called Kids' World, in my district, run by CAMBA from PS 269. It's a bit problematic because that actually, that district where I represent is--was ranked moderate to high risk, which is the second highest ranking, as I'm sure you know, of child wellbeing. 21% of the kids in my district under 18 are listed as in poverty. And one-third of the children who attend that program have also been affected by the Haitian earthquake. So it's very disconcerting that we would be cutting that program. And I understand that you didn't want to cut year-round, but that program is actually run by two OST contracts,

which I think is going to be devastating to it.

And the notion of the zip code is also problematic because they're in the 11210 zip code, which is on the edge of two other zip codes that are very, very needy. So I don't understand the arbitrariness of it. I understand that we have to use something, but we should also pay attention to where the programs are, in addition, who exactly is using the program. So I think we really need to re-look at that, because it's going to devastate a lot of people who very much need those services. And I'm not going to go into it. As you said, it doesn't look like it's going to change, but I think we really need to make sure that it does change. Please look into it as much as possible, because it's really going to affect a lot of kids.

The question I have, other question I have, is what I've been asking all of the heads of agencies that I have the pleasure of speaking to. I wanted to know, out of the employees at DYCD, how many of them reflect what you would call persons of color? And also that question for the people who are in management at DYCD?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I'll answer the last question first. In terms of our ethnic breakdown, and DYCD is proud of having a highly qualified and diverse team; we have White, 24.7%; Black, 42.6%; Hispanic, 20%; and Asian, 7.2%. When we look at managers we have, White, 38%; Black, 29.5%; Hispanic, 19%; and Asian, 10%.

I don't want to give the impression, again, that these cuts to OST are not painful and that there aren't people who are struggling day in and day out for whom this will be an even further burden. We looked at OST because, quite frankly, the bulk of the City tax levy dollars are in OST. And so we couldn't in any way hold them harmless. As you probably know by looking at our portfolio, the choices are tough ones. Our tax levy programs include runaway and homeless youth, adult literacy, OST, Beacons and SYEP. All five are programs that I have heard everyone in this room be staunch advocates for. And I, myself, have been a staunch advocate, of course, for these programs.

We use zip codes because the demographers from the Department of Planning say

that that's the best, the smallest reliable grouping that can be used. So it's imperfect and we acknowledge that. And the census data, of course, is imperfect because as we know by going to the local Laundromat and the local library that there are far more people than are probably represented in our numbers. But again, that's what the Planning Department says is the best we have, given its imperfections. I think that's...

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Is there any reason why we couldn't use Census tracts?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We've explored that with the Department of Planning and they did not feel comfortable with us going that route.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Do you know why they didn't feel comfortable going that route?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: They just felt that it wasn't as reliable as using zip codes. Lisa, do you remember?

[Pause]

JEANNE MULLGRAV: It's too small, we were told, for aggregation.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: You first

said that they said that the smallest data that they could use was zip code, and now you're saying that the Census was too small.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: The Census track is too small.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay. So the smallest that they could use is Census track, but they're saying that the Census track is too small.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Why don't you...?

[Pause]

JEANNE MULLGRAV: What we're trying to do is get the most accurate, but also the most granular, the smallest, at the same time. So the most accurate and the most reliable, but also make sure that it's the smallest. For example, if we don't use zip codes, the way we used to do funding at DYCD was to do funding really on the borough-- borough-wide. Everything was borough-based. Of course if you look at boroughs, the most affluent borough is going to be Manhattan, but that doesn't take into consideration what's happening in, say, East Harlem or Central Harlem or Washington Heights, which has the largest number of young

1
2 people per capita. So we knew that, you know,
3 obviously doing that borough-based funding was
4 inappropriate and wanted to get smaller than that.
5 But, you know, I'll let Lisa--Lisa Gulick,
6 Assistant Commissioner for Planning.

7 LISA GULICK: Hi. Thank you. It
8 gets very technical, of course. The 2000 census
9 took two years to break down into specific
10 statistics that we could use. And in between we
11 have the American Community Survey. But many of
12 the demographics we look at are not reliable other
13 than on a citywide basis, let alone breaking it
14 down to Census tracts between ten year Census
15 efforts. So, the different statistics vary in
16 their reliability. But by reliability we mean is
17 the margin of error so large that we are not
18 looking at accurate numbers? We can't just take
19 the reports from even the three-year, the rolling
20 American Community Survey data. Many of the
21 demographics that we want to look at on a very
22 granular level are just not reliable other than at
23 the ten year Census.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay. I
25 don't want to hog up all the time from my

colleagues. But I'm not sure, I'm not a statistician, but I'm not sure that I agree with everything you're saying, so I have to look into it a little further. But what I would say is minimally we probably need to attach some additional indicators than just zip code when we start slashing and burning these programs. Maybe we want to look at actually, regardless of the zip code it's in, we can use it at the beginning and then go into and see who is actually using the programs, instead of assuming that it's not needed. Maybe that would be an extra indicator that can help prevent instances like these and instances in other Council Members' districts, where although they're in a zip code, the people who are using it desperately need it.

And the second was for my other question. Actually, for my question about so-called people of color, that was actually one of the better answers I've heard from the agencies. But I, particularly in the management, I think there is a lot of room for improvement for our agencies to reflect better the people who they serve and the City as a whole. Thank you.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you,
Council Member Williams.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I should just
tell you that it was 70% White managers when I
started in 2002. And so we have been able to
increase both diversity and the educational level
of our managers.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you,
Council Member Williams. And I just want to,
before I go on to Council Member James, followed
by Council Members Cabrera and Koo, I just want
to--I don't want to get lost in this argument
about high need/low need zip codes/not zip codes.
That as far as I am concerned personally, this cut
is bad regardless and that this cut is one that we
need to put on the top of the list for things that
need to be restored out of City tax levy money.
Because, I think, you know, Council Member
Williams' first point is that, you know, need is
need, whether you live amongst a lot of people in
need or whether you're in need. Each family and

each child that is involved in this cut will feel it, regardless of the zip code or census track that they live in. I just want to make sure that that point isn't lost. Council Member James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:

Commissioner, before I ask you a question, let me begin with an editorial and a preamble.

The real estate boom that has now gone bust has never taken into consideration the needs of young people. And that is why in the race to the gold, the tragedy and travesty is that you have seen throughout the City of New York the closing of after school centers, the closing of youth centers, the closing of bowling alleys, the closing of roller skating rinks, the closing of movie theaters, the closing of chess clubs, boxing centers, the closing of athletic centers. And in their place are all luxury development all throughout the City of New York, which do not serve the interest of young people.

And so it comes as no surprise to me that last week on one day we had three stabbing at three separate schools. It's because you have children who are now bored to tears and who,

1 unfortunately, are not engaging in any
2 constructive activity. And, unfortunately,
3 between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 is the most
4 challenging time in the City of New York. It's
5 because we've turned our backs on young people,
6 and that, I believe, is an indictment of this
7 administration. I've said it now, I've said it in
8 the past and I'll say it again. And so,
9 Commissioner, in my district, where all of these
10 things have close and what dots my district is
11 empty luxury condos. And in one in particular, in
12 the shadow of several of these luxury developments
13 right off of Flatbush Avenue and Myrtle Avenue,
14 sits a community center for young people, which
15 unfortunately has locked its doors because of the
16 great need in the neighborhood, and there's a
17 limited number of slots for children. And the
18 kids are literally knocking on the doors after
19 school, but we can't let them in because of the
20 cuts in programs.

21
22 And so my question to you,
23 Commissioner, is, what was the rationale for
24 targeting 33 OST programs? I echo the sentiments
25 of the Chair. I don't know how you define low

needs. And so if you could perhaps give me some understanding of the rationale and how you came to the determination that some of these centers are in, quote unquote, low priority zip codes?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: The target zip codes were established when we did the first RFP in 2005, and again when we've done subsequent RFPs. And we looked at the following criteria. We looked at youth population. We looked at the poverty rate. We looked at the number of young people who are not in school or not in the labor force, i.e. disconnected youth. We looked at the number of English language learners. We looked at the number of single parent families with related children under 18 years of age. And we looked at the number of children eligible for State subsidized childcare. And that's how we came up with the list of target zip codes that we are using today.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So I hate to be parochial. Are any of these zip codes in the district that I represent?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: What zip codes are you...?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: 11213,
11216, 05, 01, 11233.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: 213?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: 216?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes. And I
would be helpful if we could get that list.
Again, I share the sentiments of the Chair, that
we the City Council, will have to draw a line in
the sand against these cuts, which represent the
worst cuts of all.

Let me go to Beacon programs. We
have a significant increase in gang activity in
the City of New York. There's a number of Beacon
programs which act as a safe haven against gang
initiation and gang activity in the City of New
York. What would be the impact on the 66 Beacons
that will have their budgets reduced?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We will be
reducing the middle school youth expected to be
served from 200 to 150. And it will be 6% cuts at
\$23,924 and 7% cuts at \$27,780 in the next fiscal
year.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Again, most

of the problems that we're seeing in the City of New York is in middle schools. And I would urge that there be reconsideration to the cuts to the middle schools, actually to all of the schools.

Earlier you mentioned private funders. Private funders, unfortunately, do not come under the purview of the City Council. How do you make a determination with regard to where the private funding is appropriated and how much money are we talking about?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I wish I could make that decision, but it really is up to the private funders. And as you may know, the philanthropic community has its own missions and priorities and goals. That being said, we've worked very collaboratively with the youth funders group. And we have, as I mentioned, a number of funders on the RHY commission. And continue--we of course--the Wallace has been a primary funder of many of the support activities for OST, including capacity building and evaluation as well as many other things.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:
Commissioner, I know that from time to time the

private funders look to you for direction and guidance. I know also that you have a significant amount of influence as to where these private funds are directed. I would urge that in the absence of public funds during these challenging fiscal times, that you direct these private funders to these areas in the City budget that are being cut, and that it not be up to their own discretion, and that they fill the gap and the void of these cuts. I think it's absolutely critical, notwithstanding their individual missions. Because I would think that given private funders, if they were left up to their own devices, most of those funds would be directed to the Borough of Manhattan.

BILL CHONG: Actually, recently we were part of a forum by Philanthropy New York on the issue of summer learning loss. And a number of private funders asked us for the list of the 30 middle school programs losing summer services. So they were interested in trying to fill the gap.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Did any funders ask you with respect to the cuts in Beacon programs or OST?

BILL CHONG: No, because the topic of the forum was about summer services, so.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Are you going to have a forum with regards to the cuts to these programs?

BILL CHONG: I think there's a forum coming up next week, in a couple of weeks.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Is the Chair invited to that forum?

BILL CHONG: It's not our event. It's private funders. They have their own gathering called Philanthropy New York, and it's the Youth Funders Network. So we don't decide who is invited. But I know that they do have a forum coming up, and I think sometime in early April, to discuss the impact of cuts. So obviously--

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:
[Interposing] I would urge that you get the Chair an invitation and that the Chair bring me along as a tagalong.

[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: New York City Housing Authority. As you know, I represent my district--thank you. My district is very

diverse. There's parts of--an affluent part of the district and then there's a part of the district which there's great poverty. And they live side by side. So the Cornerstone reductions, could you please provide the Committee with a list of the four NYCHA centers that have not been opened as of yet? I would hope that would include Whitman's Community Center in my district. Is that one of them?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: No? Okay. When is Whitman opening? It's not?

BILL CHONG: It's not one of the 25 Cornerstone, so.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay. What are the four Cornerstone?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Bayview, Johnson, Polo Grounds and Stapleton.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay. Council Member Reyna asked a number of questions with regards to the ARRA funding. There were a list of organizations that ARRA funded, Adult Literacy, Adult Literacy Employment, Fatherhood program, Immigrant Services, Go to School Get a

Job, Out of School Option 2, Internships and Summer Youth Employment. In the absence of ARRA funding, will these programs be eliminated or reduced?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: In the absence of ARRA funding, these programs will be eliminated. These were programs that because we had the opportunity we created them. We used the money, I think, intelligently because we were able to build on the infrastructure that was already there. In other words, we had a fatherhood program, for example, to work with parenting and non-custodial parents. And it always was clear to us that many of the dads wanted to be more economically stable and wanted to participate in their families financially. So the opportunity with ARRA was that we were able to create a jobs program that coincided with the fatherhood program. We also built on the other programs that we were already operating, like SYEP, like ESOL, etcetera.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: My last question is you indicated that the second stimulus, the jobs program, there was no funding for youth programs. The Childcare Block Grant, do

you receive any funds from that? My understanding is that there is another childcare block grant coming from the federal government. Do you...?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We don't receive funding through that.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: And is it too late to get youth programming included in the jobs stimulus program? In the Jobs Bill.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: In the Jobs Bill. Well, youth programming or Summer Youth Employment?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Summer Youth Employment.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We're very encouraged by Senator Schumer taking that up. And he, you know, we will work closely with him. We have worked closely with him to continue to make sure that is a prominent piece of the Jobs Bill.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Whatever we can do to assist you in that, would be greatly-- you know, we're there for you. Obviously, it's really critically important that the Summer Youth Program be included in the Jobs Bill. And I thank you, Commissioner.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you,
Council Member James. If I get invited, you're
invited. Council Member Cabrera followed by
Council Members Koo and Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you,
Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioner, for
coming. I just have one question. And the
question is, how many students, how many youth
will be affected by the proposed budget?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: By all of the
cuts?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: All of the
cuts.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Approximately
9,356.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: And does
the Administration have a strategic plan to deal
with these students?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Of course we
expect that our other programs will see increased
enrollment and we will make sure to facilitate
that. But short of that, you know, we don't have
many other options. But we will certainly make

available neighboring programs and other programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Would those programs have the capacity to handle more students in light of the fact that they're going to have a reduced budget?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: There are clearly going to be young people that are not served because the other programs are oversubscribed.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: And how many do you estimate there will be? How many of those students will not be serviced? What's your projection?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We know how many slots have been eliminated. The rest we'll have to, you know, sort of watch carefully.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: So you don't have a number right now.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Okay.
Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.
Council Member Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr. Chair and commissioners. I have a question about

the Summer Youth Employment Program. When does the Department expect applications to be made available and when will you let providers know of the actual allotment of slots?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have traditionally released the application in April. Last year it was about the middle of April. We are obviously anxiously awaiting the final numbers from the State, continuing to be hopeful we will get some restoration in that area. And so, we want to, you know, delay sending out notification until we absolutely know what the budget facts are.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: And what about the Department's contingency plan if the City is left with a \$25 million - - in fiscal 2011?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I think it will be really a sad, a sad summer to not have the kinds of numbers that we have seen over the last more than eight years. But as you know, we will still be committed to being innovative and having a high quality program. We want to make sure that even with reduced numbers that we continue to do creative things. So we will be, for example,

1 launching a pilot program with our contract
2 monitors to be able to use handheld devices to do
3 the monitoring of the worksites. Previously this
4 was a lot of paper and they go and visit a lot of
5 different sites. And so it would be great to be
6 able to record that information on the spot, and
7 more efficiently, rather than have to take notes
8 that then have to be transcribed. And so we're
9 going to be experimenting with that. I've been
10 working very closely with Commissioner Mintz, who
11 is helping us think about safe and convenient bank
12 accounts for every young person in SYEP. And we
13 had a very successful initial meeting with many of
14 the New York City banks as well as the FDC, and I
15 hope that we can get that off the ground this
16 summer.

