

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH
COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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May 6, 2021
Start: 10:04 a.m.
Recess: 12:14 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 2)

B E F O R E: Daniel Dromm
CHAIRPERSON

Deborah Rose
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Adrienne Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Selvena Brooks-Powers
Robert Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie Cumbo
Darma Diaz
Oswald Feliz
Vanessa Gibson
Barry Grodenchik
Karen Koslowitz
Farah Louis
Steven Matteo
Francisco Moya
Keith Powers
Helen Rosenthal

Jimmy Van Bramer
Margaret Chin
Mathieu Eugene
Bill Perkins
Kevin Riley

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

Bill Chong, Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Randy Scott, Assistant Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Tracy Caldron, Assistant Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Mike Bobbitt, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Rong Zhang, Assistant Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Jagdeen Phanor, Associate Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Valerie Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community
Services

Dana Cantelmi, Chief Contracting Officer
Department of Youth and Community
Services

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3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sergeants, will you
4 start your recording?

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the
6 computer all set.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Sergeant
8 Biondo, you may begin with your opening statement.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome
10 to today's remote New York City Council hearing for
11 the fiscal year 2022 executive budget hearing on the
12 Committee of Finance job with the Committee on Youth
13 Services. At this time, would all panelists please
14 turn on their video for verification purposes? To
15 minimize disruptions, we ask you to please place all
16 electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode. If you
17 plan on testifying for the executive budget, the date
18 to do so is May 25th, 2021 beginning at 10 AM.
19 Again, that is May 25th, 2021 beginning at 10 AM. If
20 you would like to submit testimony, please do so to
21 testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Again, that is
22 testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Thank you for your
23 cooperation. Chair Dromm and Chair Rose, we are
24 ready to begin.
25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very
3 much. Good morning and welcome to the city Council's
4 first day of hearings on the Mayor's executive budget
5 for fiscal 2022. My name is Daniel Dromm and I Chair
6 the Finance Committee. We are joined by the
7 Committee on Youth Services, Chaired by my colleague,
8 Council member Debbie Rose, and we will be joined
9 later by the Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. We're
10 also joined by my colleagues in the Council and let
11 me just grab the names. Council members Adams,
12 Ampry-Samuel, Brooks-Powers, Chin, Diaz, Grodenchik,
13 Louis, Powers, Riley, Rosenthal, Van Bramer, Ayala,
14 and Cornegy. For the first time in a long time, we
15 have a lot of really good things to talk about in the
16 executive budget for the Department of Youth and
17 Community Development. DYCD's executive budget
18 totals \$835.4 million-- up \$90 million from its
19 preliminary budget just three months ago. The
20 increase is largely due to federal reserve-- Excuse
21 me. Federal revenue received from Pres. Biden
22 stimulus package to support youth programming.
23 Notably, the executive budget includes 144.3 million
24 until fully fund the summer youth employment program
25 so that 75,000 youth have the chance to gain

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meaningful employment experience this summer. This is up 5000 slots and \$13 million when compared to the preliminary. After last year's bitter battle to preserve the program from draconian cuts proposed by the Mayor, the Council is relieved that this issue does not need to be re-litigated for fiscal 2022. The executive budget also includes funding for a new program, summarizing, which will be managed jointly by DYCD and DOE. As laid out by the Mayor, this program will be a citywide school-based summer program for DOE students in kindergarten through 12th grade. It will be free to all who will apply with a guaranteed seat. Summer Rising will incorporate DOE academic programming with DYCD's school-based enrichment program to existing compass, sonic, and begin contracts. And speaking of those contracts, the Council cheers the restoration of \$5.7 million for summer sonic, 6.6 million over two years for the baseline expansion of begin and cornerstone programming, and not 12.8 million baseline to fund DYCD's community based network of providers through the indirect rate initiative. This is all welcome news, not only because so many youth will be served in this critical year when we will need additional

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3 support to recover from the various losses they have
4 felt over the past year, but it is also a win for the
5 providers who, for the first time in many years, will
6 have ample time to plan for their robust summer
7 programs with the guarantee by the end of April that
8 the necessary funding will be appropriated. However,
9 while there is much to be happy about, there are
10 still a few items that the Council will need to see
11 included in the adopted budget that are not in the
12 executive budget. Principally, we need to see at
13 least \$20 million baselined for our work, learn, and
14 grow and the restoration of \$12 million for the adult
15 literacy program. We look forward to continuing to
16 work with DYCD and the administration and as a whole
17 to ensure that these programs are sustained. I want
18 to thank Michelle Peregrine and Isha Wright from the
19 finance division for the preparations for today's
20 hearings. I would also like to take a moment to say
21 thank you and goodbye to Sarah Gasellum, a trusted
22 member of the finance division who, for seven years
23 primarily covered housing in public housing. She
24 left to go to work in that Mayor's Office a couple of
25 weeks ago and I haven't yet had the chance to
publicly thank her for her work and her dedication.

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2 So, thank you, Sarah, and you will certainly be
3 missed. And now, I would like to turn it over to
4 Chair Rose and that I understand that the Public
5 Advocate has joined us for his opening statement, as
6 well. Chair Rose?

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Chair Dromm.
8 And good morning, everybody. I am Council member
9 Debbie Rose. I am the Chair of the Committee on
10 Youth Services and I am so pleased to be joined here
11 by all of my esteemed fellow Council members, as well
12 as the Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. Today, we
13 will hear from DYCD Commissioner, Bill Chung, Chief
14 Finance Officer, Jugdeen Phanor, along with the
15 agency's team of program specific deputies and the
16 associate commissioners. I want to thank all of you
17 for joining us. We gather for my last budget hearing
18 as Chair of the Youth Services Committee. As elected
19 officials and fierce advocates for youth, my
20 colleagues and I have worked tirelessly to perform
21 the functions we have been charged with to provide an
22 equitable and fair budget including life-changing
23 youth services throughout the five boroughs. After
24 last year's major misstep with SYEP and a pandemic
25 that has isolated young people and exacerbated

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2 inequality, our fellow New Yorkers need is now, more
3 than ever, to be focused on what is in this fiscal 22
4 budget. So, I commenced my role in conducting this
5 oversight hearing of the city's budget beginning with
6 the Department of Youth Services. This is the first
7 that Youth Services is the first executive budget
8 hearing. And before I go on, I want to congratulate
9 DYCD and Commissioner Chong on their 25th
10 anniversary. DYCD's fiscal 2022 executive budget
11 totals \$835.4 million and has a net change of 90
12 million more than its fiscal 2022 preliminary budget
13 which is an indication to me that the city is moving
14 towards prioritizing its use and communities in this
15 budget through the application of federal stimulus
16 grants that were received and I am more than relieved
17 to see this. DYCD's executive budget alone added
18 \$270.1 million in new federal grants across the plan
19 which will support relief related programs for one
20 year like Learning Labs and Summer Rising. These
21 grants help restore Summer Sonic, add funds to SYEP
22 for 5000 additional one time slots, and baseline the
23 indirect cost rate initiative while also expanding
24 services to our community centers at our [inaudible
25 00:08:52] and our cornerstones. This city and this

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2 executive budget is clearly placing its funds into
3 programs and prioritizing vital services to bolster
4 communities and youth so devastated by this pandemic.
5 The plan also adds a total of 28.5 million in city
6 tax levy funding that is baselined in the budget
7 beginning in FY 22 into the out years for services
8 for runaway and homeless youth, or RHY, including
9 Unity Works and the new workforce development program
10 for runaway, homeless youth, LGBTQI+ participants, as
11 well as the DYCD expansion of Saturday night lights,
12 or SNL. Not to be mistaken with the TV show. A
13 program partnered with the city's district attorneys
14 and NYPD to foster positive relations between youth
15 and law enforcement through recreational activities
16 on weekend evenings. From experience and looking
17 back through last year's executive budget hearing, we
18 are certainly beginning in far better shape than
19 usual, to say the very least. I am grateful and,
20 most importantly, I know these effective programs are
21 benefiting from this improved budget and will help so
22 many New Yorkers in need who are so deserving of this
23 and so much more. I have only one concern with this
24 budget and that is due to Work Learn Grow not been
25 funded at all to begin services this fall. I am

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sure, after all of our negotiations to baselined 4000
encompass elementary slots to fund all summer youth
programs last year and the year-over-year bouts to
the Rose store and expand Summer Sonic, you can see
how I am ever so prepared to make sure I get Work
Learn Grow baselined in this budget before my 10 year
is up. With more than 2.6 million vaccinated New
Yorkers, city fully reopening on July 1, we move
towards a new sense of normalcy, I hope. I want to
charge the administration with the one final task:
ensuring that our youth returned to waive fully open
city with fully funded programs for all youth. So, I
sincerely ask that you work with my team, myself, and
my fellow Council members to ensure that this process
plays out smoothly as we work to get to adoption.
With that, I would like to take just a moment to
reflect back on the seven budget hearings we met to
deliberate and negotiate together. Commissioner
Chong, both you and I will part from these positions
later this year. I want to thank you and your team
for the work you all do to lift up our young people
and secure the incredible programming delivered by
DYCD. I know you and your teams have worked so hard
to ensure DYCD funded programs evolving and can

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2 enrich those that are designed to serve. And my
3 fellow Council members on the Youth Services
4 Committee: I could not have fought the great fight
5 without you. Without you championing these noble
6 causes alongside of me. I want to thank you all and
7 I want to thank you for allowing me to be your Chair.
8 And Chair Dromm, thank you for your incredible
9 leadership and thank you for your fearless pursuit of
10 what is really right and fair for New Yorkers across
11 this magnificent city. And, to our Speaker Cory
12 Johnson, I want to thank you for always rolling up
13 your sleeves and going toe to toe to make sure that
14 the voices of the members of this legislative body
15 are heard by the Mayor and I cannot thank Latonya
16 Kenny and all for keeping us informed, guided, and
17 grounded through the entire process of adopting the
18 city's budget year after year. I have no idea how
19 you do it, but you do it with dignity and grace and I
20 am grateful to you for your know-how and sheer
21 tenacity to get it done right. And my whole team and
22 Council finance who keep me informed and fact
23 checked, starting with Regina Perita Ryan, my all-
24 knowing, steadfast Deputy, and her team, including
25 Isha Wright, unit head, and Michelle Peregrine, my

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2 financial analyst who all worked so hard on these
3 reports to prepare me for these hearings. I thank
4 you, team finance. You totally rock. And I just
5 want to thank Christine Johnson, my Chief of Staff,
6 Isa Cortez, my legislative and budget Dir., Christian
7 Rebello. I want to thank Emmie Briggs, the Council
8 to the Committee, Anastasia Samina, the policy
9 analyst to this committee, and Elizabeth Art, our
10 community engagement. And just so many others who
11 have worked so hard in their roles to make this
12 committee a success. I wouldn't be where I am today
13 without you. Thank you. I look forward to a
14 meaningful and final budget hearing and next we will
15 hear from Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and thank
16 you, again, Chair Dromm, and I turned the hearing
17 back to you to begin. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very
19 much, Chair Rose, and thank you for your very kind
20 words. Let me also just complement you and say that
21 you have done a spectacular job as Chair of the Youth
22 Services Committee. You are a real fighter for our
23 youth here in the city. I feel extremely fortunate
24 and privileged to have worked with you over the last
25 12 years. We are members of the same class, the

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2 incoming class. I see Margaret Chin, as well, is
3 here. She is a member of that class. And it has
4 been the privilege of our lives, I think, to be able
5 to serve in this capacity. So, thank you, Chair Rose
6 for everything that you have done in your tenure here
7 in the New York City Council. Love you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. All right.
10 Next, we have Public Advocate Jumaane Williams who
11 have also have the privilege to serve with and he has
12 done a spectacular job as the Public Advocate, but
13 also to serve with him. The City Council. He was a
14 member of our class when we first came in in 2010.
15 Public Advocate?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Can you hear
17 me now?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Awesome.
21 Thank you, Chair Dromm. Yes, I believe our class did
22 stir up a bit of trouble these past few years.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We did.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Good trouble,
25 I suppose. But I want to say thank you, Chair Dromm,

