CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 2)

B E F O R E: Paul Vallone
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Inez Barron
Robert Cornegy, Jr.
Mark Gjonaj
Peter Koo
Brad Lander
Farah Louis
Keith Powers

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

Susan Rosenthal, Senior Vice President of Life Sciences and Healthcare
Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Carlo Yuvienko, Vice President of Life Sciences and Healthcare
Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Morias Brown, Life Sci NYC Intern
Hibiscus Bio Adventures

Samuel Sia, Founder
Harlem Bio Space

Ben Dubin-Thaler, Founder and Executive Director
Bio Bus

James Flynn
Deerfield Management Cure

Ari Espinal
Construction and General Building Laborers Local 79

Nancy J. Kelly, Founder
NYC Builds Bio

George James, New York City Resident

Maria Gotch, New York City Resident

Anthony George
Local 79

Najah Valera [sp?]
Greater New York Laborers Employers Cooperation and Educational Trust [New York LECET]

Martin Bell
Edjen Biotech

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Recording to the cloud started, as well.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is still rolling.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. And good morning and welcome to today's remote New York City Council hearing of the Committee on Economic Development. At this time, would all Council members and Council staff please turn on their video? To minimize disruption, please place electronic devices on vibrate or silent mode. If you wish to submit testimony, you may do so at testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Once again, that is testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Thank you. We are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Sergeant. Good morning, everyone. Welcome to our Committee on Economic Development where today we will have oversights on right sciences in New York City and we welcome Council members Koo, Powers, Cornegy, Louis, and Lander and I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend. We celebrated Juneteenth, we celebrated Father's Day, got my Disney dad cup here. Life is good and we have got primary day tomorrow. So, lots

going on here in the city, so let's get through this great. They had let started off. So, good morning and welcome to today's City Council. Today is Monday, June 21, 2021. The first day of summer. My name is Paul Vallone and I have the privilege of chairing this Committee. I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow committee members and staff together to hold this important. As we follow up on life sciences in New York City. This has been in the works a little over four years in EDC's efforts in this project have already begun to bear fruit. We had this hearing not too long ago and this is a good follow-up, especially on the typing of the Mayors new announcement. In the late 2016, Mayor de Blasio announced a $500 million investment into the cities life sciences sector in order to generate an estimated 16,000 new jobs and to further cement New York's position as a global leader in life sciences research and innovation. The Mayor dubbed this initiative Life Sci NYC and outlined a 10 point plan detailing how that 500 million would be spent, where the jobs would be created, and what sort of expectations the public should have for engagement with this new funding of the Cities life sciences

sector. The highlights of that plan including borough spanning campus of life sciences institutions along Manhattan's East side that EDC is now calling Life Sci Avenue, significant tax incentives to attract commercial laboratories to the city of various investments in nonprofits, incubator startups and innovation hubs in the citywide paid internship program for life sciences at local colleges and university, something that was dear to me at the first hearing, so I am looking forward to an update on that. Thus far, the Life Sci NYC initiative seems to have delivered on most of its promises. The administration is highlighted that Life Sci NYC has attracted over 1 billion in venture funding in 2020 alone up from 130 million in 2016. This enabled the city to open 2,000,000 square feet of new life sciences or innovation spaces and has generated six new incubators yielding roughly 150 startup companies every couple of years. The administration has also highlighted successes opening campuses and loves in partnership with several private developers and academic institutions across the city, including the Alexandria Center in Kips Bay, the Cure Center on Parks Avenue, and the Bio Labs at NYC in Soho.

Additional investments are underway at Columbia University, Albert Einstein College of medicine, Rockefeller University, and the New York stem cell foundation. Each of which will continue to grow the footprint of the life science sector in our city. Seeing how these investments were each announced within the last six months, we, on the committee look forward to hearing updates on the progress up to date. Additionally, there was a $7.5 million investment in the NYC internship program which was initially slated to create 1000 paid summer internships for undergraduate and graduate students, starting at $15 an hour. Thus far, it appears only 400 students have participated and received paid internships, so we look forward to hearing details from EDC today on how they plan to spread this great program, especially since I thought working with DOE and partnering with our students and knowing what jobs and careers are available right here is paramount to the success of this initiative. Lastly, the Mayor announced a doubling of the program earlier this month in the form of a plan to inject an additional $500 million into this life science sector to continue to build lab space, incubators, and