17
18 And so we will just continue with a
19 much scaled back version of the SYEP program. We
20 have always had, unfortunately, a scaling up and a
21 scaling down of SYEP. So we have chosen vendors
22 that are able to ratchet up. And they were tested
23 last summer when we had the infusion of ARRA
24 funds, and they certainly stepped up to the plate.
25 And so that's part of our system, it's a flexible

one.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: And my last question is, given the funding uncertainties at the moment, and the need for programs to begin, start activities, when is the last possible moment that the DYCD will wait until finalizing program budgets and slot totals for providers?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I don't know that we have set that date yet. I can certainly remember that we have received--we used to receive State notification going into July 4th weekend. And we know that that's not optimal, because of the administration of a seven-week program. So clearly it's not going to be that. But, you know, I don't have a date in mind. Again, we're going to try to as much as possible look at last year's timing of mid April, and see what we can do and see how much information we have about the budget at that point.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And Council Member, I would just say that DYCD does an incredible job of ratcheting up the summer job

program even when they get the money late over the last number of years; I've noticed that. But when we talk to the Commissioner about ratcheting up and ratcheting down, this year we're not just ratcheting down, we're dismantling. So hopefully it won't come to that.

Council Member Rodriguez, followed by Council Member Palma. And we've been joined by Council Woman Darlene Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all, thank you Commissioner, for being here today. My first question is you just said that Washington Heights has the largest number of young people per capita, right? That's what you said, right?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: That's what I said.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: And since that's the district that I represent, one of my questions is, is that reflective on how we distribute funding for young people?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Absolutely. And that's--

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:
[Interposing] How?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We can give you some of those details about how the funding in your community has grown. But to the extent that we have been able to rely on data and make data-driven decisions, it has resulted in more resources for your community.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So definitely I would like to see that--

JEANNE MULLGRAV: [Interposing] Absolutely.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --that information. And it takes me also to the next question on, do you know that in Washington Heights, in that district, young people, they don't have one indoor pool?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I wasn't familiar with that. I know about the park--Highbridge has the pool.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: For the summer.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: For the summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But you know that there is no one indoor. And you know that there is one school that has one Olympic

pool, George Washington Heights School, you know that that pool has been used for storage.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I know that across the City pools have been closed for a variety of reasons, including ones of insurance as well as having enough staffing, having the resources for staffing, having the coverage for the pools, which the regulations require additional staff, and also being able to recruit lifeguards; and I know that's been an ongoing issue as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But I just hope that--I'm looking to get allies in this effort to bring quality services to my community. And if you look at Washington Heights and you say how the number of young people reflect--we are-- Washington Heights has a higher number, I believe that is unfair that our young people, they don't live in Chelsea Piers; they don't live in the East Side, they don't live in West Side; they don't have the same services that other communities have. And I know going against--I mean there was an article in the New York Times a couple of months ago about the number of pools that have

there any initiative that President Obama has in mind as the American Promise in order that--where also you can look at as a source of bringing some money for youth programs in a different community? Are you aware of any other federal initiatives that the DYCD, working together with community groups, we can apply for particular grants to bring funding to our youth programs?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We're looking at any type of funding, and it doesn't necessarily have to come through DYCD. We know that some of our providers seek federal funding directly and if it's bringing more resources and more after school programs, that's fine and we don't have to administer it. And so we also play a role in working with our providers to be able to get those resources.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: But is there any, any new initiative at the federal level right now that you're looking at?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: New initiative? I'm not aware of any new initiatives.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank you,
Mr. Chair. Good morning Commissioner.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.
Council Member Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I
appreciate all the work that has been done through
DYCD and, you know, it's tough but DYCD has made
leaps and bounds and we appreciate that.

I'm interested in the--in your
testimony you referred to the \$2 million
allocation from the WIA ARRA to expand the Parks
Opportunity Program. And it said that so far it
has enrolled 203 participants. Is that a capped
number? Does the \$2 million cap at a certain
amount of participants?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Actually Deputy
Commissioner Lynn would like to respond to that
question, but I think the answer is yes.

SUZANNE LYNN: Yes the--

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA:
[Interposing] Can you just introduce yourself for
the record?

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Commissioner,
you have to identify yourself for the record.

SUZANNE LYNN: Yes. Suzanne Lynn, Deputy Commissioner. The contract or the memorandum of understanding that we have with the Parks Department calls for them to serve 200 youth, originally. They are actually serving over than that; they are serving 203. And we are in active discussions with them to increase that number.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: And out of those 203 participants, do we know how many now are actually working or have gone back to school or what kind of trainings they have received?

SUZANNE LYNN: We don't have that information right here, but we can certainly get that for you.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: So if you can submit that to the Committee I would really appreciate that. And then in terms of, I know that a couple of weeks ago Commissioner Doar had testified at the General Welfare and HRA budget hearings that HRA would have enough money to do the POP program through summer of 2010. Does that funding, once it runs out, how does it affect this funding?

SUZANNE LYNN: It doesn't actually. The Parks Department runs a number of programs that fall under the rubric of POP. So when you hear a reference to one POP program, it doesn't necessarily relate to another POP program.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: And I ask, because we'll have some participants trained and of course ready to be working, so I just wanted to make sure that that funding would not affect these folks, these 203 people from the--

SUZANNE LYNN: [Interposing] These are entirely separate programs.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Okay. And then in terms of the \$1.5 million from Community Service Block Grants for the domestic violence in immigrant communities, do you know how many people have taking opportunity of that--how many are working, how many have been trained?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have--231 have been served thus far, but we project 425 by the end of September. 14 have been placed in jobs and 18 are in training or education.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: 14 full time jobs?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yeah, I'm assuming so.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Do we know these jobs, like, what's the wage average in these jobs, benefits?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I don't have that kind of detail with me.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: If we can get those kind of details I would really appreciate it. And submit it to the Committee.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

Chairman Vann?

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Yeah, parting question, Commissioner. You may have said this earlier, but I just want to be very clear. When the stimulus money is exhausted, I guess it expires by June 30th, 2010, right?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: WIA, there's WIA stimulus money and then there's CS--

CHAIRPERSON VANN: [Interposing]
Right. I'm referring to WIA.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Okay, WIA. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: The \$32.2 million.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Okay, WIA.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Yeah. What's going to happen to those development programs? Which ones will be affected when that money is expiring?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Each of these programs will be--represent enhancements to our current portfolio. And so the underlying program will remain, but the enhancements will fall off.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay. So they'll continue at a very reduced level. NYCHA, where are the NYCHA centers and how many are there?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have--

CHAIRPERSON VANN: [Interposing] Community centers.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have--

CHAIRPERSON VANN: [Interposing] Youth centers. That's the Cornerstone program.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Cornerstone program, yes. We have 25 community centers throughout the City. We have ten in Brooklyn,

five in the Bronx, four in Manhattan, five in Queens and one in Staten Island. We are serving just under 7,000 young people and adults in all of those programs.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: 7,000 being served.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: And how many people are employed, you know, do you have those figures?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have--the numbers I have are as of January. And they represent 246 staff that have been hired at the 25 centers. 52 full time and 194 part time. But my understanding is that hiring is ongoing and it also is being done locally and in the community so that you can have representation of the community in those positions.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Okay. So that represents the enhancement.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: The stimulus.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Oh no, no. It does not--oh, I'm sorry. No, that does not

represent the stimulus.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: It does not?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: These are tax
levy dollars that are supporting the 25 centers.
There is no stimulus money supporting the NYCHA
community--

CHAIRPERSON VANN: [Interposing]
Cornerstone.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: The Cornerstone
initiative.

CHAIRPERSON VANN: The stimulus
money. Okay, thank you. Thank you very much.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you..

CHAIRPERSON VANN: Appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And just
following that up, the four Cornerstone sites that
haven't opened, you do expect that they will open,
right? They're not--those are accrual savings
that you're referencing.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We have every
interest in them opening, but to the extent that
they're not opening we know that we could use the
money and rather than, you know, take reductions
elsewhere.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: That was kind of a non-answer, Commissioner. Are we working towards opening them or are we working towards not opening them?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: We're working towards opening them. And my skill set is varied, but that's not--the facilities issues are really on the NYCHA side. And I know from talking with John Rhea that he has every interest in seeing them open and vibrant and welcoming to the community, so.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I understand that--you know, I'm familiar with Bayview and I know that's a facilities issue, for example. So I just wanted to be sure that once we got the facilities ready that we hadn't whacked them from the budget so that it was moot.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No, no.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay, all right.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: No, this is just--this is just because they're not open--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
We're taking the accruals.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: --we're taking the accruals.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Once they open, obviously it's a different story.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. And Commissioner, there are a number of things that we haven't touched on, adult literacy being one of them. But the hour is late. I figure I can conclude your questioning with perhaps the most depressing question I can possibly think of, and that is, all of these lousy choices that we're being presented with on both sides of the table here do not reflect the Mayor's contingency plan should be get the further shaft from Albany and Washington. Could you tell me what the Mayor's contingency plan has in terms of DYCD programming and how that would impact on some of the services that we've talked about?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: I'm going to let Assistant Commissioner--I mean it's so daunting that I think I'm going to--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
Okay.

JEANNE MULLGRAV: --let
Commissioner Cirolia answer that question.

JOHN CIROLIA: John Cirolia,
Assistant Commissioner of Finance, DYCD. We don't
have a line item plan at this point. We're
waiting to see what happens with the State, but
the contingency plan is presented in the January
financial plan. DYCD's share would add up to
about \$12 million. So I am assuming that if we
don't get relief from the State that would be the
type of number we would be looking at during the
executive cycle. How it would be implemented, we
have not started to address that yet.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: In other words
you just have it--just can't even face that
reality. Well, \$12 million considering that we
talked about an OST cut here that's only a small
portion of that would obviously be just
disastrous. All right. So thank you,
Commissioner and your team. I just want to
reemphasize that this is not adversarial. I mean
obviously in a bad environment we have bad choices
to prioritize amongst. And, you know, the choice
being the rock and the hard place is never

pleasant. I do look forward to continuing to work with you to get our colleagues in Albany and Washington to ameliorate some of these choices. I know that over the years, even when given less you've done remarkably more. This time I think the mountain may be just too high. And I certainly hope we don't have to come to that and I hope that when we're talking in the executive budget, this will not be an even more difficult conversation than it was today. So I thank you for your testimony and look forward to working with you and the Administration to try to bridge as much of this gap as possible, because we clearly cannot be closing this budget gap on the back of children. Chairman?

CHAIRPERSON VANN: I am submitting a formal letter requesting the information that I suggested in my response. Okay?

JEANNE MULLGRAV: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you. Okay, folks. We have nine panels of multiple persons. Okay? So we are in fact going to run a two-minute clock. And I apologize for that; we are supposed to be out of this room at 1:00 and we

will clearly run past that. I would beg you that if you have written testimony, please don't read it. I know all of my colleagues and we are very capable of reading. Hit the high points, and--and I don't usually do this--if you have multiple representatives from the same organization and you can pick someone to be your primary spokesperson and the others want to come up and lend moral support and just say ditto, that would be really helpful today. So our first panel is Gigi Lee and Anthony Ng from United Neighborhood Houses; John Albert from the Afterschool Corporation; Katherine Eckstein from the Children's Aid Society; and Alyson Grant from UJA Federation. I assume they're all Youth Alliance Members.

The next panel, just so you can be ready will be Kathy Fitzgibbons from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Bruce Carmel from Turning Point; Abraham Palma from the YMWHA in Washington Heights; Cary Feliciano and Danny Rosenthal from the Educational Alliance. And the cards keep coming.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: This is

plugged in though, right? And the light's on.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: All right, just jump in here while we try and figure out the technical--and do not take advantage of the fact that your clock is not running.

KATHERINE ECKSTEIN: Thank you so much, Chairman Fidler. My name is Catherine Eckstein. I'm with the Children's Aid Society, and I am here jointly testifying with members of the New York City Youth Alliance, which is a confederation of New York City organizations working on youth development, youth employment and disconnected youth issues.