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for those kind words and the enormous work that you
did as the Chair put forward some pretty impressive
budgets. So, congratulations on that. I am looking
forward to another one this year. I think yesterday-
- I hope last year's was a bit of an anomaly and we
will make up for what we did. In Chair Rose, as was
mentioned, you did an amazing job as the youth Chair.
So, thank you for all of that and I want to lend
myself to all the words you both said about the staff
that you mentioned as we go to this last budget. So,
congratulations and hopefully we can do some more
damage in this budget coming up here. As was
mentioned, my name is Jumaane Williams. I am the
Public Advocate for the city of New York. Again, I
want to thank both Chairs and the Committee and Youth
Services for holding this very important executive
budget hearing today. Last week the Mayor announced
the executive budget for fiscal year 2022 as part of
the financial plan. The city plans to allocate
roughly 594.4 million towards the Department of Youth
and Community Development. The administration has
taken the right steps to provide additional funding
to guarantee more opportunities for our youth. The
Mayor's plan to restore \$186 million in funding to

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the Learning to Work and Arts program in 200 million
to Summer Rising to accommodate 190,000 and youth
this summer. Summer Rising gives young people in
grades K-8 the ability to participate in academic and
recreational activities throughout the summer while
providing high school students the opportunity to
engage in programs offering work experience and
internship opportunities such as the Summer Youth
Employment Program also known as SYEP. Speaking of
SYEP, it is important to highlight the additional \$13
million that will be invested to at 5000 spots to
CUNY summer youth employment. I am pleased to see
that the administration is demonstrating a commitment
to ensuring more young people engage in professional
development, community building, and social emotional
learning activities this summer. I appreciated
Commissioner Chong's words in the last hearing that
he was going to do more to push for these funds to be
restored. While the Mayor's executive budget is
proposing an increase to funding and youth services,
there were cuts to certain programs in the
preliminary budget proposal that need more, not less,
investment. Even besides the pandemic, cuts when, in
fact, we should have been asking for more cuts from

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2 the beginning. I am sorry. More funding from the
3 beginning. Not just restoring the cuts that were
4 made. I am curious as to whether or not the
5 administration and will provide additional funding to
6 the runaway and homeless youth program, or Rh why.
7 At the preliminary budget hearing held by this
8 committee in March, I, along with others, stressed
9 the importance of RHY with respect to our homeless
10 youth, especially those that identify as LGBTQI and
11 how the administration has proposed a decrease in
12 funding by 3.3 percent. At the time, was
13 unacceptable. Even though the executive budget
14 funding allocation for this program is closer to the
15 amount of the previous fiscal year, we would like to
16 reiterate that the city needs to be investing more
17 money into RHY. At that same hearing, Commissioner
18 Chong explained the funding, albeit decreased, would
19 support 813 beds and eight drop-in centers for
20 runaway and homeless youth. With a homeless youth
21 population of nearly 4600 individuals, 813 beds is
22 simply not enough. We need to do better and ensuring
23 that every homeless young person has a place to sleep
24 at night until they transition into permanent
25 housing. Calling on the administration to designate

more funding to DYCD specifically for the RHY program, they tend to not only increase the number of beds, but enhance the services. Although more investment is needed to provide shelter to our runaway and homeless youth, it is good to see that the city is making an effort to provide them with access to more social services and job opportunities. Last month, the administration announced a partnership with NYC Unity Project and Allie [inaudible 00:19:53] Center which is the nation's largest LGBTQI homeless youth service provider to launch the NYC Unity Works program. Starting the summer Unity Works with 90 young people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. The three year program will provide homeless youth with job skills training and career development opportunities, help them access public benefits, food, and clothing, and administer mental health support. The Unity Works program will be extremely beneficial for our LGBTQI runaway and homeless youth and I hope this initiative will be codified into city law as a way of ensuring these critical services will remain available for that LGBTQI community for many years to come. Given the pandemic's impact on our personal

lives over the last year and the fact that we are on a path to fully reopening as a city, we have to take into consideration and the extent to which young people want to be out and active this summer, whether in a job or internship or hard skills training or recreational program or just getting the essential skills that people need. Young people do not want to be idle. They want to be engaged. SYEP will likely provide 70,000 spots this year, which is still below the program's pre-pandemic enrollment number of 75,000. The availability of 70,000 open spots also means that not every young person who applies will be accepted. Nevertheless, every youth who applies should be given an opportunity to participate in an alternative program. At the last public hearing, youth advocates pitched the idea of SYEP Unbound, which would ensure that every student who is not selected for SYEP is enrolled in a program that provides increased access to financial literacy workshops, seminars, and resume writing and youth town halls. There is a lot of potential for this type of program to happen because the physical locations of high schools and colleges can serve as sites for career readiness, programs, and skills

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training workshops. I fully support this idea and I
am, again, calling on DYCD to make this kind of
initiative the reality. Just because a young person
does not get selected for a summer job opportunity
does not mean they cannot learn how to write a cover
letter, how to interview for a job, or learn about
coding, web design, or graphic design. This program
is doable. We just have to think beyond the scope of
what has been done in the past and look at what our
young people can achieve in the future. In closing,
I would like to say that, while this year's summer
SYEP program is on track to meet pre-Covid and normal
levels, I hope, I would like to see an enrollment of
at least 100,000 slots which will be closer to
[inaudible 00:22:04] SYEP program. Over the last
budget hearing, Commissioner Chong said DYCD would
accommodate this number if additional funding became
available. If the administration chose to make the
funds being used to increase the NYPD's budget and
designate them towards DYCD, I'm certain SYEP could
accommodate 100,000 young people. It's a matter what
the administration chooses to prioritize. I look
forward to hearing how Commissioner Chong's plan to
serve our youth this summer given the proposed

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3 allocation of funds from the executive budget. I
4 want to also align myself with the Chairs request for
5 Work, Learn, Grow. And, last, I do want to make sure
6 that every youth program we look forward from DYCD or
7 DOE includes mental health. I want to lift up a 12
8 year old boy who was found hanging in his home
9 yesterday. We are all suffering from trauma from the
10 last year. That young boy left a note. It said,
11 good bye. I love you guys so much, but life is too
12 hard. I don't blame any of you guys. Don't let the
13 school do an assembly about this. These are the
14 people that we need to remember and focus on. Our
15 young people need assistance just like the adults do.
16 so, I'm asking everyone in their programing to
17 remember this because hurt people hurt people and
18 sometimes, too often, they are hurt themselves.
19 Violence and suicide is up in New York City. It is
20 up across the nation. I also lift up Jamal Abna [sp?]
21 who committed suicide when we were young. I
22 remember, as a young person, it always stuck with me.
23 I can't-- need people the think about the amount of
24 pain someone is in to take their lives. We have a
25 duty here to provide infrastructure needed to service
them. That 13 year old who took his own life is a

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3 demonstration of how many different places he was
4 failed. Let's do right by him and so many others who
5 are suffering. Thank you so much. Peach and
6 blessings to you all.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Public
8 Advocate Williams. That's some really horrible
9 situation that you've described yesterday with that
10 young person. Okay. Let me move on. we have also
11 been joined by Minority Leader Matteo, Council member
12 Menchaca and Gibson, as well as Council member Moya.
13 Okay. Now we are joined by DYCD Commissioner Bill
14 Chong and I am going to turn it over to our committee
15 counsel to go over some procedural items and to swear
16 in the witnesses.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair
18 Dromm and Chair Rose. My name is Rebecca Chasan and
19 I am counsel to the New York City Council's Committee
20 on Finance. Before we begin, I want to remind
21 everyone that you will be on mute until you are
22 recognized to speak at which time you will be unmuted
23 by the zoom host. If you mute yourself after you
24 have been unmuted, you will need to be unmuted,
25 again, by the host. Please be aware that there can be
a delay in muting an unmuting so please be patient.

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2 Today we will hear testimony from the Department of
3 Youth and Community Development. During the hearing,
4 if Council members would like to ask questions,
5 please use the zoom raise hand function and you will
6 called on to speak. We will be limiting Council
7 member questions to five minutes, including
8 responses. I'll now administer the affirmation to
9 the administration witnesses and then call on each of
10 you to so affirm. Do you affirm that your testimony
11 will be truthful to the test of your knowledge,
12 information, and believe? Commissioner Chong?

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: You're muted.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You're muted. You're
15 muted.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Can you hear me
17 now?

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I do.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deputy commissioner
21 Haskell?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I do.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Associate
24 commissioner Rattray?

25 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I do.

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Assistant
3 commissioner Scott?

4 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I do.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Assistant
6 commissioner [inaudible 00:25:45]. We may not have
7 audio for the assistant commissioner. Assistant
8 commissioner Caldron?

9 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER CALDRON: I do.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deputy commissioner
11 Bobbitt?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BOBBITT: I do.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Assistant
14 commissioner Zhang?

15 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ZHANG: I do.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Associate
17 commissioner Phanor?

18 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER PHANOR: I do.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deputy commissioner
20 Mulligan?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: I do.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: And chief
23 contracting officer Cantelmi?

24 CHIEF CONTRACTING OFFICER CANTELMI: I
25 do.

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2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much,
3 everybody. Commissioner Chong, you may begin when
4 ready.

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay. Can you hear
6 me? Okay. Good morning, Chair Rose, Dromm, and
7 members of the Committees on Youth Services and
8 Finance and Public Advocate Williams. I am Bill
9 Chong, Commissioner of the Department of Youth and
10 community development. I am joined by Jugdeen
11 Phanor, DYCD's Chief Financial office, Dana Cantelmi,
12 Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Susan Haskell, Deputy
13 Commissioner for youth services, Darryl Rattray is
14 the Associate Commissioner for youth services and
15 teaching partnerships, Valerie Mulligan, Deputy
16 Commissioner for workforce development, Dana
17 Cantelmi, our chief CCO, Mike Bobbitt, the Deputy
18 Commissioner for youth and community-- Deputy
19 Commissioner for community development, and Rong
20 Zhang, Assistant Commissioner for literacy and
21 immigrant services. We are grateful to have this
22 opportunity to testify on DYCD's fiscal 2022
23 executive budget. As you know, last week Mayor Bill
24 de Blasio presented the recovery budget for fiscal
25 2022. This recovery budget is a historic, stimulus

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3 driven investment in our come back and includes a
4 notably high level of funding for DYCD programs. It
5 is aligned with DYCD's mission was just to alleviate
6 the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities
7 for New Yorkers and communities to flourish by
8 funding and already of critical supports through the
9 city's young people and families. I wanted to
10 express my heartfelt gratitude to Chair Rose and
11 Dromm and the entire Council and your staff for your
12 steadfast commitment in support of DYCD young people
13 and the families we serve. The executive budget
14 includes \$835.1 million that will allow DYCD to
15 enhance existing services while launching
16 groundbreaking new initiatives that will help propel
17 New York City's recovery. Last month, Mayor de
18 Blasio announced Summer rising, a bold vision for
19 summer learning that will be student centered,
20 experiential academically, rigorous, and culturally
21 responsive. Summer Rising will provide opportunities
22 for young people to learn, to get outside, and to
23 engage with peers in carrying adults in a safe,
24 supervised, and enriching robust programs, readying
25 them from return to school in September. The
initiative is to try the best-- is truly the best of

both worlds. It brings together, for the first time, the strengths of DYCD funded summer enrichment initiatives and the Department of Education academic programs into a singular experience for young people, particularly those from communities hardest hit by the Covid 19 pandemic. K-8 students will be connected to academic classes, enrichment programming, including field trips, arts activities, and outdoor recreation and will engage in daily social and emotional learning activities. Programs will follow rigorous health and safety protocols including social distancing, mask wearing, and all locations will have access to testing, nursing support, and a telehealth call center. All K-8 students in New York City are eligible. We are pleased that the executive budget includes an additional \$44.3 million in DYCD's budget to support this effort which includes funding for all summer side programs. We appreciate the efforts of school Chancellor Nisha Porter and her team on working with us on this exciting new collaboration. Mayor de Blasio announced additional funding for the summer youth employment program to support 5000 additional jobs beyond what was previously committed for a total investment of \$167 million. SYEP has