support. We, on the committee, are very eager to hear the details of this new investment that we are clearly taking pride in since we announced the hearing and there's another 500 million [inaudible 00:04:53]. Were committed to that and look forward to hearing that testimony. Before we begin, I would just like to formally congratulate EDC's new president and CEO, Rachel Lowe, who I had the pleasure of meeting and doing groundbreaking [inaudible 00:05:06] last week on her new position in her amazing staff which we worked so well with over the last four years. We look forward to having several productive hearings with you during our final six months of the Council session. With that, I would like to thank the economic development committee staff and our amazing legislative counsel, Alex Polinov, our amazing policy analyst, Emily Forgione, and our amazing finance analysis Aaliyah Ali for all their hard work in putting this hearing together and staying with me and the team from day one. With that said, I would now turn it over to our moderator, committee counsel and happy Father's Day, Alex Polinov to go over some of the procedural items.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Vallone. It was a great Father's Day.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yes.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I am Alex Polinov, counsel to the Economic Development Committee of the New York City Council. Before we begin testimony, I would just like to remind everyone that you will be on mute until you are called upon to testify, at which point you will be unmuted by the host. The members of the administration who are testifying will not be muted during the question and answer portion of the administration's testimony. I will be calling on panelists to testify, so please listen for your name to be called. The first panelist to give testimony today will be Susan Rosenthal, the senior vice president of life sciences and healthcare at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Carlo Yuvienko, EDC's vice president of life science and healthcare will also be available for questioning. I will call on each of you shortly for the oath and then again when it is time to begin your testimony. During the hearing, if Council members would like to ask a question of the administration or of a specific panelist, please use the zoom raise

hand function and I will call upon you in order. We will be limiting Council member questions to five minutes which includes the time it takes to answer those questions. Please note that for the use of this virtual hearing, we will not be allowing a second round of questions for each panelist outside of the committee chairs. All hearing participants should submit written testimony to testimony@Council.NYC.gov if you have not already done so. The deadline for written testimony is 72 hours after the close of the hearing. Before we begin testimony, I will administer the oath. To all members of the administration who will be offering testimony or will be available for questions, please raise your right hands. I will read the oath and then call on each of you individually for a response. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth before this committee today and I need to respond honestly to Council member questions? Senior vice president Rosenthal?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: I do.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Vice president Yuvienko?

CARLO YUVIENKO: I do.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you both. Senior vice president Rosenthal, you may begin your testimony.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We have also been joined by Council member Barron. Sorry, Susan. I just wanted to make sure she was announced.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: No worries. Good morning, Chair Vallone and members of the Economic Development Committee. I am Susan Rosenthal and I have the pleasure of serving as senior vice president of life sciences and healthcare at New York City Economic Development Corporation. With me is Dr. Carlo Yuvienko, our vice president of life sciences and healthcare. I am pleased and proud to be here to discuss Life Sci NYC, and initiative led by New York City Economic Development Corporation. We launched Life Sci NYC 2016 to invest in life sciences research, development, and related innovation. Today, I will lay out the initiative accomplishments to date, are important pandemic response efforts, and the plans for the $500 million investment recently announced in the Mayors executive budget for Life Sci

NYC, bringing the city's total commitment to the $1 billion. Life-sciences is coming-of-age in New York City. Not long ago we couldn't name a handful of New York City based Life Sci companies and now we have hundreds. My testimony will detail the story of life-sciences here, it's foundation, its rapid growth through our investment, and our exciting future. First of all, what are life-sciences in this context? We say life-sciences are the combined applications of biology and technology for the advancement of humanity. It sounds like a lofty goal, but, really, it is a practical one. Taking biology research and putting its outcomes to use. In this definition, the word applications encompasses both the applied research activities within our academic institutions, as well as commercial activities of large and small companies. The foundation all research can be used in health or nonhealth applications. And nonhealth, it can be used in consumer goods and foods and agriculture and industrial chemicals and health, put simply, thank medicine, diagnostics, medical devices, and vaccines. Not none of this is new to New York City. For decades, we have had many of the essential building blocks for a thriving life-sciences

ecosystem. Our advantages include an array of teaching hospitals, research facilities, universities, researchers and scientists, technicians, students, Nobel laureates, clinicians, and one of the world's largest public healthcare systems. Maybe you didn't know this, but New York has among the world, one of the highest concentrations of Nobel prizes attributed to academic institutions. This remarkable science expands from chemistry to physics to the medicine and, along with them, we have a deep and diverse talent pool with all levels of necessary skills. Every year, 7000 graduate students and postdocs in the life sciences study at premier academic and medical institutions, including nine academic medical centers. These world-class programs bring hundreds of years of experience and knowledge to the global scientific community and we would like to keep that knowledge here. Beyond investments in new labs and office space, we are investing directly in talent. More than 400 undergraduate and graduate interns have been placed across over 100 host companies. In previous years, 47 percent of those internships have either been extended or transformed into full-time roles.