We have submitted written testimony. I will talk about the highlights here. My colleagues and I will be talking about different parts of the proposed budget. I do, before I talk about OST programs specifically, want to highlight our concern about the additional and compounding challenges that children and families across New York City are facing and have been facing during these very tough economic times. And we're finding in our own work serving

150,000 young people and their families a year, that the same children and families are being hit over and over again by these compounding cuts.

And I think we all need to consider that when we're making these very difficult decisions.

We've talked about the proposed cuts to OST programs, and we estimate that in fact the proposed cuts would cut 17,000 slots, which would include OST Option 2 and OST Option 1. And while I won't go over what we know would be very devastating cuts to school year programs, what I want to highlight here, because this wasn't touched upon as much in earlier testimony, is the middle school summer cuts, the elimination of all programs from middle school youth funded by OST in this City. We know the total slots would be 4,110 slots. We know what a challenging time that middle school can be for young people and their families. It is also a time of great opportunity. And we also know the importance of summer programs in helping to address summer learning loss. And so the elimination, the complete elimination of these programs would mean that thousands of middle school youth would have nothing to do this summer.

And this starts this summer. We've already received letters saying that our programs are closed.

So as we consider very, very difficult choices, I think we should think about the message that we're sending to young people and their families if we completely eliminate programs for them. And I'll turn it over to my colleague Alyson Grant.

ALYSON GRANT: Good morning, good afternoon. Thanks to the Chairs and the members of the Committee who are here today. As Katharine said, my name is Alyson Grant. I'm here from UJA Federation of New York, and I'm testifying on our behalf as well as the Youth Alliance, and I'm here to discuss specifically funding for OST 2 programming.

The elimination would have a disastrous impact on many Alliance programs and the clients that we serve. As discussed earlier, 10,750 slots at 91 community based programs, which offer youth leadership, college prep, creative arts and theme based programming would be cut if this funding is not restored this year. These

programs reach out to underserved populations that don't have other opportunities for social, educational and career enrichment, and serves them in their communities where they can easily access the services. This is really important to stress, as this is much more flexible than OST 1, and would provide a very valuable resources.

Specifically for UJA Federation network agencies, OST 2 funding would eliminate 10 programs serving over 1,300 students. A sampling of these programs includes the Educational Alliance, Edus [phonetic] for Teens; the Y at Washington Heights in Inwood, which provides literacy and acculturation programs for Spanish-speaking students and the JCC's Precarion [phonetic] Teen Lounge, which helps at-risk immigrant teenagers from the former Soviet Union.

The benefits of after school programs are far-reaching. Research actually indicates that high quality after school programs improve students' social skills, gives them more confidence, creates higher educational and career aspirations and motivates them to attend school. After school programs are also effective in

reducing violence, theft, vandalism, gang activities and other crimes. Especially of note is that there's also a tangible economic benefit to the after school programs. For every \$1 spent, taxpayers save \$3. And each dollar investment in at-risk youth saves a total of \$8 to \$12 of taxpayer's money due to crime prevention.

Supporting programs with proven positive outcomes, subsidized by private resources is worthy of your reconsideration. We strongly urge the City Council to restore the \$6 million in funding for OST 2. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ANTHONY NG: Hello? Good afternoon Chair Fidler, Members of the Committee. My name is Anthony Ng, Deputy Director of Policy and Advocacy at United Neighborhood Houses. I have also submitted written testimony on behalf of UNH that talks further about the impact of the funding cuts to our member agencies in the past two years, so there are figures there too.

But I'm here today on this panel to talk in particular about summer jobs. As you know we, with the Neighborhood Family Services

Coalition, co-chair the Campaign for Summer Jobs. And thank the Chair and Council for always being strong leaders on summer jobs, and thank you for the recent resolutions that the Council passed in calling on the federal government and the State government to restore funding to summer jobs.

You know, we've been up in Albany too talking to legislators on our Youth Action Day this year, with 300 young people; Speaker Silver attended again. And, you know, folks up there know, like you have said, that this is an important program. We just don't know where we're going to get the money. I do want to point out a few things with respect to the funding situation and just to point out that, you know, this year, you know, we're down a majority of the stimulus money. Last year there was about \$28.1 million in federal summer job stimulus money. But we have to remember that 18.5 of that went to restore cuts, cuts that the Mayor himself proposed to summer jobs in the fiscal '09 and fiscal '10 budget. So, while this year's City tax levy cut to summer jobs of \$1 million pales in comparison to those, we have to remember what the summer job stimulus

1
2 money did. It really just restored what we
3 already had. We used to be up to a high of \$32.4
4 million that the City put in itself for summer
5 jobs. But be that as it may, we know that this
6 year the big gaps we face are from the State in
7 terms of zeroing out that funding, and we don't
8 have about \$20.7 in stimulus money this year.

9 We all know that the demand for
10 this program is tremendous. You heard the
11 figures, 52,000 teens, 139,000 applications last
12 year. Youth unemployment rate is tremendous. I
13 have figures in my testimony about that. The
14 youth unemployment rate last June and July of 2009
15 was 26.3%. That figure, I'll have you know, is
16 actually higher than the overall unemployment rate
17 in the Great Depression of 1932. That was 24%.
18 So our youth unemployment rate nationally was at
19 26.3% last June and July of 2009. I'm sure if we
20 looked at City and State figures they would
21 probably be very similar to these national
22 figures.

23 We also know clearly that the
24 summer jobs program is going to be starting soon
25 and we're just around the corner, so we need to

figure out this funding. Applications are going to be out early April. Programs need to know how many slots they have. Families need to know if this program is going to be available for their young people.

Finally, it was mentioned before that there--not only are there impacts to some summer programs being totally eliminated this summer; summer jobs is a big employer of the City's summer camps and day camps. DYCD can even report itself that last year in 2009, 41.7% of its teens who worked in the program--that's about 21,803 young people, worked at summer day camps. So there's going to be a ripple effect if we don't get the funding back for summer jobs in terms of our summer camps. And I think the Committee and Chair Fidler has already recognized that in the hearing today.

In my written testimony that I've submitted today, there is a New York Times article that we at UNH helped to place last week that talks just about this impact on the summer camps, and the job opportunities of being a summer camp counselor and what that can lead to. So thank

you.

GIGI LEE: Good afternoon. I'm Gigi Lee, Co-Director of Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, and as a member of the New York City Youth Alliance, today my testimony will focus on Beacons.

As many of you know, each Council Member has at least one Beacon within their community district and many having multiple, with a total of 80 Beacons throughout New York City. And annually, Beacons serve over 150,000 children, youth and adults. Beacons are unique because they provide comprehensive, multi-age community based programming, such as education, recreation, adult education, arts, family programming, after school, before school, on weekends and during vacations. And each Beacon is individualized to meet each community's needs. Since Beacons were founded in 1991, Beacons have not received an increase in baseline funding.

So this year Beacons are facing multiple layers of cuts that if implemented will really devastate the core mission and infrastructure of Beacons. So for FY '11 we are

1 looking for a restoration amount of \$10.13
2 million, because of four layers of cuts. One is
3 the FY '10 one time infusion of \$2.3 million in
4 ARRA funds. There was an FY '11 midyear budget
5 change of \$1.58 million; and then the Mayor's
6 preliminary budget cut of \$2.75 million. And then
7 of course the FY '10 City Council restoration
8 piece of \$3.5 million of the previous fiscal year
9 \$4 million amount enhancement funds, which were
10 not included in the Mayor's preliminary budget.
11

12 So with a lot of youth programming,
13 we're looking at small cuts along the way, which
14 really have added up to a huge amount of cuts in
15 total. So for the past 20 years, as I said,
16 Beacons have really kept neighborhoods safe and
17 connected residents to each other and local
18 resources. So in times of increasing social need,
19 we feel like Beacons are most ideal to serve as
20 the hub for social and education support. So we
21 urge that Beacons really be protected because they
22 serve a vital purpose.

23 JOHN ALBERT: Good afternoon. My
24 name is John Albert and I'm with the After School
25 Corporation, also known as TASK. And we are very

happy to join our colleagues here at the New York City Youth Alliance to talk about some other aspects of youth funding that weren't discussed earlier, primarily the City Council discretionary awards and City Council initiatives that fund many, many programs around the City.

As you know, TASK was started about 11 years ago with the mission of making sure that every young person who wants access to an after school program has one. And we serve about 17,000 kids through our supported programs around the City. TASK and the Partnership for After School Education took a survey at the end of last year, and it's in the--the findings are in my testimony, but I just want to mention a couple of things. One, we found out that 56% of programs received cuts last year and 18% of them sustained cuts of over \$250,000. And so that's a tremendous amount of cuts already taken and felt in 2009. So the proposed cuts are just compounding the problem.

We realize that through the survey that 40% of organizations said that they served fewer families and youth in 2009, and more than one in four programs, 27%, said that they were

1 closing the program in 2009. And those are 2009
2 numbers, and you can imagine what's happening in
3 2010 and what the budget is going to propose for
4 2011. So if you're looking at a chart it's a
5 downward trend in terms of investment in youth.
6 And so, your assistance, particularly with
7 discretionary awards and citywide initiatives that
8 the Council initiates is particularly important.
9

10 Just two points about that; one is
11 organizations like TASK that receive funding
12 through the City Council, like Sports in our
13 Schools Foundation, the Ys, Teens Take the City
14 Program--we want to be transparent and
15 accountable. The process that you have instituted
16 to distribute these funds are critical to use, and
17 so we are very cognizant that we need to be
18 accountable and transparent in our process. A
19 couple of programs like the Immigrant Opportunity
20 Initiative, these are important programs; Adult
21 Literacy, I know you mentioned Chair Fidler; these
22 are important programs that need to be restored.

23 I just want to--something that's
24 not in my testimony I just want to raise is that
25 Council Member Vann you mentioned how many jobs

would be lost if these cuts went through. A good estimate is that for every ten after school slot lost there will be one adult job lost. And so I think that point did not come through in the previous testimony. So not only are kids losing their slots, adults are losing their jobs. And so I want to leave on that point.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well I want to thank this panel, in addition to being the first up and being real good about the two-minute clock, almost all of you, this panel always assists this Committee in helping us know what the providers' perspective is on providing--on actually how the services get delivered. So I appreciate them, and that's why they got first call. So, thank you all very much.

Our next panel is Kathy Fitzgibbons from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Bruce Carmel from Turning Point; Abraham Palma from the YMYWHA in Washington Heights, Cary Feliciano and Danny Rosenthal from the Educational Alliance.

Our next panel is going to be all of the folks that signed up from the Center for

Family Life. So if you're upstairs you'd better come down. And again, please be mindful of the two-minute clock. I really apologize for that, but it's unfortunately quite necessary.

[Pause]

ABRAHAM PALMA: Good afternoon, Chairman. My name is Abraham Palma. I am the Teen Literacy Director from the YMHA Washington Heights in Inwood. And eliminating the funds for OST 2 programs will definitely have a significant negative impact on over 200 at risk children that we serve. Our OST 2 funded programs serve over 125 teens that participate in our leadership, career training, computer, anti-tobacco and teen sports, homework help, dance and cooking programs every evening Monday through Thursday. The teens in the program are at risk for dropping out of school and spending extensive time in unsupervised activities including gang-related activities. Our program keep the children engaged socially, academically, and also they keep them off the street and out of trouble. We also have OST 2 funded there 25 junior high school students, all of whom have immigrated from Spanish-speaking

countries in the past year. Our program was created to help them acclimate to the new environment and help them succeed academically and socially. They have no other solid support system. Our OST 2 funded programs also include leadership programs that operate three afternoons each week, serving over 50 grade eight children. In this program, children who are performing below grade level develop a love for reading and improve their reading comprehension and skills in a comfortable and supporting environment.

These program 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 an opportunity to become positive members of the community. Please restore this funding to the children, so they can continue to have a place to turn. Thank you.

BRUCE CARMEL: Good afternoon. I'm Bruce Carmel. I'm Deputy Executive Director of Turning Point in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. I want to thank the Council Members for their obvious passion in serving those most in need, especially

Council Member Fidler. You're the champion of runaway and homeless youth, and Council Member Gonzalez, who is not here, but the Champion of Adult Literacy. And also--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
And I just want to mention, and I don't want to cut into your time, but Councilwoman Gonzalez is home ill today, and I know that a number of the folks from her district are here. I just wanted them to know that.

BRUCE CARMEL: Also, thanks to the youth from Sunset Park who are here up in the balcony. It's very important that you're here and that you're part of the process. So thank you.

[Applause]

BRUCE CARME: I just want to point out a couple of things with adult literacy services that has been--adult literacy has been mentioned many times. The cuts to adult literacy will be devastating, both the adult literacy initiative of the Council and the DYCD cuts. Also to point out to the Youth Services Committee that over 10,000 youth are served in adult literacy programs. So there are many people who are served

in adult literacy, unemployed workers, parents; but there are many youth, disconnected youth, that's their only program. That's all they've got, 10,000 of them. I don't know of any program that serves that many disconnected youth, any other government-funded program. So also just to urge the restoration of that initiative, and also the Immigrant Opportunities Initiative, which is especially essential during these difficult times when people are out of work and need to upgrade their skills for when the economy comes back. Thank you very much.

KATHY FITZGIBBONS: Good afternoon. My name is Kathy Fitzgibbons and I'm the Senior Policy Analyst for Youth Services from the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. I'd like to thank the Youth Services Committee and Chairperson Fidler for holding this hearing and for providing the opportunity for us to submit testimony on these critical youth service budget items. FPWA advocates for programs that are essential to the development of youth, including after school and out of school time programs, academic enrichment activities and job and skill

building opportunities and trainings.