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been a right of passage for New York young people for nearly 60 years. This summer, SYEP takes on the added role of bringing back a semblance of normalcy to 75,000 young people whose lives were upended by Covid 19. The opportunities offered by SYEP will go a long way towards helping teens and young adults learn critical skills and map out their futures and become important contributors to the cities recovery. To ensure participant safety of youth and employers during the Covid 19 recovery, project-based learning and workplace opportunities may take place in person or-- may take place online, in person, or in a hybrid environment. The executive budget includes 4.35 million to expand Saturday Night Lights. This youth development and bonds prevention program provides young people with high quality sports and a fitness training. Funded in partnership with district attorneys and NYPD, this summer it will expand from 22 to approximately 100 locations. We are also pleased that the executive budget includes \$933,000 to launch NYC Unity Works. Starting this summer, the program will be the country's largest and most comprehensive workforce development program ever created for LGBTQI community and will specifically

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3 focus on supporting homeless and runaway LGBTQI
4 youth. It arrived during the ongoing pandemic that
5 exacerbated the challenges of LGBTQI young people
6 connecting to educational opportunities, job
7 training, meaningful work, housing, mental health
8 counseling, and other supports they need to survive
9 and thrive. We thank our partners at the NYC Unity
10 project, the New York City youth employment, the
11 Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, and Allie
12 [inaudible 00:33:48] Center. Executive budget also
13 supports an ongoing work to support young people and
14 families. I remain grateful and thankful that under
15 Mayor de Blasio, DYCD funding has expanded
16 significantly, allowing more New Yorkers to benefit
17 from the programs and services funded by our agency.
18 The Council's strong support, the de Blasio
19 administration [inaudible 00:34:10] transfer in the
20 system for runaway and homeless youth. I recall the
21 day when we only had 253 beds with many funded by the
22 city Council with discretionary funding. Thanks to
23 the efforts of Councilman Lou Fidler, since 2014
24 we've more than tripled the number of residential
25 beds to 813, the last of which came online after the
preliminary budget hearing. We increase the age for

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3 service eligibility up to 24 and opened additional
4 drop-in centers. There are currently eight DYCD
5 funded centers, two of which are at least 24 seven
6 are open with at least one of the 24/7 opening in
7 each of the five boroughs. Young people have access
8 to high quality mental health services across the
9 portfolio. We also transformed our after school for
10 young people. We expanded and enhanced what was
11 known as the out of school time into the successful
12 compass and sonic programs. The budget grew from
13 \$150.6 million to \$381 million and from 563 to about
14 900 locations. The expanded programming for residents
15 of public housing through the cornerstone program, we
16 began at 25 locations in 2009 and we now offer
17 services in 99 developments. We grew and enhanced
18 Mayor Dinkins' significant Beacon program to 91
19 location and the executive budget includes \$1.2
20 million for additional programming. In communities
21 hardest hit by Covid, DYCD issued a request for
22 proposal for anti-poverty programs that will be
23 located in 41 neighborhood development in areas
24 across the city. The RFPs in each neighborhood were
25 shaped by surveying residents and what they think
their communities greatest needs. These programs

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will address the needs of older youth, seniors, the
working poor, immigrants, and struggling families
through education and employment services, literacy
services, and assistants of individuals with families
in assessing community and social needs. New
contracts will commence next year and are part of
overall efforts to help the city recover. To assist
New Yorkers to find these and other programs, DYCD
has developed Discover DYCD. It is a digital
platform that allows the public to find resources
provided by DYCD funded programs, apply for programs,
track their applications, and reach out to DYCD for
assistance by phone, the metal, or use our digital
assistant. It is being used by parents, schools,
counselors, and even police officers is the best way
to connect young people to resources all on a smart
phone. Finally, I want to share with you DYCD's
response to the murders of George Floyd, Breonna
Taylor, and Ahmad Arbury, and others. Last summer,
DYCD added to its strategic plan a priority to be,
proactive, antiracist city agency. This priorities
supports DYCD's mission and vision and will help
communities recover from the disparate racial impact
of Covid 19 and seek to create a systemic change.

The rise of anti-Asian violence incidents and violence during the pandemic and additional deaths of unarmed black Americans reinforces the importance of antiracism strategies. DYCD is currently pursuing for antiracist goals and committed to updating or creating other ones in the future. They are researching strategies to the center equity and DYCD resource allocations, providing antiracism, and implicit bias training resources to DYCD staff, revising DYCD's equity and mission statements to reflect the agency's current antiracist position, and increase the pool, awareness, and hiring of consultants of color who provide support to city organizations and CBO's and organizational health operations and program quality. Connect these consultants to SBS, learn how to obtain city MWBE certification if they don't already have that designation. Part of these efforts include engaging young people themselves in these important conversations. Beginning last summer, we have sponsored We The Youth, You The People youth town hall series with the goal of supporting young people during development of a youth agenda to inform policy, practice, and programs to support young

people. Youth are talking about upcoming city elections and funding priorities of candidates running for office. These and other initiatives are essential in fostering a recovery for all. Thank you, again, for a chance to testify and let me say again that DYCD wouldn't be where it is that today without the strong support of Chair Rose and Chair Dromm, the Council members, Public Advocate Williams. Sometimes the advocacy on the outside helps those of us on the inside. So, I want to thank you. In the eight years that I have been with DYCD as Commissioner and the 16 years that I've had the privilege of working at DYCD, the Council has always been a true champion of young people. So, thank you again and I would be happy to answer your questions out.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you for your dedicated services, as well. We deeply appreciate it. Let me start off by asking some questions about Summer Rising. DYCD's executive budget adds over \$270 million over fiscal 21 and 22 in federal stimulus grants with another \$55 million in the out years. Of that, \$38.7 million will directly fund the newly announced Summer Rising

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2 summer program. How have teachers and principles
3 responded to the Summer Rising plan? Does DOE
4 anticipate challenges getting enough teachers to sign
5 up given the burnout during the pandemic?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay. Well, let me
7 speak and then Susan can address it. I think on the
8 issue of teachers, I think DOE is probably in a
9 better position to ask that question, but as I said
10 in the testimony, Summer Rising really builds on the
11 strong foundation of the summer camps that DYCD has
12 supported for 20 years, if not longer and I think the
13 very fact that the Department of Education reached
14 out to us, I would say, in mid-March-- and I said to
15 them on the phone at the time on the video call that,
16 in my 16 years at DYCD, this is the earliest that we
17 have had a conversation with the Department of
18 Education to really plan summer and we are excited
19 that, for the first time, instead of operating at
20 parallel tracks, we are working together to provide a
21 meaningful experience for young people. The things
22 that we can do, they can't do and the thing they can
23 do, we can't do. the planning has started on a
24 school-by-school basis-- and maybe Susan can talk a
25 little bit about what she is hearing on the ground.

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2 600 programs have already accepted enrollment as of
3 this past Monday and we're adding programs on a
4 weekly basis. Susan, do you want to chime in?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yeah.
6 That's right. The NYC.gov/SummerRising has the
7 programs we've been able to ramp up to date. I
8 think-- I know at DYCD, we're really excited about
9 bringing the strength of DOE, as the Commissioner
10 said, together with DYCD. And I think teachers and
11 principals feel the same. The acknowledgment that
12 every young person deserves a bump this summer in
13 terms of their academic-- exposure to academic
14 activities, combined with the social emotional skill
15 development that you get from coming into an
16 environment with caring adults unable to make new
17 friends and connect with your peers. So, overall,
18 generally excited. General excitement on both sides.
19 DYCD and DOE.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And just a regard
21 to the number of teachers available? Do you have any
22 information on that, Deputy Commissioner?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: No. But
24 we do speak with our colleagues many times a day and
25 I think they feel confident that they are going to be

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3 able to staff these programs, so building off their
4 confidence, we are looking forward.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, some of
6 the CBO's are worried about the-- the principles
7 said they are going to have to hire substitute
8 teachers for the program, so that is one of our
9 concerns. Maybe we will address it as we move
10 forward with the Education Committee, as well, but I
11 just wanted to mention that to you. Now, Summer
12 Rising will combine academic and nonacademic
13 programs. Given the expansion of services in Summer
14 Rising versus traditional summer school, SYEP
15 providers are concerned about managing hours and
16 securing flexible internship sites should high school
17 Summer Rising participants be required to attend CBO
18 activities as well as DOE activities. How flexible
19 will the Summer Rising attendance expectations be for
20 high school aged students?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, let me starts
22 and, first of all, Summer Rising is primarily K-8, so
23 that's important to understand.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, the other
programs that-- the 190,000 that are expected to be

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3 sure, we're responsible for up to 100,000 K-8. The
4 other 90,000 is the responsibility of the Department
5 of Education and it's a mixture of services which
6 they can better explain than I can. The Summer Youth
7 Employment Program is separate from the Summer
8 Rising. So, I'll start and the Deputy Commissioner
9 Mulligan can chime in. This year, and many ways, we
10 have more flexibility because, since we're allowing
11 young people to be either in fully remote internships
12 or hybrid or in person, it allows the young person
13 that might have to attend summer school, the
14 flexibility to do both. Valerie, do you have
15 anything else to add?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah. I
17 think you're exactly right. Of course we are working
18 in close partnership with DOT on the making sure that
19 they know what SYEP is going to look like this summer
20 so that they are mindful of it as they are planning
21 their high school Summer Rising programming, but I
22 would just say that it has been a standard practice
23 of SYEP for years to work with young people who are
24 also participating in DOE programming. So on the
25 SYEP side, we absolutely plan to continue that
flexibility and, as the Commissioner said, this year,

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2 the program is going to be even more flexible than it
3 has been in the past by offering remote internships
4 and some unique other ideas like micro internships or
5 rotational internships that we are really hopeful
6 will provide that flexibility that are providers and
7 young people are going to need to be able to
8 participate both and SYEP and DOE programming
9 together this summer.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And, Deputy
11 Commissioner, do you have any numbers in terms of
12 historically how many have participated in both?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: I don't,
14 but happy to follow up with you on that off-line.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. All right.
16 And thank you. Some similar concerns with the Summer
17 Youth Employment programs. The executive budget adds
18 13 million for 5000 additional jobs for a total of
19 75,000 summer youth employment program participants
20 this year. So, given this expansion, how is the CBO
21 community feeling about finding work sites and job
22 placements for all the students who may apply,
23 particularly as businesses are still recovering or
24 may even be shuttered? What is DYCD doing to support
25 providers in finding worksites?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I'll start and
3 then Valerie can add. You know, we are mindful of
4 this. That's why I think part of it is to give more
5 flexibility, so it doesn't have to be an in person
6 experience. It could be a remote only experience and
7 last week I spoke to about, I would say, close to 200
8 employers on a zoom call. Many of them were minority
9 and women owned businesses that we worked with Work,
10 Learn, and Grow to grow our portfolio worksites. One
11 of the things that people might not have known is
12 that before the pandemic, in 2019, for the first time
13 in the history of the program, the percentage of
14 young people working in the business sector exceeded
15 the nonprofit sector. 44 percent to 41 percent and
16 we're committed to providing young people as many
17 careers explanation opportunities as possible. When
18 I was in the Summer Youth Employment program in 1973,
19 the choice you had was work for a nonprofit or work
20 for a government agency. And we know the world of
21 work is more challenging out there and a lot of young
22 people who come from under resourced communities
23 don't know about what is out there. They know what
24 jobs their parents had or their friends parents had.
25 So, one of the big things we been working on for the

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2 last seven years is to really diversify the work
3 experience. And so we will continue to do that with
4 all these obstacles. But, Valerie, do you want to
5 talk a little bit about what we did yesterday?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah.