This five-year-old program supports NYC EDC commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Interns hail from every borough and a majority identify as black, Asian, or Latino. In addition, over eight half-million healthcare workers make their living within the five boroughs. Our extensive healthcare system includes over 50 hospitals and 370 federally qualified health care centers. On top of that, 100 disease specialty foundations drive research and advocacy for patients. Together, these ingredients position New York City to take a leading role to advance the fundamental understanding of disease, develop curators, and deliver treatment from discovery by bench science and innovators to patient care in our hospitals. We want to make sure that that science starts here and stays here. In recent years, New York City has experienced early growth in life-sciences. We have unlocked 2 million square feet of new life scientists and innovation space, funded research in our meeting Jake academic institutions, and seeing the growth of six incubators generating hundreds of companies. As part of that, NYC EDC established key early partnerships prior to the 2016 commitment to Life Sci NYC. Let’s take a

look at some of them. The Alexandria Center for Life Science on Manhattan's East side is home to a diverse range of high quality life-sciences entities. They include multinational pharmaceutical firms as well as early stage and growth stage companies. Our [inaudible 00:12:08] space is one of the city's first biotech incubators to offer affordable shared wet lab space for competitively selected entrants. In Brooklyn's Bio Bat offers research and manufacturing space to biotechnology and related companies as well as work opportunities for SUNY downstate scientists, clinicians, and students. In addition to these early efforts, NYC EDC wanted to better understand how to bolster growth and position New York City as a global center of innovation in life-sciences. We conducted fundamental research into the field to learn what can be further accomplished and all our findings helped lay the groundwork for the first $500 million for Life Sci NYC which included $150 million in city capital to support nonprofit R and D facilities to spur new research that translates to companies, jobs, and medicines, $300 million in city investments to see the construction of needed commercial lab space and incubators, and $50 million dedicated to

investments in talent and early-stage companies. In 2017, we established an advisory Council to provide leadership and strategic direction. The Council is comprised of leaders spanning academia, the venture community, and industry. It is cochaired by Dr. Harold Varmus, Professor of medicine of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Dr. Vicki Sato, chairman of the board of biotechnology. Under the Council's leadership, we opened BioLab's at NYU Langone, a premier co-working space for startups to test, develop, and grow innovative ideas. BioLab's offer exclusive events, programming, and activities to connect startups with industry partners. The facility can hold up to 35 companies at a time, among those which located their startups at The Bio Labs and recently shared their expanding to larger spaces in New York City are C16 biosciences, a female lead company that manufactures environmentally friendly synthetic palm oil an MUI which maps the immune system for better medicine development. Through Life Sci NYC, we have also offered city investments to create new wet lab capable space and incubators at Deerfield management cure. It is where innovators from across the industry and around the world can

work in a collaborative atmosphere. I just want to pause for a moment and recognize the crisis we have all lived through. As you can imagine, we can't talk about the importance of life sciences in Covid 19 and the pandemic that has swept the world. As we all know, New York City was hit early and hit hard, but the pandemic showed the world the potential of our robust life-sciences industry. Together, we mobilize resources to help New Yorkers through one of the most severe crises our city has ever faced. NYC EDC played an important role, helping the city overcome early shortages of personal protective equipment. We leveraged our relationship in the advanced manufacturing life-sciences and fashion industries to help quickly pivoted at businesses to create much-needed gowns, face shields, and test kits. One of our biggest challenges was to help address the shortage of lifesaving ventilators. We convened a partnership with researchers, local innovators, and members of the medical and public health communities to develop a bridge ventilator called the Spiro wave and we did that in less than a month. The manufacturer of Covid testing kits was another challenge which EDC also help to overcome. With the