First we'd like to strongly recommend that enough funding be provided for the Summer Youth Employment Program so that the same number of jobs can be available to youth as last summer. Employment opportunities such as those are just vital for youth at this time. Of the nearly 900,000 young adults 16 to 24 years of age in this City, almost 25% live below the federal poverty line, compared to 19% of all New Yorkers, regardless of age. And the summer of 2009 saw the highest rates of teen unemployment since 1948. Given the high demand for this program and how youth have been impacted by the economic downturn, we strongly urge sufficient funds are available, you know, for the same 52,000 plus jobs.

Second, we strongly recommend the restoration of \$5.99 million in runaway and homeless youth funding. This funding is very critical to organizations that provide shelter and support to our youth who have no other place to go. And the demand for these services far outweighs the current supply that is available, as was mentioned earlier.

Third, we'd ask for a restoration of \$2 million for the attendance improvement dropout prevention funding. This is something that our organization has been studying and advocating for, for a number of years. And we strongly recommend a restoration of funds for this important initiative. We also would like to preserve Beacon program funding.

And lastly, we'd like to urge the City Council to restore \$3 million for the teen relationship abuse prevention program otherwise known as Teen RAP. It's funded out of the Human Resource Administration, but since it so severely will impact our youth by having this program eliminated, I'd just want to bring this to your attention. So we'd like that \$3 million restored for Teen Rap. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DANNY ROSENTHAL: Good afternoon. I'm Danny Rosenthal from the Educational Alliance. We are a direct service organization on the Lower East Side and the East Village, and we are an operator of a conventional OST program that is slated for closure at a school called School of

the Future. We're also an operator of an OST 2 program in our community center on the Lower East Side.

I want to say that our--we're not an advocacy organization; we're not equipped for advocacy. But we are here today because I can guarantee you this is unbiased, we believe these programs are absolutely phenomenal. They are core to the lives of these students and their families. They're core to the communities. And less important, they're core to our organizations. So we intend to exert ourselves to see these very unfortunately proposals reversed.

We appreciate the Council's support last year in restoring funds for the OST 2 program, and we're hoping that you will be cooperative again this year, but I also want to point out that these are programs that were created by Mayor Bloomberg and the Bloomberg Administration several years ago, following a lengthy design to result in a best practice, which is actually working out quite well. And I think especially alarming is the fact that regarding OST 2, this is not a proposal to reduce it by five or

ten percent; this is a proposal to eviscerate this program that was just created five years ago and by all accounts is entirely flourishing. So while we, again, we're asking for the Council's cooperation and advocacy, we are calling on the Mayor to make this right and to recognize that this is just misguided and is going to be very expensive ultimately. My colleagues are here and I want you to hear the authentic perspective from them, from the program front; but there are just a few more points that I want to make.

In our programs for high school students we've added college access services. And I know you all, along with me--I'm going to get there--read in the New York Times last week that everybody is celebrating that we're up to a 59% graduation rate in four years. In our programs where we know these kids and where they come on their own volition, the college acceptance rate is 100%. We think that's something really to be proud of, and it's the intervention that we provide that makes that possible. We can't allow that to go away.

Also, we get about \$120,000 for the

OST 2 program in base funding. We raise about \$250,000 on top of that, approximately that amount, in a given year. If we lose the City base funding, we're very nervous that the additive funding will go away, so it's a much bigger loss. Last year we exerted ourselves, we took part in a comprehensive advocacy campaign, which we were pleased ultimately resulted in the reinstatement of the programs. We will not sit by again this year, although it takes a lot of time away from other tasks we should be engaged in, this is such a priority that you should expect to be hearing from us in the months ahead.

And if you can just bear with us, just briefly, I think it's really important that you hear a little bit about what happens on the ground with these kids and their families, so I want to introduce my colleagues.

CARY FELICIANO: Hi. I'm Cary Feliciano, Director at the School of the Future, one of the Option 1 schools that are slated to be closed. I have some parent notes and some students notes, and just for the sake of time, I know that you guys were asking a lot about the zip

codes and what other parts that they can use to figure out how to cut the schools or the--I'm sorry.

The School of the Future is not a zone school. The School of the Future has students from all over the City. I have parents and students that travel to come to the school from an hour away. I have parents and students who have chosen the school just because it's a great school and they have an after school program that can keep their children safe during the after school times. Thank you.

CHINO OKONKWO: And with that in mind I think it's very important to note--sorry, Chino Okonkwo from the Educational Alliance. I oversee the youth programs. With that in mind it's important to note that even though we're contracted to serve 350 students between our OST 1 and OST 2 programs, we serve well over 600 students. So I think that when they, when DYCD says they're cutting programs for 9,000 children, it's far more than that, because far more children are served from this funding. The other thing is that we provide lots of dropout prevention so that

that rate that the Mayor is being excited about that was in the New York Times last week will decrease with the loss of this funding. It will dramatically impact our children and their outcomes, their future outcomes. And that's a very important thing for us.

It also, of course, reduces the employees that are in New York City, so without our organization 40 alone, but you can multiply that across all the organizations that will lose funding with these cuts. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you. Everyone got their shot, right? Okay. Thank you very much. I appreciate your testimony. Our next panel is all from the Center for Family Life. Miguel Roman, Adrianna Torres--it looks like Gerrilyn Valette [phonetic], Vivianna Vizcaino, Daniel Garcia--I see Miguel Roman--some of these are duplicates. And Amy LaTorres-Rios.

And again, I would ask if one of you could be primary and the rest of you not--well, just one of you jump in there.

AMY LaTORRES-RIOS: Well thank you for having us. I am a Beacon Director.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you for coming. I really appreciate it.

AMY LaTORRES-RIOS: I'm a Beacon Director at Center for Family Life. And I am going to cut--you know, you have my statement--and I am going to cut to the point I wanted to make so to leave room for the members of my community.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: You'll start with your name, right?

AMY LaTORRES-RIOS: Amy LaTorres-Rios. And I'm here with the Sunset Park Community and Center for Family life. Hi, everybody.

So, I mean the point I wanted to make is that I understand your plight. As a parent I can relate to you guys, because you are the parents of this City's branches and commissions, and so the parents of transportation, education, the elderly, youth and law enforcement. And like most families today you have limited resources, and yet all of your children continue to need. I know that it has to be unbearable to try to select who is going to get the resources, and as a person with multiple children I have to do some of that myself. And I know that parents

cannot favor one child over the next, but you guys by being in this Committee, I know you have a special place for us in your hearts.

Today this chamber is not empty and I'm happy, that's because we're spreading the word out and we're helping communities find their voice. And today we're going to have members of our community talk primarily about Summer Youth Employment Program, even though as a Beacon Director and a member of UNH, I and my program are impacted by proposed cuts to out of school time, the Beacon program and of course Summer Youth Employment Program.

MIGUEL ROMAN: Hello Council Members. I came here as a community member, as a friend of the future of the children of this neighborhood, as well as a father of a six-year old child at PS 503. There is no question that we face tough times. We are reminded every time we turn on the TV and see the cuts to our school and our community. But we have to draw the line. When do we stop and say enough is enough. The notion of cutting funding for summer and after school programs would 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 and homework support through the fall, there is no denying that this program helps strengthen our children's learning ability and keep them off the streets.

On September 8th, 2009, President Obama sent a message to the nation's children and youth, challenging students to hard work, set educational goals and take responsibility for their learning. So how can we consider making even more funding cuts for the support system that these programs provide for schools, parents and more importantly our children? We cannot deny what is at stake, whether it's for our children, the young teenagers who benefit and look forward to this experience. I too was a Summer Youth Employment employee. And I ask you to go back in time and remember the shoes of these young adult, what it was to have a job, what it was to know that they had the funding to go and buy their own school supplies and clothes. 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 a period of constant discussion of stimulus funding, no group of individuals spends more than our young adults. A loss of this buying power will only lead to more tougher times for our community, City and State. I urge you to consider the effects of these additional cuts towards the communities' needs, schools, and our children. Saving this funding will send a message that we are committed to their future and recognize the importance that these programs provide to the support and commitment to our children as well as the young adults, which they need and deserve. Thank you.

VIVIANNA VIZCAINO: I'm Vivianna Vizcaino and you already know why we're kind of here. I just don't think it's fair that you're taking our money. And I'm willing to do whatever I can do to help. Summer camp supports me because I've done so many things. I've learned that I

1
2 like dancing because one of my staff members named
3 - - , she told me how talented I am and she helped
4 me learned how to dance. And summer camp program
5 is important to me because I've made so many
6 friends and I learned that there's kids that are
7 older than me, teenagers, that actually care about
8 kids that are younger than them. And the CITs,
9 they weren't even like people in charge of me,
10 they were like my friends. They were fun, they
11 were kind, they were helpful. And I really look
12 up to them. I've been in CFL summer camp since I
13 was six years old, and I've been waiting, counting
14 down the summers until I'm 14 so I can come work
15 too. And I would like, I'd be crushed if we
16 wouldn't finally be able to do this because they
17 wouldn't have the money to hire me. And I know
18 that CFL will hire me, but a lot of places won't
19 because I wouldn't have any experience and I'd be
20 so young. And I really want to be like my CITs
21 and help other kids get the same experience that I
22 had.

23 When you're a kid it makes such a
24 huge difference when you walk into a place and
25 somebody doesn't just say, oh, hi and they don't

know who you are, but they know who you are and they greet you with a warm smile and they say your name.

My mom and my aunt and my brother and so many people that I know have worked there in the summer. And something that might help for you is, like, when we get our money, when other people that work there get their money, they spend it in our Sunset Park Community, which helps the economy.

[Applause]

AMY LaTORRES-RIOS: That's the next City Council Person from Sunset Park.

GERRILYN VALETTE: Hello, my name is Gerrilyn Valette and I am a staff member at CFL Beacon at PS 503 506. I first started working at SYEP when I was 15 years old and that was my very first job. I was able to buy things on my own and not have to ask my mother for a dime, which made me feel like a grown up at the time, because instead of getting up, trying to wander aimlessly in the streets, I got up and went to work. Every week we had workshops from SYEP where I learned how to prepare a résumé, fill out job applications

and how to prepare for job interviews, how to budget and manage my money. I feel like those workshops were essential towards my professional development. One of my workshop leaders, right here, is my boss today. And after all the years in SYEP 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 up there, which I consider leaders in the community because instead of being out in the streets hanging out they come into 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're not getting the opportunity to gain experience and develop themselves to become community leaders.

Seeing the youth volunteer in programs such as mine all throughout the City demonstrates how eager they are to learn and to work. I truly believe that the kids, the youth, the kids right here, are our future. And it's

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 to get ahead and it's our turn now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GONZALEZ: Well thank you all. Vivianna, I, you know, life isn't always fair. But I do want to tell you that sometimes the good guys and gals win, so stay tuned and maybe we won't be taking your money or we won't let them take your money. Thank you to this panel. And I do just want to point out, you know, this exercise really has all of you coming here and preaching to the choir, and I think you all understand that and I do appreciate the fact that DYCD has left a representative here.

And I know, and I should have said this when the Commissioner was here, that she would gladly spend any dollar that the Mayor allows her to get on these programs. And that's why I asked the first question, if she had all the money is there anything that she wouldn't--you know, were there any programs that weren't good. And of course she said no. They're all good. And I know she believes that, because she was a

provider on the day before she became the Commissioner. So we have to know that.

Every one of these cuts though is pennywise and pound foolish. We all understand that kids being in youth programs, kids having summer jobs, kids being in Beacon programs, all of those things are dollars that we spend today so that tomorrow we don't have to spend more money in the criminal justice system or in the social services organizations, or losing our economic development potential and power and diminishing our tax base. And that is not lost on this Committee, on this Council, and that's why this fight is so important and why we absolutely are going to have to win it.

So having said that, I'm going to call up our next panel. Gregory Robertson and Monique Flores from University Settlement; David-- I believe it's Lemley, from University Settlement; and Mary Jo Cullinan from Midwood Development Corporations After School Program.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: While they're coming up, so you can be ready, the next panel is

the group from Alianza Dominicana.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: We've been joined by Council Member Robert Jackson, from Manhattan.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Those of you who are leaving, please try and do it quietly. Save the high-fiving for outside. Somebody jump in.

GREGORY ROBERTSON: Good afternoon. My name is Gregory Robertson. I'm from University Settlement Beacon Program. We're located at 420 East 12th Street, in the heart of the East Village. I'm here to speak on behalf of the cuts proposed for Beacons. Our Beacon serves vital resources to our community. We serve families that are needy, that are low income, that are working and they need our free services. We provide an amazing summer camp. Last year we had almost 300 children in our camp. This summer, because of the pending budget cuts we've had to cut those slots. We've had families come to us crying, like saying, please, I don't know what I'm

going to do with my children for the summer. They need these slots. Beacons throughout the five boroughs are providing services that are necessary for the well being of our young people and we're asking for your continued support and to please restore the money to the Beacons.

And I don't want to take up too much time because I have one of my amazing young people here who actually works for our Beacon, and I wanted to give a few minutes to him to talk about what being a part of this program has meant to him.

DAVID LEMLEY: Hi. My name is David Lemley and I've been at Beacon since I was in ninth grade. Right now I'm in tenth grade and I'm 16 years old. Beacon's been--it's a great program. It helps be buy everything I need to. I don't have to worry about whether my mom has the money or not to get me whatever I need for school or anything I just really want. Also, it's fun because it gets me to participate with kids that not only are some other interns that are my age, but also to see how, like, the kids experience, like, being around each other and around us. And

also it prepares you for future jobs. It's a good thing. It's a good program.

A lot of our kids also enjoy it. They love the activities, sports, everything. And it keeps them off the streets, so it keeps them away from any trouble that they may get into in the future. Sorry. Yeah, I'm done. I'm kind of nervous.

GREGORY ROBERTSON: And David--I would also like to recognize we have 12 other young people who came with us from the Beacon program from University Settlement.