7 So, I think I would just say, as the Commissioner
8 said, we are well aware that this is going to be one
9 of our biggest challenges this summer, so, internally
10 at DYCD, we're really beefing up our efforts to
11 support our providers in terms of employer
12 engagement. So, for example, just yesterday we did a
13 presentation with Deputy Mayor Thompson to all of our
14 city agency partners asking them to participate in
15 the SYEP program. The Commissioner spoke with the
16 private sector last week. Right now, my employer
17 engagement team is presenting to other partners. So,
18 we're doing everything we can to leave no stone
19 unturned here and I also want to highlight that we
20 have added additional flexibility here so that we can
21 reach more employers this year so we have an option
22 where, if an employer can't participate in a full 150
23 hour experience, we're offering things like micro
24 internships and rotational internships so that the
25 program can be more accessible to private employers

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2 who want to participate in the program but can't
3 quite make the lift to 150 hours and then we're going
4 to add a professional training experience on top of
5 that for our young people to create the full
6 experience. So, just to say we're very mindful of
7 this. We know it's going to be one of our biggest
8 challenges, but we're doing absolutely everything
9 that we can support providers on this front.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I make a pitch
11 to ask the Council if they could commit to being
12 worksites. Historically, the Council has been a big
13 supporter of this program, not only because of your
14 advocacy, but also being worksites. And we'd be
15 happy to host an information session about how this
16 new model will work with all 51 Council members, the
17 Public Advocate's office, whoever wants to host young
18 people, as I said, virtual internships, hybrid
19 internships, in person internships, we want to have--
20 we want to leave no stone unturned when it comes to
21 job sites. So, I'm kind of putting you guys on the
22 spot, but I hope you will meet us and help us with
23 this effort.

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, that was
25 going to be my next question and, actually, just

about some of the difficulties that it presents students our offices, mostly, are closed. But if you are saying that we can do, you know, virtual job sites and internships, perhaps, you know, research and things like that might be appropriate for them also to do, then I think that, you know-- I, personally, would be-- you know, because I always take two or three, maybe four, summer youth employment program students and I would definitely be open to that. So, I'll take you on on that.

COMMISSIONER CHONG: And one of the other things that we're actively exploring with the Vaccine Command Center and the Department of Health is what role young people can play in the education and outreach effort around vaccines because, increasingly, hiding among older adults, we're gotten to a good place, but the next challenge will be getting young people vaccinated. So, we're hoping to develop some sort of strategy where young people in the Summer Youth Employment Program can help be peer educators. I mean, the best messenger to young people is young people. And so, since we have an army of young people being paid this summer, they can help us reach their peers and make sur they get the

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2 vaccine. So, we are thinking outside the box the
3 summer.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Thank you,
5 Commissioner. In CUNY is committed to take on 5000
6 of those slots. Have they shared if they could
7 assist providers with additional sites that they
8 could take on to support them?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Valerie, I don't
10 know. Do you know the answer?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Hi. I
12 don't know if I follow--

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: CUNY is committed
14 to take on 5000 of the slots. Have they shared if
15 they can assist providers with additional sites that
16 they could take on to support them?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah. My
18 understanding is that CUNY is working hard on their
19 front on worksite development that would be
20 appropriate for their 5000 students.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are CUNY campuses
22 open? Would they be virtual?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: The CUNY
24 positions can be a combination of in person, virtual,
25 or hybrid depending on where the actual placement is.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. The same
3 thing. All right. Let me go to community center
4 expansion. The executive budget includes new
5 baseline funding across the plan for community center
6 expansion. Fiscal 21 includes 2.2 million. Fiscal
7 22 includes 4.4 million with 6.2 million included in
8 the out years. How many more youth and young adult
9 participants does DYCD anticipate reaching in each of
10 the fiscal years with this new funding?

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, let me have
12 Darryl Rattray, out Associate Commissioner, who
13 himself is a product of the Beacon program. He was a
14 participant more than 25 years ago when he was much
15 younger and he-- I think it was his-- Well, one of
16 his many first jobs. So, Darrell, do you want to
17 give an update? Darryl?

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Hi. I
19 was muted. Sorry about that. And, yep, Bill. The
20 Beacon program was my second SYEP job. Cleaning up a
21 vacant lot was my first SYEP job and my first job
22 working in the Bronx. So, we do have allocation or
23 additional community centers. One of the, as folks
24 may know, is a Beacon program at Truman high school.
25 So, that RFP was released recently. We are currently

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2 reviewing the proposals that came in, so we will have
3 notice on that relatively soon. In addition, we also
4 received funding for additional cornerstone community
5 centers. So these are NYCHA community centers
6 throughout the city. Folks should already know Marcy
7 community center opened up last September. We also
8 had Oceanside and Far Rockaway open up. The
9 additional centers-- there are quite a few on there
10 that need renovations, so we are working with NYCHA
11 to complete those renovations on that timeline so we
12 can start our process to actually place the provider
13 at those centers. Some of them we don't have slot
14 estimates because of the renovations that are
15 happening. It is based on the number of classrooms
16 and the size of the space, so once the renovations
17 are complete or close to completion, we can go ahead
18 and do the cost estimates for slots and come up with
19 the larger numbers.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, those are new
21 places that you mentioned. Are those additional
22 providers and what have traditionally provided the
23 program?

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: in the
25 case of Marcy, yes, it was the current provider which

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3 was Grand Street settlement. And then, for Oceanside
4 was the Child Center of New York which also operates
5 the community center right next door.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, will there be
7 any additional providers?

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: It is
9 possible. I mean, those centers come online, we may
10 be in a position where we are doing an RFP and we are
11 adding those centers on to that RFP. It is all about
12 the timing of those centers being ready for
13 occupation, as well.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And just to put a
15 fine point on this, when we launched this program
16 and, I think, 2009-- was it 2009?

17 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah.
18 2009. Satellites. The RFP was 20--

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right. So we had a
20 stopgap measure so that services could get going
21 immediately. So what we did is we did a satellite
22 program-- so you ran a satellite program if you were
23 the closest and then we had time to do the request
24 proposal and then we opened it up to anyone who was
25 interested. So, it was trying to balance the
immediacy of getting services off the ground, but

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2 also giving us time to do a real RFP. In fact, I
3 remember the first 25 when we did the RFP. I think
4 13 turned over or something like that because it was
5 a stopgap measure to get services off the ground.
6 And I assume this will probably happen since some of
7 these centers like Mariners Harbor in Staten Island
8 are still under construction. I assume this will
9 happen after I leave, but Darryl will be around to
10 make sure it is done right.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, Commissioner,
12 are you saying that there will be an RFP?

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: At some point in
14 the next two years. Particularly for the new site
15 because, you know, there is no income been there.
16 So, but, certainly, as new sites become available, we
17 will do RFPs. In the short term, we had to do sort
18 of what is called a satellite: in amendment to a
19 nearby cornerstone just to get services up and
20 running. But, you know, we have committed to, you
21 know, opening up the process. So, that will probably
22 happen after I leave.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. And will the
24 expansion include additional or augmented
25 programmatic content?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It is, I think, the
3 same model. Right, Darryl?

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah.
5 Right now we are doing the same model, but of course,
6 as time goes by, we are assessing those neighborhoods
7 in the RFPs as we release them. So, it's possible,
8 but right now we are looking at the same model. The
9 cornerstone model.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. So, what
11 about our new centers actually going to be
12 constructed or just existing sites being used?

13 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Right now
14 these are all existing sites that may need
15 renovation. So, like Gowanus is one of the which is
16 receiving renovations with NYCHA. And I believe DDC
17 is also involved.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you anticipate
19 any new construction sites?

20 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No. No.
21 Not that I am aware of. Not that we have discussed
22 so far. No.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Because I
24 just was asking because then there would be capital
25 budget concerns, as well, in that regard.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No. I think they
3 are all renovations of sites that were either closed
4 or not used.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And is that-- Are
6 those renovations included in the capital plan?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: That is the
8 question I think you have to ask the Housing
9 Authority.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. It goes
11 through them.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yeah.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. All right.
14 Just finishing up here. I just want to talk a little
15 bit about adult literacy. It's something that's
16 really important for me in my community, especially.
17 In our budget response, the Council called for 12
18 million to be added to the adult literacy program for
19 fiscal 22, but the Mayor not included in the
20 executive budget. The Covid 19 pandemic has shown us
21 that language access is critical and workforce
22 development and highly qualified community-based
23 adult literacy programming contributes to the social
24 and civic life of those in need. So, what
25 conversations has DYCD had with OMB and the Mayor

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2 about adding in 12 million for adult literacy
3 supports and how much do you any test of a increasing
4 funding for the adult literacy program?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I'm hopeful
6 that this issue would be resolved as we get to an
7 adopted budget. I have said in the past that I
8 believe core programs-- meaning programs that have
9 been funded through multi-year contracts, should have
10 stable funding. It's the right thing to do for
11 people who go to these places for services. It's the
12 right thing to do with the staff of the nonprofits
13 who run these programs. So, we continue to me that
14 case for stable funding. You know, when I was at
15 DYCD in the previous administration as the Deputy
16 Commissioner, I remember something like 40 percent of
17 the DYCD budget relied on one year restorations.
18 It's not a way to run quality, impactful programs.
19 So we continue to advocate for it and we appreciate
20 the support that the Council and you have had for
21 adult literacy programs because we are a city of
22 immigrants. I know personally that my parents, when
23 they came to this country in the 1940s, didn't have
24 these services. My mother-- I tell this story to my
25 staff. Because she couldn't read English, when she

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3 went to work in Chinatown in the garment factory, she
4 would have to count the number of stops to make sure
5 she got off at the right station. So, I understand
6 on a very person level how important these programs
7 on and we will continue advocating and we welcome the
8 support of the Council.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Well, we look
10 forward to working with you on that. The Speaker and
11 I have visited the Chinese Planning Council, CPC
12 site, a couple of years ago, I guess it was, and we
13 were both emotionally moved by the number of people,
14 first of all, that were seeking the services and
15 crowded into the classroom who also in there
16 struggled. And their desire to learn English and,
17 you know, it's just so vitally important to these
18 immigrant communities that they get that service.

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree 100
20 percent.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you,
22 Commissioner. I'm going to turn it over to my
23 colleagues, Chair Rose, who is going to have some
24 questions and then I believe Public Advocate Jumaane
25 Williams.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you, Chair
3 Dromm, and I want to ask my committee's indulgence.
4 I'm going to try to get through this first round of
5 questioning. Learning Labs. When we last left off
6 at DYCD's fiscal 2022 preliminary budget hearing with
7 some outstanding questions, also pertaining to the
8 executive budget. Learning Labs have been fully
9 funded for one year now with a total of one point--
10 \$71.5 million dollars for fiscal year 21 programming,
11 of which \$68.6 million was added in the executive
12 budget. How many actual K-8 grade students are
13 currently participating or enrolled in Learning Labs
14 and how many total slots are available for K-8 grade
15 participants?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm going to ask
17 Susan or Darryl to see if they can give an update
18 and, if not, we can get back to you. Susan?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Thanks,
20 Chair. Yeah. Ultimately, we ended up funding
21 roughly 18,000 Learning Lab seats with capacity to
22 serve as many as 36,000 young people. I think the
23 last data that we pulled that we had shared with
24 Council was that roughly 13,000 young people were
25 enrolled in those programs.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, how many slots
3 are still available then?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Let's
5 see-- I mean, the one complication I just want to
6 put in here is that, over the course of the school
7 year, the way young people participate in the program
8 has changed. In other words, let's say when middle
9 schools went down, you might have had a young person
10 attending five days a week which is different than
11 the way we ramped up thinking that a single seat
12 could serve as many as two young people. So there
13 have been variations in capacity throughout the year,
14 but we funded, as I said, roughly 18,119 seats. I
15 mentioned we had, over the course of the year, about
16 13,000 enrolled. So, I was an additional capacity of
17 about 5000 seats to us are probably more than that,
18 assuming a young person wasn't coming all five days,
19 but there was some uncertainty around that.