assistance of experts across the country, local medical professionals and city agencies, we refined the process and quickly found local manufacturers to go into production. These efforts ultimately produced 1.25 million test kits for use at New York City Health and Hospitals and community testing sites, as well as other sites within the city's test and trace program. Knowing how critical testing would be to the health and economy of New York, in September we also partnered with a Brooklyn based company called Open Tron's to launch the pandemic response lab. It has consistently delivered Covid 19 test results in under 24 hours at a cost-effective $28 per test. Ultimately, the lab grew to process at least 40,000 tests per day. And to activate more testing innovation for quick results and to support New York City's access to rapid tests, we created the rapid testing innovation competition. From that, we awarded $164,000 to Columbia University to Dr. David Ho's lab to support studies to accelerate the deployment of its code to scan rapid test. Even in the midst of the chaos of Covid, we knew we could not just concentrate on emergency response. We needed to focus on the future for New York City, as well, so we

did. In December, we announced the establishment of the pandemic response Institute. Its mission is to better prepare the city for future health emergencies and pandemics. It will help position the city as a leader in public health research and innovation. These efforts will not only improve New York City's health infrastructure, that serve as a blueprint for the rest of the country and, perhaps, the world. Despite the pandemic or maybe because of it, funding for life sciences companies reach new levels. NIH funding and venture investment has reached new heights for New York City this past year and now over 2,000,000 square feet of new life-sciences spaces have been anticipated to come online by the end of this year, what a total of over 3,000,000 square feet by 2023. This acceleration illustrates New York City's unprecedented opportunity to create, produce, and deliver medical breakthroughs and generate thousands of jobs for New Yorkers, making our city a healthier and fair place to live and work. So, what is next? The plan for the next half billion dollars calls for over $200 million in city financial investment and $300 million in city capital. It includes an expansion fund to invest in companies

growing into wet lab spaces from universities or incubators and it further extends the Life Sci NYC internship program. We expect to this total $1 billion investment to create 40,000 jobs, so whether someone is beginning their career, starting with an idea, the expanding the company, or planning its next phase of growth, we want to encourage them to do it here in New York City. Mayor de Blasio kicked off this next chapter of Life Sci NYC by announcing the Life Sciences Innovation Infrastructure RFP. It's focus is to help advance the commercial research and development of new medicines, medical devices, diagnostics, and research tools. Selected projects will receive an award of up to $20 million. Currently, the heart of the New York City life-sciences ecosystem is what has been called Life Sci Avenue, the established industry corridor along the east side of Manhattan. The stretch encompasses some of the country's premier institutions in biomedical research, clinical care, and commercial biotech. This new investment will support this existing industry corridor and strength in the development of other life-sciences clusters in neighborhoods around the city. This will contribute to a greater

ecosystem and the dissemination of career building jobs. Manhattan's West side is already home to multiple life-sciences incubators and leading institutions. It is home to newer hubs like the Hudson Research Center in Midtown and that Tasty lab building in the Manhattanville factory district further uptown. But there are important clusters in other boroughs, too. In Morris Park in the Bronx, the Einstein Montefiore Biotechnology Accelerated Research Center also known as EMBARK, will anchor a growing life-sciences ecosystem with the new bio manufacturing facility. EMBARK will accelerate the growth of New York City companies by providing cells and proteins critical to commercializing patient therapies. In Long Island city, Queens, Alexandria's Bindery is unlocking growth stage lab and office space in a mixed-use neighborhood with a rich history of innovation. On the Brooklyn waterfront, the core of the boroughs growing biotech community is coming together and expanding. It is defined by an early stage company and includes an established manufacturing base, some of it at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the Brooklyn Army Terminal and anchored by SUNY Downstates Advanced Biotechnology and Incubator.

To build this hearty life-sciences ecosystem, we need companies and founders to be believers, too. Just last week we sponsored the global marketplace of the International Buyout Conference which brings together industry giants and startups alike. This is just one step in a business attraction plan that is well underway. This is what EDC does: helps business form or come to New York, stay in New York, and thrive in New York. All to help build a better, stronger, and more diversified economy. Through the city's landmark $1 billion total investment in Life Sci NYC, we are committed to early-stage discoveries, further development of life scientist spaces, more equitable health outcomes for communities, and supporting a valuable jobs pipeline to add to a stronger recovery for all. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I know welcome home any questions you have.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Susan, and to your entire teams. There's a lot in there.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: We could spend a week on each one of those. I have to say, if we didn't-- if this didn't start in 2016, I think we would have had a very different response to the