[Applause]

GREGORY ROBERTSON: Eight of those young people are interns in our program. They work directly with the elementary children. They're amazing role models, amazing leaders. If it weren't for the Beacon I'm not sure where these young people would be. And it's just want they contribute to our program is just amazing. And Beacons, I know you guys are supporters and I just would invite you guys to come out to any Beacon and just see the amazing things that are going on there and see young people like what we have here

with us today.

MARY JO CULLINAN: My name is Mary Jo Cullinan, and I come from Flatbush Brooklyn, and I represent the Midwood Development Corporation. I was working for the library system in Brooklyn for 34 years. And in that time I saw so many times that the children did not have a place to go.

Now libraries are great places, they're places where children can learn and read, but they do not have all the facilities that the after school program provides. Now the program that I represent has two schools, they have two schools, it's 197 and 193 in the Midwood area. This is for the out of school program, the OST, and we have at present 110% of capacity.

This serves over 100 families and employs 12 teachers for 240 hours of the year and at a cost, a head cost, of \$2 per child. Now, if those people who subscribe to this program who are enrolled were to go to private daycare, they would have to pay up to five times the amount that is given for this program. And also, what alternative have they? They can go to the--they

can drop the job of course. And I'm only being slightly sarcastic about that, or they can let the children roam on the street.

Now libraries are fine places, as I said, but they do not provide what the children can have when they have a supervised program. And also a very small portion of those children do come to the library and they are not monitored. We do not know who they are and whether they come every day.

Now Reuters said that there were \$560 million spending increase from the January 28th budget, the Mayor's budget. And it's hard to see what this increase, now mind you increase does not reflect, would not reflect the one percent that these programs represent. And it's not fair that the working people in this city have to make a choice of leaving their children be unsupervised and untutored. So I want to thank the members of the Committee, the Council folk, the director of the--the Chair, Mr. Fidler, who is the choir director, I guess you'd say. And also I would have to say that we do--I've benefitted from some of the other groups here; we worked with the

library, Flatbush Development; we worked with CAMBA. And we're all in the same boat and we must row together. Thank you.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Better choir director than dance director, I'll tell you that. Thank you very much for your testimony. Our next panel is Jimeli Rosa [phonetic], Moicie Perez [phonetic], Amanda Azpiri [phonetic], Lunacas DeJesus [phonetic], and Paulina Morales from Alianza Dominicana and Alianza Mosaic Beacon. So I'm guessing they're the same.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And while they're coming up, our next panel is, so you can be ready, are Christopher Walker, Robert Townley, Peter--I'm sorry--Patrick Germain, and Chaka [phonetic] Blackman. As they're getting ready I just want to let you know that when the Council did our Committee field trip to a Beacon, we went up to Washington Heights to Alianza Dominicana and its Beacon. It is really a very, very special place. I know that and I just want everyone else to know it. The program that's run there is just

a model. So jump in there.

EDDIE SILVERIO: Hello. I'm Eddie Silverio. Moises Perez [phonetic] wasn't able to join is today due to the weather. But I just want to, like the Chairman said, Alianza has had the opportunity to be a Beacon since 1991 from when it was opened. And we one of the first Beacons to ever open its doors, and we opened it with 250 young people at a youth conference to talk about the services that were needed in Washington Heights. 20 years later we're still doing that service. On May 15th, we're going to have our 20th annual Youth Conference where young people from the community are going to come to talk about those issues.

It is sad that we have to talk about almost the same thing we spoke about 20 years ago, the needs of our community, the lack of services, the lack of opportunities for young people. We have an impressive panel here of young people, parents, and staff that are going to talk about the issues how our La Plaza Beacon, which the Chairman went to several years ago, and to our Mosaic Beacon, which were part of the first ten

Beacons that opened its doors. We're also here to talk about Summer Youth Employment.

Everybody knows that our young people need work. And my thing is, if I could paint a picture for the next 15 seconds. What happens to that young person? Well last year we had 4,000 young people apply in Washington Heights alone for 1,200 seats. In the Bronx we had 2,000 young people apply for 700 opportunities. What happens to those young people now that if they do apply they don't get a job? Because we're going to get a big percentage cut, then on top of that the Beacon may get a cut. So young people can't go to a safe haven so they can do serious activities from community projects to cleaning up the garden to youth leadership to your City, your economies, things like that--that they won't be able to participate because the services won't be there. And that's what we're talking about.

So when those young people are in the neighborhoods and then they become victims of those cuts, they become the predator. And those are the things we want to avoid. So before we get called on, I want to leave you with Simeli Harosa

[phonetic] is going to talk about Summer Youth Employment and some other services that we provide.

SIMELI HAROSA: Thank you, Eddie for the introduction. Good morning, everyone. I want to talk about the Summer Youth Education Program, because everyone says how it's an employment program but it's not limited to those opportunities that the young people get in terms of financial opportunities. It is an education program, aside from anything else that it could be. I myself, I started working at SYEP when I was 14 years old. Good thing my birthday is in January because I could not wait to finally to be 14 and be able to experience what all the other people that I looked up to were experiencing. And thank you to that young lady that came and spoke here. And she spoke about how she was influenced by her counselors and the people that were tutoring her.

And that is what the SYEP program is really about. It is really about young people enlightening each other with the things that they know. There is a proverb that says a candle loses

nothing by lighting another candle. And there are so many of our young people out there that are lighting candles, that are enlightening people; not just people their age, but people younger than what they are. And it is so, so important to keep this program open and available to all of our participants.

I would like to give a shout-out, if I can, to the participants, not just from Alianza, but all the students that willingly sacrificed a day of school to come here and speak, some of them a little too graciously, I will admit. But please, do not let these budget cuts cut or limit our candle. And do not let them throw away our flame. We really need this program. And thank you for your support and for taking the time to come and listen to us. It's very appreciated.

[Applause]

PAULINE MORALES: Good afternoon. My name is Pauline Morales. I am 15 years old and I go to Manhattan Theater Lab. I'm here to represent Alianza Dominicana, as you can see. And I was born and raised in New York City, and I'm

here against the budget cuts, obviously.

My father just recently apologized for bringing me into this world. Yeah, but guess what? I disagreed with him then, and I disagree with you guys now. So I honestly refuse to believe that this country has no money to invest in young people. We are the promise and the future. I am here to strive for success and for independence and for a respectable amount of happiness. We're not ignorant. No money for school, no money for jobs, no money for recreational centers; seriously? But I bet, the country will find the money easily for recreational facilities. But I'm here to ask for you to rethink your plan, because I'm not willing to stay in the streets and get in trouble. I'm not willing to stay home just because I have nothing to do. And I'm going to attack the future, not run halfway around the country just to get away from it.

I'm going to be a productive young leader for my community, my family, for my country and for myself. Thank you.

[Applause]

AMANDA AZPIRI: Hi, good evening.

My name is Amanda Azpiri and I'm one of the youth workers and interns with SYEP and Alianza. And I'd like to tell you a story about a teenage boy born and raised in Washington Heights. He's a prime example of anything and everything that could go wrong in someone's life has, from being involved in gang activities and drugs to dropping out of high school and being incarcerated and getting a young woman pregnant at the age of 16.

He was told that he had no other options, that his life was over. But Alianza disagreed and SYEP disagreed. And through the SYEP program he was able to get a job. Not only did they help him get a job, they helped him keep a job, helped him get a GED and move on towards college. And now that man, that teenage boy, is a 35 year old man working as an active firefighter and as for his daughter, she was a member of the Beacon programs and Alianza and the Beacon program herself, working as a counselor, for many summers and is now a volunteer at PS 132 teaching as a tutor and a dance teacher Monday through Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00, then going off, working as an

intern for Alianza.

And I'm here today, 18 years old, being involved in Alianza Dominicana for 18 years, since I was born. Because this is a program that's important to us. It doesn't just affect us; these are our lives and this is--how are we supposed to better ourselves and keep going forward if all the opportunities that we have are being taken away from us? Cutting the funding doesn't just affect us. If I'm out of a job, I'm out of a job and that's bad for me and that's bad for my family. But that's not just me. It's the kids that get their opportunities taken away from them too. I don't do it just for the money. Yes, I need it, but I do it because every single day that I walk in there the kids run up to me and smile and hug me.

These are kids that don't have these opportunities. This is a safe haven. There are children there who are in foster homes. Some children, single parents--children that go through things that we can't even imagine. But we give them a ray of hope. We give them something to look forward to. And it would be terrible and

devastating if that was taken away from them.

Thank you.

[Applause]

LUNARCIS DeJESUS: Good afternoon.

My name is Lunarcis DeJesus [phonetic]. I am a mother of five children. Four of my children are in the school system in New York, and they also are participants of the community Beacon.

Beacons are vital to New York City to many reasons. They provide ways--our families be able to access many services, and academic support to our children so they do better in school; social support, engaging our youth, career exploration and leadership development.

I am a prime example of how the service be able to change life. Six years ago I start receiving English classes. Today I be able to express myself in the English language. They give me the motivation and courage to be able to be a leader in my community and advocating for other.

Mayor propose to cut 6% in 2010 and 7% in 2009. Let us understand that the Mayor does not understand our community needs. Alianza

Mosaic Beacon gives our younger--our youth and us the parent better choices and opportunity to keep our children occupied. They, their after school, the summer program and more educational activity. I want to remind the Mayor that our children are our priority. And keeping our children out of the street in a safe environment is our responsibility. Understanding that the only way to understand the need in our community is to be part of the community and live there. Thank you.

JASON TERRY: Good afternoon. My name is Jason Terry [phonetic]. I'm the recreational coordinator at Mosaic Beacon. I'm here to speak on behalf of all Beacons and all after school programs. It is very important to our youth. We are not only there to help for homework and provide service, we're there to show that we're people who care about them and care what are the decisions that the youth makes.

There are a lot of children who don't get love at home from their parents. So we're there to fill that void--excuse me, I'm a little worked up--instead of them getting the love from the streets where they can end up dead or in

jail. Beacons and after school programs are a safe and fun environment where children have fun and learn at the same time. Summer youth programs need to be provided because 14, 15 and 16 and being able to work shows youth a sense of purpose and not that they're just there to be looked at as a problem.

I myself started in summer youth, and until this day I've worked every since. So I urge that you do whatever is necessary to make sure that the funding is there for these programs. Beacons are not there to provide--just to provide fun and services. They are a safe haven for youth to outlet their problems and express themselves productively. Thank you.

[Applause]

MARIE STROUD: Good afternoon. My name is Marie Stroud and I'm the program director at Alianza Mosaic Beacon. I'm going to take you through one of my typical days at the Beacon program where my hours start at 1:00, but I'm there at 8:00 in the morning.

I was the co-president of the PTA, I am the advisory council member, I am the City

Council Member, I served on the Community Board.

I am your prime City community service person.

And this week I had to tell an auditorium of over

200 youth, parents and visitors that we will not

have funding to serve the 250 children that we

served last summer because of budget cuts. We

only can provide services, I was told, for 100

participants, not 250 children between the ages of

5 to 13. That also means that we will not be able

to employ summer youth that that we had--over 350

summer youth at that one Beacon in the Bronx.

I don't know what to say. It's not

a job. I've done this for over 20 years. My

children have been products of this service. I

started as a volunteer and I have not stopped. So

it's not a job. It's not a service. I don't reap

the benefits of these budget cuts. I have to see

my neighbors, because I am a community resident

where I work, and try to explain to them where

they're going to have--and where they're going to

go for free after school program, where it's safe

and they can trust and where they can actually

say, yes, I know Marie Stroud. Thank you.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I want to thank this entire panel. And you were all very, very effective spokespeople for the cause. And I'm going to steal that proverb. I like that.

SIMELI HAROSA: It's copy written by me.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Oh, no. You just put it out on the public record, young lady, so.

[Laughter]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And thank you all. And to all of those of you who are missing school today, it would be wrong for me to say I approve, but I am glad that you are here, I really am. Because too often we hold hearings that affect the lives of young people without the young people coming here and expressing themselves and participating. And Chairman Vann has volunteered to sign all your excuse notes. Okay, Al? All right. So our next panel is Christopher Watler [phonetic] from the Center for Court Innovation, Robert Townley from Manhattan Youth, Patrick Germain from Safe Space, Chaka Blackman from Sunnyside Community Services. The panel that will

follow will be Melissa Nieves, Valerie Barton-Richardson and Lou Deluca.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Any one of you can just jump in there.

[Pause]

CHRISTOPHER WATLER: Good afternoon. My name is Chris Watler. I'm the project director of the Harlem Community Justice Center. It's a project of the Center for Court Innovation. I want to thank the Committee and Chairperson Fidler for listening. I will keep it short. You're getting our testimony.

Let me begin by saying we want to make sure that the Council continues to support innovations in juvenile justice, in particular, helping courts, community organizations and their government partners collaboratively work together to make sure that our most vulnerable young people are able to access services. And let me say, as the project director for a community court here in New York City, the cuts that are being proposed certainly will make it more difficult for us to ensure that the young people who are coming

through the justice system, either on probation or under court supervision, are able to access services in the community.

We want to thank the Council for its support in the past. We also recognize the importance of, you know, the work that DYCD has been doing. Again, there are a couple things that I wish I had time to highlight. Again, you know, we serve over 2,300 young people a year through our projects, but I want to focus on some of the new things that we're doing. One is in Central Brooklyn in Crown Heights, where we have begun a replication of the Chicago Ceasefire gun violence reduction program. And the other is in East Harlem, where we are about to embark on work to address the rising problem of juvenile gang violence in upper Manhattan. And in both of those cases we really are relying on our community partners, our Beacon programs, our Summer Youth Employment Programs to serve as an opportunity for young people who are involved in the justice system to get connected to services locally.

Thank you.

ROBERT TOWNLEY: Hello, thank you.