20 Individuals can participate as many days as they
21 needed to based on capacity at their site.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: With more students
23 returning to five days a week in person learning at
24 their schools, that is the decrease in participation
25 rates in learning bridges and lab programs. Will

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2 these decreasing rates of participation impact the
3 provider contracts?

4 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I can say no. I
5 mean, we knew that when we designed the learning
6 bridge program it was a transition program and we
7 were dealing with, literally, a moving target as far
8 as the opening and closing of schools. Some schools
9 were able to do five days of in person. Other
10 schools did two days in person and so it was kind of
11 messy and we understood that going in that it was
12 going to not be a perfect situation and so we knew
13 that the providers were doing the best they could
14 under a constantly changing environment both from a
15 health perspective and from an opening and closing of
16 the schools and capacity. So, you know, we will
17 not-- There won't be any contract implications. The
18 program will end this fiscal year and, you know, when
19 we go back to full time schools, this program won't
20 be needed anymore.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you.
22 Summarizing, the executive budget adds 38.7 million
23 for Summer Rising as discussed in our preliminary
24 budget hearing. There was funding in the budget for
25 Compass, Beacon, and cornerstone campus lots. The

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2 executive budget rose stored 5.7 million for summer
3 sonic program slots. What percentage will be used in
4 center-based at cornerstone, not Summer Rising
5 affiliated, summer sonic programs?

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm not sure if
7 Susan can answer that or-- Well, let's start with
8 Suzanne and Darryl. I think most of the sonic
9 restoration was for the sonic programs that only
10 operated during the school year, so I'm not sure if
11 there was any money added to cornerstone or Beacons,
12 but Susan or Darryl can correct me if I am wrong.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's
14 right. The baseline sonic programs, middle school
15 programs that have summer services throughout the
16 year and they were-- the funding for the summer was
17 not included in the preliminary budget, but it was
18 restored. About 5.7 million. That includes school-
19 based programs and center-based programs. So, all of
20 the programs that had baseline summer programs got
21 restoration this year. It is our plan that the
22 additional middle school seats will most likely be
23 school-based where, you know, we are assessing demand
24 of the Summer Rising programs, but at this time we
25 are planning to allocate additional middle school

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3 seats to the school-based Summer Rising programs. I
4 don't know if Jagdeen or Darryl want to add anything
5 about. Yeah. I think that's our plan at this time.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So all of these
7 program budgets will now be combined under Summer
8 Rising?

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: For the same
10 contracts, I think the Summer Rising was those more
11 away to like make clear that the partnership between
12 the Department of Education and DYCD was much more
13 integrated than it ever had been, but we are not
14 renaming Sonic. We're not renaming Compass. It's
15 just Compass and Sonic programs are part of this
16 larger initiative called Summer Rising. So, the
17 contracts pretty much stayed the same. It's just, I
18 guess, more from a how do we publicize it to the
19 general public.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, what is the total
21 funding for Summer Rising that's included in DYCD's
22 budget for Compass contracts-- What will the total
23 budget for Compass contracts for summer camps? What
24 will the total budget for Sonic contracts be for
25 summer camps? And what will the total budget for
Beacon contracts be for summer camps?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think Jagdeen--

3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Yeah.

4 I'll take that. Good morning or good afternoon,
5 Chair Rose. How are you? So, Susan indicated
6 before, for the base contracts which included
7 Compass, Beacon, Cornerstone, which is approximately
8 about 58,000 slots, we had about 41.6 million in
9 totality for that. Then we have that 8564 that was
10 restored which was 5.7 million and then we also had
11 the Summer Rising which you guys stated was about
12 38.7 million. So, all told, we are assuming 85.9
13 million dollars contributing to Summer Rising.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are the Cornerstone
15 contracts also included in Summer Rising?

16 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PHANOR: So, the base
17 portion. So, Susan is shaking her head now, but
18 just-- She's correct, but nothing was added for
19 Cornerstone. And, like she said, those are going to
20 be school-based and we are focusing on school-based
21 programming.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, will the Cornerstone
23 summer programs be supported by new community center
24 funding that is included in the budget and, if so,
25 how much?

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2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: So,
3 Darryl, do you want to jump in? I'm not sure I'm
4 understanding.

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah.
6 Chair Rose, can you repeat that question? Let me try
7 to tease it out.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are Cornerstone summer
9 programs being supported by any of the new community
10 center funding included in the budget and, if so, how
11 much additional funding is being allocated
12 specifically for summer expansion in Cornerstones
13 this summer?

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I'll
15 try to answer and, Jagdeen, you should listen to
16 everything I'm saying right now is correct.

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: I will.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, they
19 are not getting additional funding. The funding that
20 is allocated in the budget is for any brand-new--
21 well, let me modify brand-new. Any centers that open
22 up after the renovations--

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Correct.

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So,
25 there's no additional summer funding. They are using

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3 their full base budget for their summer programming
4 as they would do any other year.

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: That's
6 correct.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, the new community
8 center funding is included in the budget? In the
9 overall Cornerstone budget not the--

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That's
11 correct and that is for the centers that-- Again,
12 they are not coming online right now because the
13 renovations are still occurring, but we can work with
14 NYCHA to get you a timeline of when those new sites
15 will come on.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think the only
17 center that is opening that didn't open last year is
18 the Marcy site in Brooklyn, right?

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah.
20 Marcy opened up September 2020.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right. So, that is
22 the only news center that will be operating this
23 summer. All the other new funding for Cornerstones
24 won't happen this summer because the renovations are
25 still underway. But the money is in our budget, I
guess, right? So--

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2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: Yes.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, there is no new
4 additional funding being allocated specifically for
5 summer expansion in the cornerstones?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: No.

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That's
8 correct.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How much funding was
10 just added to the DOE's budget for Summer Rising?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER PHANOR: That is
12 something you want to get from DOE. We are not privy
13 to that information.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And what is the
15 target enrollment for Summer Rising?

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, the target at
17 this point is up to 100,000 and, you know, we want to
18 be flexible because we start with about 60,000
19 already in baseline programs, but we understand the
20 demand will vary from neighborhood to neighborhood.
21 You know, this will be a learning experience for us
22 to see how parents will respond. You know, some
23 programs, I understand, are getting great responses.
24 And so, I think it is a neighborhood by neighborhood
25 strategy, but we want to build flexibility into the

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2 system, so we hope to serve up to 100,000 young
3 people K-8.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, just for
5 clarification, basically, the Cornerstones are being
6 left out of the Summer Rising program?

7 COMMISSIONER CHONG: It is separate.
8 The Summer Rising program is, basically, a school-
9 based strategy focusing on school-based existing
10 summer camps and additional new programs that might
11 get added if there is not a program in a particular
12 building. But it is mostly school-based whereas the
13 Cornerstone is, as you know, based in public housing.
14 And, you know, they are being restored to where they
15 were in 2019. If you recall last year, we eliminated
16 evening hours. There were no evening hours last
17 year. It was a bare-bones situation. We are going
18 back in time to 2019 when we were operating evening
19 hours and, I guess, on weekends, as well, right,
20 Darryl?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That's
22 correct. Seven days a week to 11 p.m. in the summer.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Right.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Will that affect their
25 contracts if less people enroll or are enrolling?

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Typically-- and
3 Susan or Darryl can chime in-- we understand summer
4 is always a challenging time. And so, generally, we
5 don't necessarily look at that attendance in the same
6 level as we did in the school year where you have a
7 longer time period where you are engaging young
8 people and the summer, obviously, with the challenges
9 still around with the pandemic, we are going to be
10 mindful of, you know, giving people flexibility. You
11 know, people are trying their best.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah. We don't want to
13 impact the enrollment of, you know, the Cornerstones
14 and, you know, have-- if more people enroll in
15 Summer Rising, then it takes away from, you know, the
16 Cornerstone programs and we wouldn't want that to
17 impact, you know, their enrollment numbers.

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: No. I mean, we're
19 going to be flexible. I mean, throughout this
20 pandemic, we have been extremely flexible in how we
21 evaluate programs because we know that things happen
22 beyond their control.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you. The
24 applications for Summer Rising opened on Monday 4/26.
25 How many applications have been received and how do

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3 these numbers compare to the CBO capacity as reported
4 in the DYCD survey?

5 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think Susan has
6 an updated number. Susan?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yeah.
8 Sorry. I was just waiting to unmute. I think, as of
9 today, we've applications from 20,000 unique
10 participants and at this time you can only actually
11 applied of the programs that are available, as Bill
12 said, nearly 600 programs. We still have hundreds of
13 programs that will come online in the next week or
14 two and that will bring more applications to the
15 process. Currently, we have 20,000 applicants than
16 just, you know, that past week.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And how did these
18 numbers compare to the CBO capacity?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, we
20 have, you know--- We have, again, 20,000
21 applications. We have roughly speaking-- I don't
22 have this exact number, but maybe 60,000 seats
23 available in those programs that are up right now
24 and, as the Commissioner mentioned, we are planning
25 to go up to 100,000. So, at this time, you know, we
welcome people to apply.

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3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Great. Summer
4 Rising is being pitched as a end of summer school as
5 we know it. However, DYCD contractors have been
6 informed that they will receive the same rates they
7 have in the past. What is the justification for
8 level funding to CBO's given the increased programing
9 requirements for 2021? Student-staff ratios have
10 shifted significantly as programs has implemented new
11 procedures to protect from the spread of Covid 19,
12 making programs more expensive. What have the
13 conversations been in terms of using this model for
14 next year?

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, hopefully
16 next year we'll be in a very different place, so the
17 additional expenses on Summer Rising are more on the
18 DOE side because they are brining teachers into the
19 program and so the basic model-- and that's why I
20 think, you know, it's a little misleading. Summer
21 Rising is essentially, from the DYCD prospective, the
22 usual summer camp experience. The big difference is
23 teachers will be working with the CBO staff to
24 provide additional services which the cost of
25 teachers will be covered by the Department of
Education. We're not expecting the nonprofits to pay

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2 the costs of teachers. That total cost would be-- I
3 understand that the staff ratios have not changed, to
4 my knowledge-- and Susan and Darryl can tell me--
5 the only change from the state's perspective-- and
6 we're waiting on more guidance-- is things like mask
7 wearing, social distancing, things like that. So,
8 it's the same one to 10, I think, middle school, and
9 one to 15 for elementary school. Don't quote me on
10 that. Susan and Darryl can-- But is that true,
11 Darryl? The staffing ratios haven't changed, right?

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah.
13 It'll be one to 10 elementary school. One to 15 in
14 middle school. The only change is the maximum number
15 of people we can have in a classroom and right now
16 we're still capped at 15.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And we've made
18 allowances for Covid procedures so that the CBO's are
19 not absorbing those costs, right?

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We have distributed
21 millions of dollars in-- millions of PPE over the
22 course of this pandemic and a lot of the services
23 mentioned in my testing and the telehealth portal is
24 all provided by the city and we are not asking any
25 nonprofits to support those costs.