pandemic. I think the critical beginning of this program back in 2016/2017 put the footprint in place to quickly pivot when we could. I think that's why we saw-- and that is why EDC played such a lead role in those survival beginning days and weeks. I thank your team for that. And for the Council members that are on, I know this is a very busy day, especially with what is happening tomorrow, so any questions that you what, you just jump in at any time. I see Council member Cornegy. He's got a very busy 48 hours on his plate, so, Robert, if you wanted to ask your question now so we can get you on your way, I'd be happy to do that.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Chair Vallone, and thank you for this tremendous testimony. I think the concern has been in communities that are in ciliary to Manhattan that these jobs that are going to be created, which are fantastic jobs, pipeline to the middle class and upper middle-class and while-- I just want to know if there is a curriculum in place that reaches back into our high schools in junior high schools as we set up the system and that all of the growth that we

see take place is not accessed by people who we have to import in to meet these jobs. There is a pipeline that we can create and I am hoping that we can consider that. So, the jobs in the economic development and are being at the forefront of this industry I think is incredibly important. It signifies who New York is and how we truly recover. But without a pathway for everyone to participate in this over the next year as attrition takes place in these jobs is going to be important. So, is there a time-- I didn't hear it mentioned. Is there a tie directly to curriculums that are part of our school system and not just the colleges, but the high schools putting young people on the path to these jobs of the future?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Council member Cornegy. It's a really important question and one that I am happy to share some insight into something that we are going to be working on over time as the Life Sci NYC initiative unfolds. So, a couple of thoughts. The first is that talent is incredibly important to this initiative and so we will continue to invest in talent programs as part of the broader Life Sci NYC initiative. Part of that is

through some of the financial support that we bring forward. We will be working with operators on considering programming in a stem space, whether that is like our internships program or more K-12 opportunities, we will consider those. At this time, we are focused on both our internship program and on programs like that where we take the, as we are setting up different campuses, we are thinking about how do we then include programming with those operators for earlier STEM education.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: What I'll do is follow up on that, Robert, because that's-- you know I'm going to ask questions on the students. For me, probably the greatest part over these last eight years was incorporating our children into their careers and futures here in the city. So this is a perfect opportunity. And I think you have two kinds of segments here, right? You have the first additional $500 million investment and now we have the announcement of the second which I know is more futuristic. But, Susan, maybe you can tell us on the successes of the first capital investments. You outlined the first $500 million investments in your

testimony. You said unlocking 2 million square feet, funded research labs, six incubators. For those who didn't have access to, you also had like a slide there where that was. Could you run us through, since we are five boroughs and we are always advocating for our districts in the outer boroughs also, how that it was capital investments look at the five boroughs where you link the city together within the investments? And then, secondly, take that to how are we developing our children and our students in high school and college to be knowledgeable of the internship and where they can--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Sure. So, first let me start by saying how grateful we are to the city of the initial investment of the $500 million back in 2016 as well as the expansion of $2 billion. And just to share, will run through very quickly some of the broader successes and highlight where they are across the five boroughs and then I will give a little more detail into your second question. So, the Life Sci NYC program has successfully launched or invested in several projects in both infrastructure and the talent needed in New York City based on that initial 2016 vision. That included in an incubator

at Bio Labs and NYU Langone which is, as mentioned earlier, in Soho. We have also invested in commercial lab and eating Q Bader space with The Cure and in Innolabs Long Island city. We also have a life science internship program, as you know, which is accessed across all five boroughs and is predominantly used by people of color, that of the will was almost somewhere between 40 and 50 percent of students come from CUNY and SUNY.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, let's just stay with that. So, how do we know that where are those students coming from and how are we drawing that pathway and that career path for students in city schools to know of these opportunities within Life Science? What exactly is the EDC project? Are we coming up with those numbers and where are these students coming from?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, EDC has an operator that manages the internship program and that operator starts very early in the fall working with all of the schools across the city to go through a promotional effort to make sure that students are aware of the internship program and that there are sessions to learn about the process to apply as well

as learning about what the expectations of the interns are, as well. So, that operator canvasses across the city and also host sessions virtual-- well, this past year's been entirely virtual to make sure that that is accessible to students across all five boroughs. In one, actually, suggestion and question I have back to the Council members is that if there are ways that we can further support gaining access to the internship program for your constituents, we would welcome reaching out and partnering with you to help do that.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, I mean, right off the bat, I haven't had any contact with the operator or whoever the person is who is running the programs. And, you know, I was one of the ones that were advocating to make sure our student [inaudible 00:27:38] Council member Cornegy. I see Council member Barron. I see your hand up, so I'll get right to you. Good morning, by the way. This is one of those really jewels. I mean, these are great jobs that are good paying pathways to brining us to that middle class and beyond and I think you even stated as a projection of a maybe 40,000 jobs. So, the capital investments there, the success is clearly