My name is Robert Townley. I am the Executive Director and Founder of Manhattan Youth. I heard a lot of compelling stories today so I don't--and a lot of data. I don't want to repeat what's already been said. I want to try to be as helpful... I have 25 years as the Executive Director of Manhattan Youth; before that homeless shelter and foster care experience. I was also a youth coordinator of DYCD; it was called the Youth Bureau back then, so I go way back with this agency.

Our community planning board, Community Board 1, if these cuts go through, will not get any funding from DYCD. There has been a movement--the zip code approach is bankrupt. And I don't want to go into it, but DYCD has done a great job of gathering data, implementing OST programs. Before that it was a hodgepodge. A parent could go into a school and say, there's four programs; one operates on Tuesday, the other doesn't on Thursday. Commissioner Mullgrav did great work in saying, okay, you're there Monday through Friday 3:00 to 6:00; you're a working parent. And these OST programs have to be held

harmless. And I would just say that for \$80 a month, a working parent gets care. And it is essential that these parents who are working--and it hasn't been that carefully addressed. I know we talked about delinquency diversion, but if you're a working parent making \$20,000 to \$40,000 in the City of New York, many of them who come to my program, from this financial and this civic center district, who walk down Warren Street to IS 89 down the street--those parents need after school care. And then, once they come to us, we develop the young person. But you can't start cutting after school care. Every community--it's a staple of America. And 8 million bucks in the City of New York when one Wall Street bonus is 8 million bucks? I mean, I can't--you know, so we have to hold that, we have to hold that harmless. I just can't see 33 after school programs being eliminated. It just doesn't make sense to me.

PATRICK GERMAIN: Hello, my name is Patrick Germain, and I am the Director of Policy, Planning and Evaluation at Safe Space NYC, an organization based in Southeast Queens. Not only were our communities among the first to be hit by

the foreclosure crisis that participated this recession, they will likely be the last to benefit from the recovery. I discuss many programs in my written testimony, but I am going to address two here.

First of all the runaway and homeless youth; Chairman Fidler, I know that you are a wonderful advocate on our behalf for this and we all understand the difficulties that these youth go through. Last year DYCD instituted an across the board reduction in the number of TIL beds, and if it had not been for the reinstatement of beds from the City Council discretionary funds, programs such as Safe Space and other TIL programs would have had to close, and we will likely be facing a similar situation this year. If our program receives even a minor reduction in the number of beds or funding, we will likely have to close because there are no other dollars to support this, and because the fixed costs for running a residential program are so high.

For example, right now we operate on an extremely barebones budget already. We're feeding our 12 youth on \$41 a day each. That's

less than \$3.50 per day per youth. So we're already scraping bottom there. Additionally this year ACS has cut all funding in its fiscal year '10 budget for drop in centers that serve older youth who went AWOL from care. And it's critical that DYCD's RHY funding stream be mainstreamed, if not increased to meet the growing need for services.

Secondly, OST programs, we operate a middle school summer program and we just received word last week that it will be cut. This middle school is in Far Rockaway, and I don't need to remind everyone of the difficulties that Far Rockaway is facing. Last year in one of our programs we found a group of kids engaging in sexual activity as a rite of passage to become gang members--they were just 11 years old. And 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 children behind. Thank you.

CHAKA BLACKMAN: Good afternoon.
My name is Chaka Blackman and I am from Sunnyside Community Services. We're located in Sunnyside,

Queens, which is one of the most diverse communities in New York City. Our Youth Department serves over 1,000 youth within that community. And we're also a member of UNH, which is a settlement house community. I would like to thank the Committee for having providers come and really have a dialogue about how these cuts will affect what I see as our most valuable resource, which is our youth.

To date at Sunnyside we have been impacted by the cuts. Our Beacon program has been cut by 7%, which that will affect in real numbers 50 middle school students, which I think Council Member James indicated is a critical developmental stage in a young person's life. In addition, we are one of the 33 OST programs that has been zeroed out of the DYCD budget. And the thing that concerns us is our community is immigrant rich, therefore we cannot understand how we are seen as a low priority zip code when we have families who are trying to integrate into society and be positive adults for their children. And in addition we have an out of school youth program that works with young people who have transitioned

1
2 out of high school, and we use SYEP as an
3 opportunity to place these young people in job
4 opportunities. So clearly a cut in SYEP will
5 affect those disconnected young people who have
6 decided to transition out of high school.

7 The cuts have been very real for
8 us. We're talking about with the numbers that I
9 gave you, out of the 1,000 we're talking about 30%
10 of our young people within Sunnyside Community
11 Services. Clearly we are asking that the cuts be
12 reversed. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you all.
14 I want to thank this panel. I just want to make a
15 couple of comments, if I could. Mr. Townley,
16 thank you for highlighting a point about the OST
17 program that, you know, has been touched on but
18 not really highlighted, which is how many working
19 families count on having these programs that in
20 their absence they would either have to give up
21 their job or somehow find daycare services at the
22 same time while the City is cutting back on
23 daycare services. You know, we haven't once heard
24 the expression latchkey kids in this hearing, and
25 yet if we go through with these cuts to OST

program, we likely will hear a lot about them next year.

ROBERT TOWNLEY: Right.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And that is something that we really cannot afford to take that huge step backwards to. And I also want to mention, the term discretionary funds has been mentioned here a couple of times. And certainly the use of our discretionary funds for shelter beds for children who would otherwise be sleeping in the streets is something that my colleagues all know I would throw a temper tantrum if it doesn't get back in the budget, so I'm hoping it will be as some of these other cuts are. I just wanted to point out to everyone who is still in this room and to those of you who are watching, our viewing audience on TV, if you are, if we have one--that's what the newspapers call slush and pork. Here we use the polite term discretionary funds. But when they sit there and pick on the slush fund or pork, pork barrel spending or earmarks, you need to understand what this money goes for at the New York City Council. And in this particular case the allocation that is just referred to provides

shelter beds for children who would otherwise be sleeping in subway gratings, in transportation hubs or couch surfing or selling their bodies to have a place to sleep at night. That's the slush fund, and that's what pork barrel spending is here at the City Council. So people need to understand that because, frankly, this Council has taken a tremendous amount of unwarranted abuse for money that is actually spent on critical needs for people, and in this case at risk children in this City. And I just wanted that to be as clear as possible.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

Our next panel, Melissa Nieves from Union Settlement Association, Valerie Barton-Richardson from CAMBA and Lou Deluca from United Activities Unlimited. Big Lou is always our Staten Island representative.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: One of you just jump in there.

MELISSA NIEVES: Good afternoon.
My name is Melissa Nieves. I'm the Director of

Adult Education at Union Settlement Association.

I want to thank the Council for allowing me to speak today. I also would like to thank the Council for baselining funding in 2007 through the Department of Youth and Community Development. That actually helped me to create a program over the last four years that offers about 38 classes in East Harlem. We're actually the only program in East Harlem right now that provides adult education with comprehensive services. In addition, we're connected with Beacon programs, elementary schools; we're connected with drug rehab programs. And I've really been able to create a program that serves 1,200 families in East Harlem.

Just this year we've lost about 15 jobs through our program, through the cuts we've suffered through the State, and now with the 6% cut through the City. Now hearing further that State Education Department as well is predicting cuts, in addition, to GED testing and the Beacon programs will be affected, also the after school programs and other resources that are there for our children in East Harlem, I just really would

call on the Council to work to see how we can get money from Economic Development to support our programs. We are placing people in jobs. People are leaving Public Assistance. We are building the community based workforce of our community. And my question is, where is the money for economic development? We've been talking about education. We've been talking about youth services. When I look in East Harlem, I see a lot of new companies coming in; I also see new buildings being built. Where are the resources from those companies and buildings coming into our community? Because I will be gladly held accountable for using those tax dollars to help for further economic development. So I just offer that as an idea that there is money there and we will be gladly be held accountable for making that money work in our community. So I just offer that as a concept. Thank you.

[Applause]

LOUIS DELUCA: My name is Lou Deluca. I'm the CEO of United Activities Unlimited on Staten Island. Chairman Fidler, Members of the Council thank you for having us

here. My programs are in 31 public schools on Staten Island, and we serve 16,000 youth. I'm not going to go back to my testimony; you have that, Chairman Fidler. But I would like to make you aware of two points.

That every dollar that is given to my agency for youth services, 90 cents is spent on youth services. Ten cents is kept out for administration. We're very proud of that record. We've had that record for at least the last 20 years, and if you check our 990s, it will validate that.

The second thing is, even though this is a Beacon meeting, you did address the Summer Youth Employment. I would just like to say that--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
Well, actually it's not a Beacon meeting, it's on all of these cuts.

LOUIS DELUCA: Okay. On Staten Island I am planning two public forums concerning Summer Youth Employment at our Beacons. Last year we registered 8,000 youngsters for work at Summer Youth Employment, and we were able to put 2,500 to

work. I have reached out to Senator Diane Savino and Senator Andrew Lanza and we're going to hold two public forums on Staten Island to speak out about, you know, these proposed cuts. And we have already in our facility 8,000 names registered. And we're going to contact them electronically and bring those parents out to support the need for Summer Youth Employment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

And please let me know when those forums are.

VALERIE BARTON-RICHARDSON: Good afternoon. My name is Valerie Barton-Richardson. I'm a Deputy Executive Director for CAMBA. CAMBA is a proud UNH member, and so we're here not just on behalf of ourselves but also our other UNH members. You have my written testimony. I'd like to thank Chairman Fidler and Chairman Vann for the opportunity. I'd really like to highlight what happens to families.

We're talking about cuts that are staggering in proportion and the compounded affects on families, so I'd like to highlight in our East Flatbush neighborhood what will happen to our families. Our OST program is one of the 33 to

be slated to be cut. That program will be closed. 200 children will lose care. The program is enrolled at 121% of capacity. They will lose their school year care, they will lose the summer care. The way that we've talked, and Councilman Williams was very kind to highlight our situation, the way that DYCD has gone about making these cuts, we're really looking at making choices between not being poor enough and who can pay. And I don't think that we want to go back to those days.

I do want to also highlight the fact that families will not have the Beacons to fall back on. The Beacons are taking substantial cuts as well. And we're looking at combined, in East Flatbush for this one programming around PS 269, we're losing 45% of the funding that serves families and children in that neighborhood. And so compounded, the affects are staggering. Where will the children go? We've done the research. The surrounding zip codes, the OST programs in those areas are at capacity. They cannot absorb the children from our program as well as the other four programs in 11210 that are being closed. So

where are the children going?

I have a parent here, Ms. Belvet [phonetic], and I'd like to see if she could say a few words.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And when you're done, Ms. Belvet, could you fill out a form as well? We need to have your form for speaking. But go ahead.

EMILY BELVET: Good afternoon. My name is Emily Belvet. I'm a parent of two kids that go to the CAMBA program. I'm also a student. In the evening when I get home, my kids' homework is done and it's easier for me to spend time with my kids. They could go to bed early to get up in the morning to go back to school. If they go to bed late, it will be a waste of time for the whole day in school because they will be sleeping in class.

This program has been a tremendous help to me, because when school is on holidays, I don't have to take the days off to take care of my kids. Without the CAMBA program, I have no one to take care of my kids. I am asking you please to reconsider this cut, and look forward to these

kids' future. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you all on this panel. And Ms. Belvet, please see the Sergeant-At-Arms just to fill out a form. And I guess, you know, the point I would make is that, you know, we look at each one of these cuts as a bad cut. When you look at them cumulatively, you really see the impact on a community. And, you know, the testimony that we just heard, East Flatbush is my old neighborhood. And to hear that some arbitrary formula makes PS 269 a non high need site is almost laugh out loud funny if you're familiar with the neighborhood. It's absurd. So, clearly that entire view has to be looked at again.

Our next panel is Derek Perkins and Rob Abbot from Cypress Hills Local Development. Lowell Herschberger and Damian Humphrey, also from the Cypress Hills Educational Choice Center.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And the panel following that is going to be Rukia Lamumba, Marissa Sperling [phonetic], Helena Koo

[phonetic], Susan Matloff [phonetic] and Jennifer Buffa [phonetic]. Unfortunately Chairman Vann had another hearing he had to attend, so I apologize that he had to leave us.

LOWELL HERSCHBERGER: Hi. I'm Lowell Herschberger from Cypress Hills Educational Choice Center. And I'll defer most of my time to my colleagues here. I just wanted to make one comment about adult literacy. I was looking around the room here and I saw--I did a rough count. I think our waiting list right now is about the size of this room in terms of the number of people waiting to get into our adult literacy and ESL and GED classes, many of them young people. And with these cuts it will ensure that we won't dip into that anytime soon. So just to talk about SYEP is my colleague Damian Humphrey.

DAMIAN HUMPHREY: Hello, good afternoon everyone. Oh, sorry. Good afternoon. I'm Damian Humphrey and today I wanted to talk about what I see. Okay? And us as children, we look forward to Summer Youth Employment. It keeps us out of trouble and drug free. It helps us afford the things we need or want and it makes us

1
2 better ourselves. It also helps our parents with
3 bills when they can't afford it. I have a good
4 friend that I've seen that him and his family
5 struggle to buy clothes and to have money.
6 Sometimes they can't pay they bills. Last year he
7 got his very first summer job and he was happy.
8 He bought everything he wanted to buy. He was
9 able to buy everything he wanted and needed,
10 actually. Last year I also got my first summer
11 job and I was able to help my mother pay the light
12 bill because she got very ill.

13 But I wanted to ask, like, how do
14 you all expect us, the youth, to be successful in
15 life without job experience? People say us, the
16 youth, are the future. But how can we possibly be
17 the future without a positive present when there's
18 cuts in the educational system and workforce?