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. With SYEP CUNY,
3 the school year 2022 to executive budget as
4 approximately \$13 million in a one-time funding which
5 adds five SYEP CUNY slots this summer. Are there
6 talks to add even more slots at adoption, which we
7 encourage? Are these 5000 slots open for all CUNY
8 community college students or just CUNY NYCHA
9 residents?

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Let me start and
11 then Valerie can add about CUNY. I am not aware of
12 any plan to add additional jobs. I think one of the
13 concerns-- and I am sure you have heard this
14 yourself-- is the nonprofit community is concerned
15 about their capacity to serve more young people given
16 the challenges of the pandemic. And that is why we
17 made it very clear from the outset out as far as the
18 worksites to give people flexibility: remote, in
19 person, and hybrid because we understand that unlike,
20 you know, 2019 where we were able to get a lot of
21 local business as to be worksites, the situation has
22 changed dramatically. So, that is one concern I
23 think that we have heard loud and clear from our
24 nonprofit partners is about what their capacity is to
25

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2 take on more jobs. Valerie, do you want to talk
3 about CUNY?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Thank you
5 for the question. Just to answer the second half of
6 your question in terms of how CUNY is targeting their
7 slots, they are really focused on CUNY students who
8 are NYCHA residents, those that are in ZIP Codes that
9 are most impacted by Covid. So those are their first
10 two priority groups and then they are also reaching
11 out to other high risk groups like young people who
12 are in or have been in foster care, those who are
13 homeless or at risk of being homeless, those
14 receiving cash assistance. So, the CUNY slots are
15 really being targeted towards the students in CUNY
16 who need the resources the most.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are there specific
18 numbers targeted for each of these subsets?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: No. They
20 are just doing specific targeted outreach across the
21 board to all CUNY students who are NYCHA residents,
22 all CUNY students who are identified as living in one
23 of those ZIP Codes.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Clearly, these slots
25 will only be for the older youth subset and no

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2 younger youth will be included, so all the SYEP CUNY
3 participants will be earning wages rather than a
4 stipend. Is that correct?

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Since the SYEP
7 application closed on April 30th and this budget was
8 just released on April 26th, did those CUNY students
9 only have one week or five days to apply? And what
10 was or what will be the application process?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: So, we
12 have extended the application specifically for CUNY
13 students through May 16 so they will have adequate
14 time to apply and I will also add that CUNY has been
15 ready to go with this cohort, so we already have over
16 4800 applications for these 5000 slots, so we are
17 looking really good in terms of reaching the young
18 people we are looking for in that cohort.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me how many
20 applications DYCD has received for the SYEP to date
21 and how many applications were for the younger youth
22 slots and how many applications were for the older
23 youth slots?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yes. so,
25 across the system, we have approximately 150,000

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2 applications. Let me see if I have the breakdown of
3 older youth and young youth. If not, I can get it to
4 you offline. It might take me a minute to do the
5 quick math.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And do you have a
7 breakdown on which were older youth and younger
8 youth?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Let me do
10 the math. I'll get back to you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. Okay. All
12 right. Okay. You can see the demand is great and we
13 are only talking about 75 total SYEP slots and you
14 already have 150,000 applications, are we working
15 towards or are we recommending an increase to the
16 number of slots for SYEP and how are we working
17 towards universal SYEP?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, as I said, I
19 think for this year I think-- there has been no
20 discussion about adding additional be on the 75,000
21 because we have heard loud and clear from our
22 nonprofit partners they're concerned about their
23 ability to serve more than 75,000. For the future, I
24 think that is a question that the next administration
25 is going to have to look at closely. How to grow the

system beyond 75,000 and how do you bring on more providers? Because to grow assist him, you need more programs because I think even before the pandemic, I think, you know, we were maxing out on the ability of our nonprofit partners to serve the number of young people that work. The other factor which may not be a factor this year, but historically before the pandemic, to fill a Summer Youth Employment job, we had to make one and a half offers meaning the summer 2019-- that is the only number I have to work with. I think to fill the 75,000 jobs that year, we had to make something like 125 or 30,000 offers. Now, that was in good times. These are not good times economically. So, whether that holds true this year remains to be seen because in the past what we found is that young people would turn down a job for whatever reason. They didn't like it. They found another job. One of the things about the history of the Summer Youth Employment program that I don't think people really appreciate it is when we went online to do a digital application in 2005, we made it easier for people to apply. I remember when I applied-- and this is as recent as 2004-- the city printed up fight night of carbon copy applications.

2 In fact, Darryl, when he was in the Summer Youth
3 Unemployment probably had to fill out a carbon copy
4 application and there was a finite number. So, it
5 was almost like the city had this artificial cap on
6 the number of applications. By going digital, we
7 made it easier for more people to apply. And so,
8 that is a good thing because it is easier to apply
9 for services, but then we saw this drop off over the
10 last three pandemic years where young people would
11 apply and then not follow through or turn down an
12 offer. So, I'm not sure what this summer will be
13 like, so that is something we are going to learn
14 because, obviously, the kind of jobs at a young
15 person would normally get are there any more. So,
16 there might be less of the drop off this year. So,
17 but I'm sorry for the long-winded answer, but it's a
18 lot of nuances to this issue.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How many offers will you
20 make this year?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We'll make 75,000
22 offers, but then, again, if a young person says no,
23 we then have to then make another offer. That's the
24 point. In the past, there has been a drop off and we
25 had to make more offers than we had to get to 75,000

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2 jobs. I'm not sure that is going to be true this
3 year because this is a very different year, but that
4 was the case up until 2019 where I think that year it
5 really was startling that we had to make something
6 like 130,000 offers to fill 75,000 jobs. And last
7 year is very different, as you know, because it was a
8 different model altogether. So, but I think the
9 potential for growth is there. We need to grow the
10 system. I am heartened that is some of the campaign
11 advertising I have seen among the people running for
12 Mayor, they're all talking about DYCD programs. One
13 person is talking about increasing the number of
14 summer jobs to 150,000 over four years. Other people
15 are talking about universal afterschool. I hope it
16 happens.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Could you email
18 Michelle and I the updated data today so that we can
19 review all of the applications received detailing all
20 the special initiative, you know, subsets.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Valerie will follow
22 up.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Valerie, were you able
24 to sort of parse that out?

25

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah. So
3 we have 150,000 applications across the system. So,
4 for younger youth it is 35,600 applications. For
5 older youth, it's 114,200 applications.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you. You
7 can send us, you know, the more specific data. Okay?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN:
9 Absolutely.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. As I
11 mentioned in my opening statement, Work, Learn, Grow
12 was one of the programs that were not funded in the
13 budget, so the CUNY model-- fiscal year 2022 will
14 represent the seventh year of the Councils year-round
15 Youth Unemployment Initiative Work, Learn, Grow.
16 Year after year, the demand is steady and the program
17 receives an average of approximately 15,000
18 applicants, not including last year as was-- you
19 know, as the pandemic and the program was budgeted
20 for far fewer slots accordingly. The Council called
21 on the administration to baseline Work, Learn, Grow
22 in its fiscal 2022 budget response. Why was Work,
23 Learn, Grow not included in the executive budget?

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, let me say that
25 we appreciate the partnership that we have had with

the Council in developing this program. It has gotten better every year. I am confident that, in the budget negotiations towards and adopted, this issue will get resolved. It's the program that we recognize the value of that. That is why we brought CUNY and as a partner. In the other benefit this year and that we hope to continue and that we are actually building on for the Summer You Employment Program is, for the first time, we have engaged in a very robust way minority and women owned businesses that provide a lot of the work experience for young people it didn't Work, Learn, and grow. So, I am confident that, as you sit down with the administration and work on it and adopted budget, this issue will be resolved. And let me just give you some context in history of how we came up with the name because I don't think many people know how we came up with the name. We adapted a quote from Richard Murphy, the first Commissioner of the Department of You Services and, actually, it's on the plaque in the room that we dedicated in his honor at our offices and he talked about the role of Department of Youth Services and of government which creates small universes for young people to learn and

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2 grow and that resonated with me, so I know it's kind
3 of a long winded name. It doesn't have any use the
4 acronym like Compass or Sonic or whatever, but it
5 really speaks to what our commitment is. It's about
6 having young people learn and grow and creating those
7 universes and the work experiences a big part of that
8 learn and grow experience. So, but I am confident
9 that it is such a successful program with the
10 Council's support that this hopefully will get
11 resolved in the adopted budget.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I hope so, too. It's an
13 excellent mission for DYCD and so, you know, it
14 remains important to us. So, what have the
15 conversations been around baselining Work, Learn,
16 Grow? We know DYCD appreciates this program as he
17 rolled out a new model which incorporated one CUNY
18 credit for a portion of programming. Would you
19 consider that model a success, even being rolled out
20 during the pandemic?

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, let me answer
22 your first question and then Valerie can answer the
23 second question. You know, that was up to me, I
24 would baseline it. But, as you know, this budget
25 process is much more complicated and requires much

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2 more engaging process with OMB and the Mayor who will
3 have, obviously, the final say. But, you know, it is
4 a smashing success, great partnership. So, if I had
5 the only vote, I would baseline it. But, you know,
6 it is a process that, hopefully, the Council will
7 engage the administration and we can make the case to
8 baseline it. Valerie, do you want to talk about the
9 key--

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But you are making the
11 effort?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Yes. I mean, they
13 know my position. I have said wherever we can
14 baseline something that is a multi-year program and
15 the Work, Learn, Grow is a component of the Summer
16 Youth Unemployment Program. So, you know, an SYEP is
17 a multi-year initiative, so it kind of makes it
18 challenging to do it year to year. To the extent we
19 can baseline it, if it was up to me, I would
20 certainly do it and I am hopeful that in the budget
21 negotiations, this issue can be resolved. Valerie,
22 do you want to talk about the CUNY experience?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah. I
24 want to add that I think across the board, this
25 year's model, in particular, was really successful.

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2 We've done a lot of gathering feedback from
3 participants, from employers and providers. I think
4 everybody was really thrilled with how it rolled out,
5 so if we are funded for Work, Learn, Grow, again, we
6 would definitely look to continue this model. I
7 think we have really make strides this year in terms
8 of leveraging that career ready school-based
9 framework and adding the academic component through
10 CUNY, the career readiness training through our
11 providers, and then that real work experience. So,
12 we really appreciate your partnership on this one and
13 I think it is an amazing model and definitely look
14 forward to continuing it.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me what the
16 single cost to a single Work, Learn, Grow participant
17 is under the new hybrid CUNY model and how many
18 students can be supported by the \$20 million exactly?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah.
20 So, I think the \$20 million can support approximately
21 4700 Work, Learn, Grow experiences. Jagdeen, please
22 correct me if I am wrong. And then, I am looking for
23 the costs per participants right now.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: We can get you that
25 information off-line, as well.

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2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah.

3 Absolutely.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And then, could you also
5 get me that costs for a single Work, Learn, Grow
6 participant under the traditional work learn model--
7 Work, Learn, Grow model? That was just for the 2022
8 costs.

9 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Last year's program
10 versus this year's program?

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And under the-- while
14 DYCD is committed to work with Council staff, my
15 office directly in my office to directly cost this
16 together as negotiations proceed, will you be willing
17 to work together with staff and my office to get the
18 direct costs for this negotiation?

19 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I mean, we will
20 work with OMB to make sure you have whatever you
21 need.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. All right. Okay.
23 I just want to make sure that there is a smooth
24 process and that, you know, we achieve our ultimate
25 goal. Sometimes we don't get the figures that we ask

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2 for in a timely manner. I would like to give the
3 floor to, I guess, the Public Advocate or committee
4 members and I will save the rest of my questions for
5 a second round, Chair Dromm.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. We are going
7 to go back to Council, actually, who has some
8 questions for Council members.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: And so, if any
11 Council members have questions, please use the zoom
12 raise hand function and you'll be added to the queue
13 and, as a reminder, please keep your questions to
14 five minutes, including answers. And we will now
15 hear from Council member Grodenchik followed by
16 Council member Chin.