there and I know we will get a chance to pivot back to what you think some of the great successes are and then how we are able to pivot to the pandemic from that. But I think there is the incorporation between our great school districts, private and public. There can definitely be a quick way, with fall around the corner, to let our students know, probably a little bit better, that this pathway and how you can obtain these types of careers through these incubator programs into the capital investments and the RFPs that are coming out. I think we can probably team up with the operator of whatever crew that is doing that. We have over 50 Council members who would be very happy to spread that word and link that information and get these students that opportunity because in the, I guess, post pandemic world where we are still just coming out of it, job creation, small business creation, this type of investment is huge. It's over a billion dollars. It's a direct link to bring that, so I think we can probably do a little better job there. I would be happy to work with spreading that word and I know my-- high schools and colleges and students would heed this opportunity.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Okay. That sounds great, Chair Vallone. We would love to be in touch with you about that.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And, Council member Barron, I know you've got your hand up, so let's turn the floor over the Council member Barron.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. Thank you to the Chair and thank you for the presentation. Just a couple of, I guess, very targeted questions. How many students-- When did the program begin?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: The program began five years ago.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. How many students--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: The announcement.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. How many students have applied or what is the average per year? I guess it's grown. The applications, I imagine, have grown since better knowledge, greater knowledge, of the program has been shared.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, the great news is that thousands-- Well, I mean, thousands of students

apply for that program every year and I would say somewhere between one and 2000 students each year. It really is a mix of how many students apply as well as the roles that are open from host companies. And so we have had a goal-- and actually, Chair Vallone, this is also to help clarify from your initial opener about the internships program. We have a goal of 1000 interns over 10 years. So that's a goal of 100 interns per year. And over the past four years, we have reached over 400 interns. And so, we are achieving that goal and then some and we are really thrilled that we have this continued funding to support the ongoing program as well as potentially expanding it.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So, with this expansion, the increase that you are getting for the new year coming up, do you intend to expand the number of participants you have? You're getting double the money. Do you plan to double the number of participants?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Well, so let's clarify a little bit in terms of the source of funding. So, on the expanded funding for Life Sci NYC, $10 million of that expanded funding is operating expenses. Of

that, half of it over the course of three years will be used to support the internship program and so that is expanded funding for the internship program but it is not-- the full billion dollars is not expense money. It is different sources of funding and so, with that expansion, we are working with Upper West Strategies which is just the operator I mentioned earlier to look into what that expansion could be for the coming year.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So, you don't yet have a targeted number of applicants or participants that will be expected based on this expansion?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: No. Not at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We need to get some kind of gauge, you know, with doubling the money, but only seeing, what? Five percent? 10 percent? 50 percent increase in the number of students. And, as we know, the objective is to actually reach the students and provide them with that, so I would like to see if we can't get that number presented to us and we will know exactly how it is expanded.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Sure.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: You mentioned-- How many host companies do you have?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Well, over the course of the four years we have had, we have had over 100 host companies.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. And how many have remained over a period of multiple years? Do they come in one year and then they move out or do they have some longevity with the program?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Many of them are continued partners and continued to take interns year over year. Some of them have not, but the majority have stayed with us. I would request to follow up with you on that data because it does require a little extra precision from what I know at the top of my head.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And do you know why they are no longer participating in? Do we have an idea as to what are the reasons that they don't continue to participate? Something that might be offered or adjusted that would make it more enticing for them to continue?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, we will look into that. I will share that, as part of our funding