19 [Applause]

20 ROB ABBOT: Good afternoon Chairman
21 and thank you for sticking in there all the way
22 through to the end here for us. My name is Rob
23 Abbot. I'm from Cypress Hills Local Development
24 Corporation. I'm the Youth and Family Services
25 Director. And I'm going to just cede my time to

Derek Perkins, who is a long time participant, youth leader and staff member of our programs. Thanks.

DEREK PERKINS: Hello. My name is Derek Perkins. I'm a student at Kingsborough College and a youth worker at Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation OST program at IS 171. We're also a member of the United Neighborhood Houses.

I feel like I'm well on the way to success, but I feel like none of it would be possible if I wasn't given a chance. And that chance came to me through the youth programs in my area. When I was 11 years old my family moved to a rougher part of East New York. We couldn't afford a babysitter and my mom didn't want me wandering around the projects. My mom enrolled me in the Beacon after school program at IS 302. After school was always the highlight of my day.

My junior high school did not have a gym, and the only time I was able to socialize was during lunch; and even if I was able to, I was very shy and sheltered. Beacon program offered karate. We had shows, we had holiday parties, we

create bonds with the children.

The budget cuts will hurt Cypress Hills Community this summer. There will be 135 IS 171 youth on the streets. Many teenagers will be out of employment this summer, have to rob for money to get what they want. And within the Beacon there's going to be 25 less slots for children of all ages on the streets in each after school program in our community.

So, just to tie it off at the end. The power to prevent all of this, this negative stuff, is in your hands as well as the hands of DYCD. So show us you care for our communities and help save our programs.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you. Thank you all for your testimony, particularly to the two young people. And believe you me, if this hand was a magic wand the power would be exercised as you requested. Our next panel is Rukia Lamumba from the Center for Community Alternatives, Marissa Sperling from the Jewish Community Council of Greater Coney Island, Helena Koo of Queens Community House, Susan Matloff from the same, and Jennifer Buffa from the same as well. The

remaining panel should be ready, is Cynthia Mora, Hannon Firage [phonetic], David Strauss, Eben Brown [phonetic], Megan Demarcus--I probably should have broken that into two panels--Maryanne, it looks like Care, and David Freudenthal.

While we're getting set up there, I do want to do a shout out of my own. I see we have Dov Ausatcher [phonetic] here, who is one of New York's most forceful advocates for summer jobs out of Brooklyn, so thank you for coming, Dov.

Why don't you just jump in there?

RUKIA LUMUMBA: Good afternoon. My name is Rukia Lumumba and I am the Assistant Director of Youth Services for the Center for Community Alternatives, also known as CCA. I want to thank you all for granting us the opportunity to speak here today and thank you for your continued support of alternative to incarceration programs and youth development programs for youth.

I'm here today not only representing CCA but also a coalition of ATI reentry organizations, which include CASES, the Fortune Society, the Osborne Association, as well as the Women's Prisons Association, the Center for

Economic Opportunity and the Legal Action Center. We're here today to talk about the Council's continued support for ATI programs. ATI programs, as we've listened to what everyone has said here today, also have an imperative purpose for our youth's development. We touch on education, we touch on case management and we look to really improve the lives of our youth.

I think that we all know based on research and the reports provided by the State task force as well as the US Department of Justice about the deplorable conditions of the juvenile detention facilities and how unsafe they are for our children. As a result, many judges have now been in increased numbers sending youth to our programs, to ATI programs, such as the Center for Community Alternatives. Last year alone, I'll throw out this one statistic, last year alone CCA reached its contract goals and objectives within the first six months of the year. And that was for our Council funded program where we serve youth involved in our family court programs, - - the family court system.

In addition to helping our youth

1
2 achieve their goals, CCA also, as well as other
3 ATI programs, also provide cost effective means
4 for taxpayers. So I ask that you all please
5 consider continuing to fund ATI programs. Thank
6 you.

7 MARISSA SPERLING: Hello. My name
8 is Marissa Sperling and I serve as the Director of
9 Horizons Academy at Jewish Community Council of
10 Greater Coney Island. Thank you very much for
11 having us here today. Horizons Academy started in
12 2006 under a DYCD contract under in school youth.
13 At the time we were under that contract we were
14 serving 200 11th and 12th grade students,
15 providing them with college counseling, SAT prep,
16 tools to help them graduate from high school,
17 after school jobs.

18 And I just wanted to give you some
19 statistics about what we have accomplished. The
20 most recent available New York City graduation
21 rate is about 60.7% in 2008. In contrast 85% of
22 Horizons Academy students attained a diploma in
23 2008. That's almost 25% higher than your average
24 New York City high school student. In 2009, 90%
25 of our students engaged in our program received a

1
2 diploma. Also, over 75% of students who graduated
3 the program in 2008 and 2009 remain engaged in
4 either post secondary education, careers or
5 military employment following graduation.

6 We received an OST grant, but our
7 funds have been reduced to 88%--by 88%, I'm sorry.
8 So, while we were serving 200 students, now we're
9 going to be serving 25 students. As most of the
10 other places, organizations that are here, our
11 list for kids wanting to be in our program is out
12 the door. So there are going to be many, many
13 students in the Coney Island area that are going
14 to be affected by this and we hope that something
15 can be done. Thank you.

16 SUSAN MATLOFF: Hi. I'm Susan
17 Matloff Nieves, Queens Community House. Thank you
18 for a chance to preach to the choir. We are
19 facing a loss of 800 OST slots between OST 2 and
20 OST 1. On paper it's 475. So you can multiply
21 out that 9,000 plus figure that we heard earlier
22 today, because we're just a typical program,
23 nothing different from the rest of the world. We
24 are members of United Neighborhood Houses and
25 Neighborhood Family Services Coalition, and we

wanted to add our support to revenue and cost saving measures that UNH has proposed, which include eliminating high paid for-profit consultants. And we'll happily pay taxes on sweetened beverages and some of those other things that would bring more money into the City coffers.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Wrong choir.

SUSAN MATLOFF: Just--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
Albany.

SUSAN MATLOFF: --passing that one along. Well, we've been there too and we will continue to be. In terms of the programs that we're looking to lose in Queens, we have one of those low priority zip codes. In that program 15% of the children are ACS children, 70% receive free or reduced lunch. We're in a NYCHA facility and we serve just about every kid of age there. And we are adjacent to the 11368 high priority zip code because we're on the border of Corona East Elmhurst; that's about 10% of the kids in that. About 50% of the kids in our OST 2 program are coming from that community. And there's nothing left for those kids once that program ends,

absolutely nothing.

We're also an SYEP provider, and I wanted to just point out that the tiny little print sheet that I attached that's not for middle-aged eyes, including mine, besides 17 summer camps that we're staffing, we're staffing 25 other social service and health organizations in the summer. And they're not doing us any favors; they're begging for staff and they would take them year-round. So we're really--SYEP is really a significant part of the City's social service infrastructure, and that includes Parks Department. And I'm going to turn over to Helena Koo.

HELENA KOO: Good afternoon. My name is Helena Koo and I'm the Director of School-based Youth Development Centers. And I know a lot has been said about the Beacon this morning, this afternoon. And I just want to highlight a couple of other things because I know you've heard all the grim details of what would happen to the Beacons should we have these devastating cuts. But I also want to talk about the Beacons as really being a community hub, and that you leave

here thinking about the positive effects that of course that we've all mentioned today that we have in our communities; and the Beacon is really a community hub. It is a safe--you've heard safe place, fun, different activities that are offered. But it is opened every day except Sunday, year-round. It is a community hub. It is intergenerational in terms of its programming. And we have been the continuity in our community for the last ten years. When we have seen administration changes we have helped families adjust to the community coming in from different countries; we have been the continuity there.

And so I just put that in your thoughts as well, when you think about these cuts, is that we really provide the continuity in our communities. And we sustain and help our families. And especially at this time when they are getting under multiple duress, under things that they are experiencing at home, they need us all the more. So for us not to be available to them would really put a stressor on our community. So I just want to put that to you.

And to my left is Marlana Sterachi

[phonetic], she's our leadership specialist and also a product of our Beacon, having been a young person attending our Beacon, then an intern and today a staff person, and also a national speaker, because she spoke at our Beacon's national conference a couple of weeks back. So thank you very much for this opportunity to speak with you this afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you all very much for your testimony. Again, I know I announced there would be one more panel. I think it would just be less unwieldy if I broke it up in two. I apologize to those of you who think you are coming up immediately. But it's really just a matter of the number of chairs we have, I guess. So let me call up David Freudenthal from Carnegie Hall, Eben Brown from the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and David Strauss from the Queens Museum. And the other names I called will be called up as soon as they're done.

While they're coming up I just want to point out that for the record we received testimony from Danielle Marchioni [phonetic] of the Citizens Committee for Children, Brian

Corrigan from the Chinese American Planning Council, testimony from the Samuel Field YM YWHA, testimony from Michelle James of Graham Windham, testimony from the YMCA of Greater New York, testimony from the Henry Street Settlement. All of those will be made part of the record, as is all the written testimony that has been submitted today in addition to the oral remarks, so, thank you.

DAVID STRAUSS: All right, thank you. Good afternoon Chairman Fidler, esteemed colleagues. I'm David Strauss from The Queens Museum of Art. I'm here today not as a member of the Queens Museum, as a--I'm really speaking on behalf of a larger coalition, the CIG, the Cultural Institutions Group. We are the 33 arts, science and performing arts institutions throughout the five boroughs, the internationally renowned organizations that you've all been to, hopefully; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Natural History, Carnegie Hall, as well as the smaller community centers; the Jamaica center for arts and Learning, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Brooklyn Children's Museum. I know that I'm here

kind of out of place, but I want to explain to you why we are testifying.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I was wondering.

DAVID STRAUSS: Exactly. I could see that on your face. What we do is work with every one of the groups that you've heard before. We do \$2.3 million-- 2.3, individual services to the school children and young adults of this City. We work with the groups in out of school time partnerships. We do stuff all day long every weekend for children. Now why am I here? This is an essential component of our compact with the City. We serve the same population not only through the DYCD, but through the DOE, through the DCA and through privately supported programs.

One of the things I wanted to share is that each year we're enriching the children's lives through school partnerships, class trips, programs that keep them engaged on weekday afternoons, weekends, over the summer breaks; three crucial times when there is minimal parental supervision and maximal opportunity for kids to get into trouble, as you've heard. These are the

prime opportunities for us to exact positive change. We know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and we do this every day, in many cases furthering the educational foundations provided during the school day; and in too many cases, providing the only direct exposure to artists, performers and scientists that these students will ever receive throughout their educational experience.

Each of the 33 CIGs has created revolutionary program for the City's youth, initiatives that have been replicated throughout the country and programs that are in jeopardy of the proposed budget cuts are not eliminated. I am not going to go through case by case because I have two of my esteemed colleagues here from Brooklyn Children's Museum and Carnegie Hall. And you have an outline in front of you as well. I just wanted to let you know that the programs and the dozens that I have not mentioned, each offered three of charge, are exacting real positive change in our communities, change that's essential for the future of our young children, you know, you've heard from 39,000 groups already that at risk

youth are less likely to become involved in the juvenile justice system.

We know firsthand what happens to children who do not have these programs to turn to. As, like many of the panelists you've heard, the CIG institutions also provide services to the kids who are attending schools on Riker's Island and those who have just been released.

Essentially we're offering both the prevention and the cure.

I just wanted to conclude by saying that the City's non-profit cultural community has always recognized that culture can provide a useful service to all the segments of our community, from seniors to families to new immigrants. But what makes our youth services initiative so crucial to the success of this City is that our programs are ensuring that the next generation, not only of cultural leaders but of City Council Members, are going to exceed the accomplishments of the current generation. We commend you for your support. You've always been there for us in the past. We know that each year gets increasingly more difficult. We've noticed

that at our own institutions, watching our own colleagues be laid off, so that we do not have to cancel programming. But this year, unlike years in the past, we will have to do less with less. And we hate to say that. We love doing more with less. We hope to work with you so that doesn't happen. Thank you.

EBEN BROWN: I guess that would be my turn. Good afternoon, Council Members. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Eben Brown, and I represent the Brooklyn Children's Museum. And I'm here today on behalf of our OST program, which is called Museum Team. And it is a program for kids that start in second grade and matriculate all the way through high school. And at this point I think that we are one of the 33 programs touted to lose funding. We are a completely free program, and we have been a program that has served the community surrounding, BedStuy as well as Crown Heights and other communities in New York for over 20 years. And as of the end of this summer, we will no longer receive OST funding, and in all likelihood we will have to close the program completely, which we

would like to avoid.

Obviously we are invaluable to the community. We serve a number of families. Our program has become like a rite of passage in our community. We serve families, you know, generations of families. We have multiple siblings in our program now. We also have parents who went to our program who currently have their kids in our program.

Our program offers a way for students to learn and become respectful of their communities, become respectful of themselves and also to get real job skills. As they matriculate through our program and they get into high school, we hire them and employ them and teach them to work with the public, also the younger aspect of our program, and really get life skills that help them become good human beings and good members of their community.

So we're really worried about what will happen if we don't have this service to provide to the community and what kind of hardship it will actually be for our community and for our families. So we just request, humbly, that as you

look to help all these other organization, just like our organization, that are in need, that you also keep us in mind so that we can continue to do the good work that we have done, that we would like to still do. Thank you.

DAVID FREUDENTHAL: I'm David Freudenthal from Carnegie Hall. Thanks for the opportunity to testify before you today. Just to reinforce the points made by the Queens Museum and the Brooklyn Children's Museum today, that cultural institutions provide significant services to City's youth, both through in school and out of school time programs, funded through DYCD and other City agencies and funded through private resources. And Carnegie Hall is a piece of that formula, serving about 55,000 young people K to 12 every year in the City.