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you. I
19 don't plan on using all my five minutes. I don't
20 usually get to-- once a year I get to meet with the
21 Youth Committee because I'm on the Finance Committee
22 and I really do want to thank Commissioner Chong, who
23 I have known for quite some time. We used to run
24 into each other on Williams Street back in the good
25 'ol days many years ago. I want to thank you for

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2 your service to the people, especially the young
3 people of the city. Commissioner Chong, I just want
4 to, assuming you not Commissioner next term-- but,
5 you know what? Maybe somebody will be smart and they
6 will continue you will want as a Commissioner or,
7 perhaps, in another position. We won't speculate.
8 One of the things that I hope will be accomplished by
9 the city one day soon. After school care is so hit
10 or miss. Some of my schools, very few of them, have
11 Companies programs. I had asked for a number and
12 somebody on Council finance told me a few years ago
13 told me it would be about \$200 million. I just want
14 to emphasize that I want to put it in your head and
15 maybe you will make a letter to whoever exceeds you
16 that this is so important because, you know, when I
17 was very young in the city, most mothers didn't work
18 or they worked in the neighborhood. The world has,
19 obviously, changed. Most families both parents work
20 and, you know, for a community like mine here in
21 Eastern Queens where most people don't work in the
22 community, it's mostly a [inaudible 01:39:11] with
23 the exception of LIJ and Danny Dromm's dog--

24 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sorry about that.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: It is hard to
3 get-- you know, and schools don't close at 3 o'clock
4 anymore. They close at two or 2:20. So I just want
5 to put that in your head. I know you have thought
6 about it, but I think it would be an outstanding
7 investment. I love our Beacon programs. I love
8 anything that engages young people and I still
9 believe that the amount of money we are spending on
10 our youth and through your agency is seriously not
11 enough even though we have made strides forward. But
12 afterschool programming would be wonderful. I know
13 how much parents want it because I know one of the
14 things that are most complemented on is our CASA
15 programs, which we have 15 of them now. I could use
16 one. I have a lot more schools than 15, but it is
17 just the sense that there isn't enough for kids to do
18 afterschool and I think they really need to be
19 supervised, especially the younger they are. And
20 even older kids, too. So, that is all I wanted to
21 say. I want to return my time back to the Chairs. I
22 thank you again, Bill, and I look forward to seeing
23 what we will both be doing in the next chapters of
24 our lives.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: If I could just
3 make a brief comment that, you know, I agree that if
4 we had the resources, I know there were many more
5 schools that we could have Compass programs that. It
6 is certainly one of the things that I've been putting
7 on my running list to include in my transition memo
8 to my successor because I am heartened by saying,
9 again, the campaign and its with people running for
10 Mayor and people are calling about expanding
11 afterschool and having it available to any young
12 person who wanted it. And we understand the benefits
13 of afterschool. Unfortunately, we have never had--
14 and this goes back to the Bloomberg administration.
15 Ever had enough resources to have been afterschool
16 program in every school. We were able to do it with
17 Sonic and so I believe where there is a will, there
18 is a way and, hopefully, this is something my
19 successor can successfully get done.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'll send you
21 a highlighter so you can highlight it in the memo.
22 Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Chairs.

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council
25 members. Council member Chin.

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you to both
4 Chair Dromm and Chair Rose for your advocacy for our
5 youth. And, Commissioner Chong, you and I go way
6 back and I just wanted to tell you how proud I am to
7 see you as the Commissioner for the youth and also
8 your work in the past. And I remember during the
9 Bloomberg administration, all we did was fight to
10 restore the cuts year after year and in this de
11 Blasio administration, at least we are able to expand
12 some of the critical programs like SYEP and beds for,
13 you know, homeless and runaway youth. Those will be
14 the legacy for this administration and for this
15 Council. So, I also wanted to reiterate what my
16 colleague just said earlier about, you know,
17 afterschool programs. And I think it is just so
18 critical and it's good that we hear this whole Summer
19 Rising program in my question is-- thank you also to
20 your team for all the great work this past, you know,
21 eight years. And this is our last budget in less
22 make it a really strong budget for the youth and for
23 their families and especially for immigrant youth.
24 So, my question is with the Summer Rising in Compass
25 and Sonic. Especially for the younger kids, because

3 the program is not going to be offered in every
4 school and they have to sign up in the signing up is
5 going online and we have parents that don't know how
6 to use computers or don't have computers. And also,
7 in my district, I also have schools where the
8 caregivers are grandparents. So, yeah. They want
9 programs for their kids, but they don't know how to
10 sign up. And because it's not in every school, it
11 makes it more difficult. So, how are there like--
12 is there a way to sort of coordinate, you know, for
13 DYCD providers who are providing Summer Sonics or
14 summer Compass programs to work with the school to
15 get the parents registered for Summer Rising? Are
16 there coordinations, you know, between these
17 programs?

18 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, let me start
19 and Susan may have more details. It is my
20 understanding that a lot of programs are reaching out
21 directly to young people and their parents who have
22 been previously enrolled. So we want to make sure
23 that people who have been in the program have an
24 opportunity to apply and they can-- I'm not sure how
25 that is being done. So, we are not putting all of
our eggs in one basket and say you have to go through

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2 the Discover DYCD app because we recognize the
3 digital divide. So, people are proactively reaching
4 out to the family is already enrolled in the program
5 because they know that these parents have already
6 shown an interest. So I don't know if Susan or
7 Darryl, if you-- the other thing, can people still
8 apply in person? Susan or Darryl? Hello?

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Can somebody unmute
10 them for us?

11 UNIDENTIFIED: You're not muted, sir.

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Huh? No.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Susan is not.

14 Okay.

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, yeah.
16 So, Commissioner, correct. So people can still apply
17 in person. Providers are working with the principles
18 that they are connected to to ensure that there are
19 hopefully in enrollment.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Are you able to
21 open up new sites? Like if one of the schools in my
22 district is not a dedicated site for Summer Rising,
23 but they do have a DYCD program in there. Is there a
24 way to open up a site for Summer Rising?

25

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3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, right
4 now we are working with DOE. We do have a number of
5 schools that have been identified for a number of
6 factors. You know, if there is a site that hasn't
7 been identified for Summer Rising, we would have to
8 speak with DOE to ensure that that is a site that can
9 open.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. Because some
11 of the other sites that are open, they are over
12 capacity, so parents can or are not willing to-- I
13 mean, they can't get the space. They can't get the
14 slots. So because there is definitely a lot of
15 interest for parent to apply because it's like summer
16 camp. And that's why every year we have fought to
17 increase, you know, Compass. So, if Summer Rising is
18 available, parents are going to want that program.
19 But not every school has it. That's going to be a
20 difficult situation.

21 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, the two things
22 that are going to happen between now and the start of
23 the program: one is we're going to-- we have about
24 600 existing programs that had baseline funding and
25 so we're going to-- the Department of Education is
doing this thing called affiliation where I think

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2 there are six to 700 school buildings that are open
3 and a lot of buildings are not open. So every young
4 person in a K-8 school, their summer services will be
5 at an affiliated school building. We're going to
6 work with DOE-- and Susan and Darryl can correct
7 me-- and do an assessment building by building to
8 see what the demand is and if we need to amend the
9 contracts to add additional seats to that site. Some
10 buildings may not have a program. In that situation,
11 we will do what is called a satellite program. We
12 will look at what the closest Compass or Sonic
13 program might be to that building and ask them to do
14 a satellite program at that building. So, the goal
15 is every school building that is open will have a
16 program and that buildings that have programs and
17 need additional seats will get additional seats.
18 That is why we said a minimum of 60,000 up to
19 100,000. We've been given the authority to do that.
20 Susan, Darryl, did I misstate anything?

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That was
22 perfect.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. That's good
24 to hear. So, hopefully, kids who need it will get
25 one.

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2 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Thank you. We
3 encourage the people to check the website for those
4 who have access to technology because programs are,
5 literally, coming on every Monday because the
6 [inaudible 01:48:32] process takes time and, you
7 know, it is driven by them, so I can't tell them
8 hurry up, you know, because they-- you know, it's a
9 little bit like the dating game, I guess, right? So,
10 we have to figure out what schools are working
11 together and then, once they tell us, then we will do
12 the assessment and see more seats or a satellite
13 program.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, you need to
15 push DOE because they need to inform their principal,
16 otherwise problems will happen and then we get the
17 calls and say, you know, what are we going to do with
18 her kids who need the program? So, DYCD should take
19 the lead and just push DOE. Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. We now
21 have questions from Council member Menchaca.

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
24 Chair Rose, Dromm. And so good to be here with the
25 rest of committee members. And, Commissioner Chong,

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2 really great to be here talking with you about some
3 really important things with your team. And so my--
4 actually, before ask my question, I just also want to
5 lift up some of the questions around adult literacy
6 that Council member Dromm brought out. Really, and
7 so many ways, I think the partnership was real, but
8 the partnership was really led by the Council and I
9 definitely remember that time where we went to CPC
10 and I really just spoke directly to some of the
11 students and how important that is today and having
12 spent a lot of time just this last few months inside
13 of adult literacy classes, we have really seen the
14 power of the zoom element really allow for more
15 families to come in and I think we're just going to
16 have more waiting lists and also the transformation
17 of access to those adult literacy classes. And so,
18 I'm really excited to keep talking about that. Adult
19 literacy and some of the language access issues.
20 Which brings me to the question. I am a big
21 supporter of language [inaudible 01:50:32] and the
22 power that they have brought to other cities.
23 Commissioner, have you spoken to OMB about that
24 project? This is something that is not new to you,
25 too, because the Council has pushed this in the past.

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2 It's landed in our budget responses. And so I really
3 just want to focus on that and weather or not that is
4 on the table for you all. Where is it in
5 conversation? And you should know that I am talking
6 with the Department of Health and other folks that
7 are connecting to the federal dollars that are coming
8 to cities across the country around vaccine equity
9 and really building out this infrastructure
10 cooperatives where--

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Hello? He froze.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Carlos, we lost
13 you. Council member Menchaca?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Yep?

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: We didn't hear the
16 end of your statement.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Oh. I just
18 wanted to see if you can give us an update about
19 where the language bank conversation are with OMB.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I'm not aware of
21 anything we are directly involved with. It might be
22 another city agency that is leading the effort on
23 language thanks. You know, I, you know, as the son
24 of immigrants, I firmly believe that the easier we
25 make it for people to gain services, the better. So,

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2 that it is not part of DYCD's portfolio at this
3 point. Sometimes things get added last minute. So,
4 it sounds like something that makes a lot of sense in
5 the city which is overwhelmingly immigrants or the
6 children of immigrants to make it easier to access
7 government. That has certainly been one of the
8 things I have focused on from day one which is how to
9 make it easier for people to apply? And that is not
10 just for literacy programs, but for after school
11 because, you know, we're siloed government and DYCD
12 is siloed government. We have 40 different programs
13 and if you want to apply for three different
14 programs, you had to go to three different places.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Yep.

16 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I am all for
17 access, but the language bank is not something that
18 has certainly been on my radar.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, I'm not sure
21 who OMB is talking to about that.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Okay. Well, I
23 think that maybe the last thing and the last minute,
24 you brought up earlier-- we're going to take you up
25 on the offer to bring more-- and we do every year--

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2 SYEP folks to the office, but I also wanted to kind
3 of engage you on the conversation around the kind of
4 Covid response and what young people are going to be
5 potentially doing through SYEP. Can you give us a
6 little bit more about who you are working with, what
7 other agencies are connecting to this? How far are
8 you into this? Are you bringing in providers? Just
9 give us a sense about how real this is.

10 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, we are doing
11 two things. One is we are working with city agencies
12 through the Vaccine Command Center and the Department
13 of Health and Health and Hospitals Corporation to see
14 what kind of jobs and work experiences young people
15 can be part of this summer. And then also we're
16 looking at the nonprofits that have been popup
17 vaccine site or done outreach work to see whether
18 they would be willing to take on young people. As I
19 said earlier, that, you know, I think the best
20 messenger to young people is young people. I mean,
21 that was clearly the message in these youth town
22 halls that we have been doing.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Right.

24 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Since the pandemic.
25 That we have routinely over 1000 young people logging

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3 on because it's led by young people. So I think we
4 carve out a row for young people either to be on the
5 ground, to do like logistical support at vaccine
6 sites, to just check people in, or to be out in the
7 streets talking to their peers about the importance
8 of getting a vaccine because if you have seen the
9 recent news reports, we're hitting--

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: as far as
12 vaccinations.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: And I think the
15 uncharted territory to get to herd immunity or as
16 close to herd immunity as possible is young people.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Can you
18 connect me to the person and team that's working on
19 this? I'd love to learn more.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, Valerie is
21 working-- Is the Deputy Commissioner who is in
22 charge of Workforce Connect and so she is the one who
23 is coordinating with other city agencies.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Sweet. I'll
25 connect with Valerie later. Thank you so much,
26 Chairs.

2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I believe now we
3 are going to go back to Chair Rose. Chair Rose? And
4 we will wrap it up with her questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you so
6 much. And in the interest of time, I know we've run
7 over-- I'm not going to ask all of my questions.
8 I'll submit them. But I did want to ask about the
9 indirect cost initiative goal. The fiscal 2022
10 executive budget adds 12.8 million in fiscal 2021
11 into the out years to support DYCD funded indirecting
12 contracting costs. Last year, the fiscal 2021
13 executive plan had cut 1.4 million in fiscal 2020 and
14 the fiscal 2021 adopted plan cut 1.4 million in
15 fiscal 2022 in the out years. This funding more than
16 restores these cuts to support providers. Could you
17 just tell us how many contracts and providers is the
18 indirect rate funding supports within DYCD's
19 portfolio.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I think Jagdeen has
21 been following this, so do you want to chime in,
22 Jagdeen? Jagdeen?

23 COMMISSIONER CHONG: You're muted.

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER JAGDEEN: Hi.
25 Sorry. Okay. I finally got my pop up to unmute.

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3 There's approximately 1100 contracts we anticipate it
4 impacting.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you. The
6 fiscal 2022 budget currently baselines 1.5 million to
7 fully fund the existing 60 RHY bed for 21 to 24 year
8 old homeless youth. During our recent youth count
9 hearing, no one mentioned that this funding was
10 coming online for these supports and does DYCD have
11 the results from the youth count ready to share yet?

12 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I don't think so
13 because, usually, they take a while to do it and so
14 either Susan or Randy Scott can give you an update
15 since, if there is any update since the hearing on
16 youth count. Randy?

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You're muted. You're
18 muted.

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yeah. I
20 had to wait to be unmuted. With respect to the youth
21 count, we're putting in the final numbers now. So we
22 should have some information on a later date. So we
23 can report back to you on what the outcome was.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you. And I
25 want to thank Council member Menchaca for drilling
down on the adult literacy questions and issues. So

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2 I just want to say why don't we fight to baseline
3 negotiated add from fiscal 2020 that totaled \$12
4 million? Because we all agree these are vital
5 services.

6 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Is that a question
7 or a statement? I mean, as I said repeatedly, I
8 think core programs should have stable funding and so
9 we have made that clear to OMB. Obviously, they have
10 to consider other factors, but it's a relatively
11 small sum of money that goes a long way to helping
12 people who really have major challenges and are
13 marginalized by the pandemic more so than ever.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Chong. And so my final statement is, basically,
16 about our relationship. Commissioner Chong and DYCD.
17 So, Commissioner Chong, this is our last budget dance
18 and I know I've stepped on your toes as we've
19 pirouetted around the budget and even suffered some
20 missteps like the cancelling of SYEP. It is good to
21 see that our last tango is, gladly, more like a soft
22 shoe with the full restorations, inclusions, and new
23 additions. We just need to tweak Work, Learn, Grow.
24 So as we glide off the DYCD budget dance floor, I
25 hope that, with all the lessons that we've learned,

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2 that they will be passed on when the new team taps
3 in. I wish you all the best. And to the rest of the
4 team, I say thank you so much for all of your work
5 and please continue to push towards universal SYEP.
6 And with that, Chair Dromm, I'm done. I know you're
7 glad.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: No. we have one
9 more. Our Majority Leader would like to ask
10 questions. Laurie Cumbo.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Madam Majority
13 Leader? Majority Leader, are you there? Can we
14 hear you? Can you hear us? I think she might be
15 having trouble with--

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I don't see her. Oh.
17 She's muted.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Can you hear me?

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: She's muted.

20 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Oh, okay.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: She's unmuted now.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay. You have me
23 now. Mom, I'm going to clean that up. I'm sorry.
24 My question really goes to the issues around gun
25 violence and while I know that we have put a lot of

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3 money into programing, my question goes more into are
4 there more specific measures that are specifically
5 related to gun violence as it pertains to this
6 budget? I love all of the programs from Summer Youth
7 Employment to Sonic and many others and those give
8 our young people healthy options in terms of giving
9 them productive things to do with their time, but has
10 there been any thought in terms of how can we do
11 something that digs even deeper to the issues of gun
12 violence in out dollars and in the work that we're
13 doing?

14 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Well, I guess the
15 big change I would say from last year is that
16 community centers will be open at night because we
17 know that we need to give positive channels for young
18 people to be active in their community and when there
19 is no opportunity to do anything positive, they
20 become, you know, caught in the cycle of violence
21 that is affecting their neighborhoods. The other
22 thing we are doing is we are working closely with the
23 police department and their youth officers whose main
24 job-- and this stunned me when I met with the police
25 Commissioner before the pandemic. The job of youth
officers is not to fight crime. It's to connect

young people to services. Because he said to me that, by connecting young people to services is the best way to fight crime. And so we did a training want to say last fall at the police academy with several hundred youth officers who were patrolling the streets on how to use the Discover DYCD app, so that when they come across a young person who is hanging out on the street and, you know, those are the ones not in our programs. They can say, hey, do you know there is a community center right down the road here or there is this program down the road and this is how you apply because while adults may have challenges applying online, young persons, that is second nature to them. So, we are trying to figure out ways to better connect young people to services so that they don't get sucked into bad elements in their neighborhood.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Majority Leader Cumbo, I would want to add, Commissioner, if you will, I would want to add that we are also expanding the Saturday Night Lights program from 20 to 100 as of July. So, we are working with the NYPD. We are working with the DA office is across the city, as well as NYCHA and

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2 Parks, to expand that program and, in essence, that

3 is also a violence prevention program, if you will.

4 It is bringing additional enhanced services to 100

5 communities centers throughout New York City. We are

6 still identifying the sites, but these are sites that

7 are located in precincts the neighborhoods of the

8 highest crime throughout New York City, bringing

9 those adult mentors to that space and creating a

10 different type of synergy that, hopefully-- and has

11 been known to promote-- anti-violence.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to just

13 close. There's an organization that I'm sure you're

14 aware of, but I would also like to add in terms of I

15 wanted to see more done with them. This program

16 called I Will Graduate. And it's a youth mentorship

17 program that is doing really incredible work,

18 particularly connecting our hip hop community with

19 our young people around the campaign of graduating.

20 So I would strongly advocate for that particular

21 organization to be closer in your wheelhouse of

22 organizations that you work with. But I also would

23 like to add that I spoke to Mayor Bill de Blasio

24 about this in terms of particularly like crime that's

25 being impacted, that's being created by young people,

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impacted by young people-- and not created because even the one who are perpetuating the gun violence are really victims of, I guess, failures on our part and beyond. But what I would add is that we need to do more in terms of being more intentional about the gun violence impacting our communities and we need to do it in a way in terms of having like a citywide campaign with credible messengers, whether there are bus ads, train ads, commercials, credible messengers like those in the entertainment and athletic communities. We really need to have more people from the Jay Z's and the Nas's and whoever the young people are listening to. The Puff Daddy's that are now engaged in government and politics. We need to have those credible messengers, along with youth, talking about the fact that New York City does have a gun violence problem and acknowledging it and utilizing our young people as well credible messengers that they listened to to be a part of it and really more education about what impact gun violence has on our communities and what it's doing so that [inaudible 02:06:26] to have a better understanding of how it is impacting our neighborhoods. So I think the programs are great,

3 but I think there also has to be an intentionality
4 about education. It's the same as things like such
5 as sex education and so on.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We can give them
8 summer programs and youth programs, but if we don't
9 talk to them about how to prevent teenaged pregnancy
10 and how to better protect themselves, they are going
11 to still fall victim to those things. So, I just
12 wanted to add that and thank you--

13 COMMISSIONER CHONG: I agree with
14 everything you said. I think the city has to always
15 do a better job of making sure young people stay on
16 the right path and programs are part of it. Having a
17 caring adult in their lives, you know, public
18 education campaigns. All that is part of the effort
19 to keep young people engaged in productive. So, you
20 know, this administration has a running start. I
21 think at the end of the day, the Department of Youth
22 Services has never grown this much in the 25 year
23 history of this and, hopefully, will have an
24 opportunity to sit down with my successor and hand
25 the baton up to them and share some of these ideas.
In the meantime, if you can pass on the name and

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2 contact information of that organization and, we will
3 certainly work with them to figure out how we can
4 weave them into our toolbox.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wonderful. Thank
6 you so much.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very
9 much. Counsel, is that it for questions?

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes, Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Thank you
12 very much. I just want to read this statement before
13 we close out. Just bear with me one minute. Okay.
14 So, this will conclude today's hearing. Thank you,
15 DYCD, for being here and for kicking off our hearings
16 this year. Before we close, I would like to remind
17 the Finance Committee members that we will be meeting
18 remotely again tomorrow beginning at 10 AM and we
19 will hear from the Department for Aging, the
20 Department for Investigation, and the Department of
21 Transportation. As a reminder to the public, the
22 committee will be holding a remote hearing for public
23 testimony on the executive budget on Tuesday, May
24 25th at 10 AM. If you would like to testify at the
25 hearing, please register at

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2 www.Council.NYC.gov/testify and information about how

3 to access the zoom meeting will be emailed to you.

4 You may also submit written testimony through the
5 registration website or by emailing

6 testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Thank you very much,

7 Commissioner. Thank you to all the members of DYCD.

8 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Could I say a few
9 words?

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes. Absolutely.

11 COMMISSIONER CHONG: So, to take-- or
12 build off of Chairwoman Rose's comments about the
13 budget dances, somebody who has two left feet,
14 despite that, we have done great things with young
15 people over the last eight years and I think the city
16 is in a better place than young people are in a
17 better place because of the partnership between the
18 city and the city Council and I'm hoping that our
19 respective successors set a higher bar. This is just
20 the foundation and I look forward, hopefully, to
21 seeing some of you in person before I end my tenure.
22 I have been fully vaccinated, some looking forward to
23 resume a normal life. But thank you, again, for your
24 partnership.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, again,
3 Commissioner. I'm fully vaccinated. Debbie, are
4 you?

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, I am. Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: All right. We are
7 going to go out for coffee.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: All right. Okay. All
9 right. Soon.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you. Thank
11 you, Commissioner. Thank you, DYCD. And with that--

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you all.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: hearing is
14 adjourned at 12:13 p.m. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER CHONG: Take care. Bye.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 29, 2021