And just to give you one example of a program we're doing, Musical Connections, a new program this year, is doing work in City pediatric care facilities and hospitals, in homeless shelters, in elderly care facilities and grandparents' programs and in juvenile justice facilities. And we are--this is a piece of a--it

just, you know, it gives you a good example of the ways in which the cultural institutions are reaching our City's youth to engage them, particularly our at-risk youth and our high needs populations, and connecting, providing services to them that are really at risk with the lost City funding. Thanks very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you all for your testimony. I appreciate it. And our final panel is Cynthia Mora of Visiting Neighbors, Inc., Hannon Firage from PS 22 After School, Megan Demarcus from Harlem RBI and Maryanne, I think it's Care--Carey, from Queens. I apologize. Some group always has to be last. I do apologize for that. But, I'm still here, so. Someone jump in there.

[Pause]

[Off Mic]

MEGAN DEMARCUS:--I work in classrooms and out of classrooms in New York City for the past 13 years. At Harlem RBI we use youth development combined with competitive team sport, academic support, social work services, to help youth play, learn and grow, to recognize their

potential, to realize their dreams. We are funded through OST Option 2 as well as the Summer Youth Employment Program. Over 300 children are funded by those two funding streams together. At Harlem RBI what we're doing is working. 27 of our 28 seniors have already received college acceptances. And while I'm really proud of that statistic, of that acceptance rate, I want to talk about the one senior who hasn't been accepted to college.

Lucy is two years behind in high school. She has enough credits to be a sophomore but she is old enough to be a senior. When she started with our program she had a history of chronic suspension. She had undiagnosed learning disabilities that were late diagnosed that she hasn't received the services she needs. She's had a lot of trouble in school. Schools have really failed Lucy, so she has turned to Harlem RBI. Her family has turned to Harlem RBI for support. She's the youngest of seven children, none of whom have obtained a high school diploma, but Lucy will be the first in her family. And I think the primary reason for that is because of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

She finally is in a school that's working for her, and the reason why she was committed to staying in school and finding a school that would work for her is one summer everything changed. When she was 14 years old she became Assistant Coach to a girls' softball team, and suddenly she was given the opportunity to see herself in another light. She saw herself as a leader and as a mentor and she developed the confidence necessary to really pursue her education. And now she is going to school full time. She is going to PM school, she is going to summer school, and all voluntarily so that she can catch up and realize her dream of becoming--of running a daycare center for children with special needs. Thanks.

HANNON FIRAGE: Good afternoon. My name is Hannon Firage. I'm a parent of three elementary school children who go to the YMCA at PS 22 in Staten Island. My family has been a part of the Y afterschool for five years now, first with my eldest son, who is now in fourth grade, followed by his twin brothers, who are now in second. The YMCA's DYCD out of school time

program has become an important part of my family. This family offers my children a safe, fun and loving 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 afterschool program with their peers and 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. In 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's saving his money not to buy videogames for the first time, but to buy his own camera. My twins have been learning to swing dance, and every day they come home enthusiastic to show me the new moves they learned.

Behind all the lessons, they're learning about friendship, respect, understanding and consideration for others. On behalf of the families of PS 22 I'm reaching out to you today to share with you my disappointment. Although we

understand that difficult times call for difficult decisions, I'm 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's also vital for working families who need a safe environment for their children after school in order to keep their jobs.

This program provides a safe atmosphere for my kids, while instilling in them the importance of being productive students after school. Learning that PS 22's OST Y afterschool program was one of the highest performing afterschool programs in the City, I'm confused why the DYCD didn't take performance into consideration when identifying schools to cut. With over 200 children in the PS 22 Y afterschool program, which is over 100% of capacity, and with almost all children attending every day, I'm shocked that programs like these were even considered to be closed.

It's also important for you to know that at one time the Y afterschool program at PS 22 was the only accredited afterschool program in

the entire New York City. Thank you.

CYNTHIA MORA: I'm here to say thank you for being our choir, but more importantly, we need you to take a megaphone and the microphone and get the--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
And I need you to state your name for the record to start.

CYNTHIA MORA: I'm sorry. Cynthia Mora from Visiting Neighbors. I'm here to support and ask for the continued support from the Council for intergenerational programming, period. In a nutshell, it works. We thank the Council for their continued support. You guys saved our program from DFTA and got 85% of our money back. Without that, those students--and we worked with 200 last year--would have not been able to continue on. And we're proud to say of the 120 that we're graduating, 119 went on to college this year, and many of them first timers.

These programs work. What makes no sense is that they are the most cost effective program you could get; they are two-timing. One, we work with the elderly. And so we match up our

1
2 young people with older adults. By keeping these
3 kids in our program we see them absolutely change,
4 and not just in terms of learning some life
5 skills, but really learning how to interact with
6 the world.

7 A great example, we had a young man
8 who came in furious, angry at the world. He wrote
9 an article for his school, high school, paper
10 about basketball because he loved and lived and
11 breathed basketball. Now this young man, African
12 American, stood 6'2", we matched him up with this
13 little gal, 4'11", a little Jewish lady, adored
14 him. They saw no color. They saw no difference
15 in each other. They saw that they had one thing
16 in common, they were both misunderstood and didn't
17 have many people to talk to. So a wonderful
18 relationship was formed. When he came in one day
19 saying, well, I'm going to give up school; I'm not
20 going to go in anymore because they didn't accept
21 my approach with my paper--she said let me look at
22 it. She was a former English teacher. She said,
23 you know what? It's too complicated. I'm a lay
24 person, I can't understand it, please rewrite it.
25 He did. And when he rewrote it, it got accepted.

This young man, the self-esteem difference, says now I'm going to stay in school.

These programs work. We need them. And they help so many people and they serve as eyes and ears. These young people go on to do so many things in our society, not only do they stay out of trouble, but they help other people as well, and it balances back. Cost-effective, in terms of dollars, makes no sense. We lost all of our DYCD funding, and yet we kept going. But we have that DFTA funding, and we need that. We need all of it.

But I've got to end on this one note. Think of it, and this is how I'm trying to think of it in terms of my agency when I go back to them about all these cuts and dealing with it, we're like the underdogs. We've got to stay in the game. Did you ever see that Underdog to Wonderdog show? It's about a puppy on the street that they find, some people find, and then they help rehabilitate it and then find a wonderful home. It's about surviving until the day when things are going to turn around, and then things will be better. And that's what we're trying to

do is keep these programs alive so that day will come. But they make sense. So be our singers out there.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Doctor, just to be intergenerational here, Underdog in my day was a superhero cartoon animal with a fear--with the speed of lightning and the power of thunders, so. But I do want to tell you that when the DFTA Commissioner was here last week and discussing the equally severe cuts to our senior programs, I did suggest to her that in the event that we were put into the horrible position of having to make some of those cuts, that we look at those providers that were providing both senior and youth programming, and perhaps we can save some programs by merging them. And she indicated a great deal of support for the intergenerational approach. So I'm not sure whether or not your place was at this hearing today or the DFTA hearing last week, or whether or not next year those hearings might be more combined than they are now, but that approach has in fact been discussed.

CYNTHIA MORA: That's great. And Summer Youth Employment taps right into that, so

thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, yes.

MARYANNE CAREY: Good afternoon. I see that I'm on the wrong Committee.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Yeah, I kind of looked at your testimony, Ms. Carey, and you are here on the wrong day.

MARYANNE CAREY: Yes. Well--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing] They used to have youth coordinators on community boards, so maybe you can say that.

MARYANNE CAREY: Well, that's right. And I want you to know that I hired my youth coordinator, who now works as a community associate in my office, who is invaluable. But I would appreciate it if you'd let me give my testimony anyway, as you all have to vote eventually on everything.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: You're really kind of in the wrong place at the wrong time. You know and I--

MARYANNE CAREY: [Interposing] It's only a page.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I've already

1
2 read your testimony, you know, while you were
3 sitting here. I know you mean--I could let you do
4 it, but you're talking to one Council Member who
5 used to be a community board chair, so, you know.
6 I mean I really would urge you to come back for
7 the Government Ops hearing, when the community
8 board budgets are in fact on the table. And since
9 I know you're speaking not just for your community
10 board but for all of Queens--

11 MARYANNE CAREY: [Interposing]
12 Right, for the 14 community boards.

13 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I really,
14 really urge you to do that. Because that, the
15 community board budget, is very much on the minds
16 of members here. And when the Gov Ops hearing
17 occurs, you should be here.

18 MARYANNE CAREY: Do you have any
19 idea when the Governmental Operations Committee
20 will be meeting?

21 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: If you wait a
22 couple of moments, I'm sure somebody can tell you
23 when it is.

24 MARYANNE CAREY: In that time, let
25 me just briefly--because I'm here. I mean I came

from Queens, all the way from--

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [Interposing]
Go ahead. We've already argued for more than the
two minutes, so go ahead.

MARYANNE CAREY: Okay. Thank you.
Okay. I just want to say all 14 boards testified
at every meeting and hearing concerning the
proposed cuts to our budget. The District
Managers met with Councilman Comrie at his office
and met with Speaker Christine Quinn a few weeks
ago during a near blizzard at City Hall, where 13
of the 14 District Managers were present. We want
to thank the Queens delegation and the Speaker for
their support and encouragement they have given
us.

Despite your support, the Mayor has
not 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 and the community boards and our communities instead of being preoccupied and forced to spend precious hours testifying. Not that I mind seeing you, your friendly faces, like we always do. But it is a little embarrassing to come here year after year, hat in hand, begging to be funded.

Almost since we were established in 1975, the brainchild of Robert F. Wagner, Sr. and Jr., we've been the target of budget cuts. Starting in 1992 to the present, we've been under the gun. We have testified at every hearing regarding the dedication and hard work, time and man hours of expertise our members give without compensation. Our members are lawyers, architects, engineers, accountants, educators, even doctors, who participate in community meetings long into the night. 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 charter to ensure the continuation of this experiment in community participation and input in the future.

Of immediate concern and what we are requesting is the restoration of our meager budget of \$198,895 and a freeze on budget cuts for the future. Thank you very much, and thank you Council Member, for letting me read that into the record.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Yeah. The Gov Ops hearing is across the street at 250 Broadway on the 14th Floor, and it may still be going on. So if I were you I would scurry across the street.

MARYANNE CAREY: I'll scurry over.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Scurry across the street.

MARYANNE CAREY: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. Next? I'm sorry. Who is next?

HARJUNA LALIE: Good afternoon. My name is Harjuna Lalie [phonetic] and I am the Program Coordinator with the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, also known as CACF. We're the nation's only Pan-Asian children's advocacy group. CACF would like to thank the New York City Council and Youth Services

Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

According to the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity, Asian Pacific Americans have the second highest rate of poverty among all racial groups. One out of four Asian Pacific American students does not graduate from high school on time or at all. Despite these needs, the model minority stereotype that all Asian Pacific Americans are successful has caused our community to be overlooked when allocating resources for youth services.

Although we understand the City's difficult financial situation, we are deeply concerned about the reduction of funding for Beacon, Out of school Time and Summer Youth Employment Programs proposed in the fiscal year 2011 preliminary budget. These programs are located in neighborhoods where underserved youth live, and employ thousands of individuals from these neighborhoods. Beacon, OST and SYEP programs 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.

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. CACF urges the City Council and the Mayor to take the following actions. Restore \$10.13 million to Beacon contracts in order to prevent 66 City-funded Beacon contracts from receiving reductions in 2010 and 2011. Restore \$15.5 million to OST programs to prevent the elimination of 33 school year only and 30 middle school programs. As you know, these programs provide children and youth a supportive environment and have activities that range--to provide opportunities for emotional, social and academic growth. They also provide opportunities for working class families to provide childcare for their families.

Lastly, sorry, just to restore \$1 million annually for Summer Youth Employment programs to ensure City-funded slots for youth in summer 2010. As you've heard throughout the day and the morning, these--SYEP not only provides employment opportunities but also leadership development skills and allows our young people to be competitive in the workforce. Thank you so

much. I know I'm over time. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

And we also have testimony for the record from the Arab American Families Sports Center that was just submitted as well. We have no other witnesses.

I guess the saddest part of all of the things that we've had go on here today is that not one reporter from a Citywide newspaper showed up today and we didn't have, you know--just, I mean it seems to me like no interest. So that leaves it to us and to all the advocates here to really step it up. I know it's a rainy Monday morning and everyone lost an hour of sleep on Saturday night. We can't wait until the summer comes when these cuts actually, you know, affect us all; when the middle school summer program closes, when the Beacons start to see the cut backs, when the summer jobs totally disappear. All of those things are going to impact cumulatively on our communities in one of the most short-sighted ways that we possibly could see. So for those of you that remain, I just urge you, you know, today has got to be the beginning of the shouting. Today has got to be the beginning of

the organizing. Today has got to be the beginning of the effort. We are in an extraordinarily difficult situation. I am, unfortunately, pessimistic and sure that the State government is going to make that situation even worse on a lot of these issues. So the squeaky wheel gets greased. Kids don't vote. All of those things have got to be remembered as we go forward, because this wheel has got to squeak loudly.

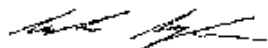
The Council has always, historically when restoring programs, has disproportionately favored youth programs. I take that with a great deal of pride because I know that a lot of other constituencies have well-paid lobbyists that come by and, you know, the youth groups are not in that category. So, you know, my colleagues, you know, our hearts are there. The choices are going to be that much more difficult this year. So, really it is essential that we rally, that we support, that we get out there, that we make sure that The Times, The Post, The News, tells all the parents who are, you know, enjoying, you know, their time now with programs that are not only watching their kids between 3:00

and 6:00 but educating them and tutoring them and providing some cultural enrichment to them, that those things are all going to disappear by September. I think if they get that message, the wheel will squeak very, very loudly.

So, with that unfortunately dim view of the future, but with hope nonetheless, I adjourn this hearing. But not before James Sanders came by.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature_____

Date _____April 6, 2010_____