mechanism, we have a mix of companies that are at different stages of their own growth and so we don't want to have companies feel that they cannot participate in the internship program because they are limited in their own financial-- And so, as part of the funding that we have asked for for the internship program actually goes towards stipends for the interns to be paid because we feel it is critical to make sure that these opportunities are available and we also feel like it is required were critical to make sure those interns are paid.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And what is the average amount of the stipend that the interns receive?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: I would have to look into that to follow up.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. And do you have any disaggregated information as to the ethnicity of those who are participating in your program?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes. So, to date, 16 percent of them are black, 14 percent are Latino, 25 percent are white, and the rest are either Asian or have answered that they are more than one race.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Thank you. Just to briefly wrap up if I may, Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Of course.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I would like to know the numbers of participants and how that reflects on the totality of students who did apply. So, you have 16 percent black that you say were participants. Of the applicants? Is there a correlation between that?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: We can look into that. That is really interesting question that I would love to also answer with you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Great. And I want to echo what my colleague has said in terms of not just targeting the college level, but looking to see how we can make sure that our high school students are also aware and involved in encouraged to participate in into the degree that they can. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me the extra time and thank you to the presentation.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, Susan, let's pick up from the internship's actual employment and job numbers. So with the initial investment, you

know, there was some lofty numbers of like, I think, expecting 40,000 jobs or so. Can you identify how many jobs were created or what type of pipeline we can expect from the original program?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Sure. So, the original program, as you mentioned earlier, led to the projections of 16,000 jobs over the course of 10 years. And of that initial $500 million in investment, to date, 192 of it has been contracted and committed and we have forecasted 3458 jobs as a result. The rest of the funding to reach that initial $500 million, we have visibility to either in the form of RFPs that are out now or have potential pipeline for IDA funding that are-- that go along with them. So, we would anticipate the delivery of the remaining of the portfolio and that pipeline of jobs in the future.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, what are some of the RFPs that you are excited about that are out there now? Is there any opportunity now for those RFPs still continuing or are there other still coming?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yes. So, there are a few RFPs that are outstanding and they are

outstanding not just because they are out and about, but because they are fantastic. The first one is the life sciences innovation infrastructure RFP that was announced as part of this expanded announcement a couple weeks ago and for that, in a moment, I will ask Dr. Carlo Yuvienko to share more about it. He has been leading this effort and has been instrumental in standing up this RFP. We also have the Pandemic Response Institute RFP that is open now that we are thrilled to really be setting up the city for future public health emergency is and connecting with the different agencies and with the private sector in a more robust way moving forward. And we anticipate making an award for that pandemic response Institute towards the end of the summer. IDA program remains open and we hope and see visibility to a pipeline of developers. We are hoping to put in place additional campuses and incubators for the life sciences industry. Carlo, would you like to add a little bit more about the infrastructure innovation RFP?

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah. And if you could, those are two great points there. I mean, that RFP for additional campus space is something

that I think each of the Council members, if we can, identify a five borough approach to that, that would be really able to link the hub and the new Avenue that is in Manhattan with the-- you know, it is the outer boroughs, but every borough is [inaudible 00:38:22] to the success and the growth of it. I think that would really bring the four of the boroughs to that and the second point would be with those RFPs, our nonprofits able to bid on that and how does that work?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Do you want to start and I will follow up?

CARLO YUVIENKO: Sure. Thanks, Sue. Thanks, Council members. So, just to set a little bit of context in terms of the RFP that is right now in the city capital and life sciences innovation infrastructure RFP, this is somewhat related to our 2008 RFP entitled The Applied R&D Facilities request for proposals. That was specifically to find the establishment of specialized infrastructure projects that would help advance commercial research and development into a new therapeutic medicines and, as a reminder to folks that this being for city capital, it was restricted to not for profits. It was

actually geared towards old lady not for profits, but that could be in a form of a joint venture or partnerships with for-profit entities. As indicated in the January announcement, we issued out for awards for 38 million across those nonprofit institutions. This is one that is out now that we released earlier this month will specialize similarly in infrastructure projects to help commercial R&D in the life sciences. Specifically, expanding the scope of what can be accomplished beyond therapies and medicines. If anything, Covid has impressed upon us that it takes more than a breakthrough medicine to answer the call of the pandemic or a disease or play again, and this case, we are expanding the scope to include medical device diagnostics, research tools, and also biomaterial. We are seeing a lot of activity in the life sciences right now and dovetails very nicely with New York City's incumbent strengths and design and fashion. And so, that is just sort of the just of the RFP that is out right now and that is capped at $20 million per award and will be accessing the pool love original 150 million in city capital from the 2016 announcement and whatever is left over

after the 38 million that we have digitally awarded in January.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And so, Carlo, how do you see that vision? How do you see the vision of those RFPs breaking out? Is that going to be new locations? Expansions of existing locations? Growth on the success of the previous? Are we looking to get, as you said, post pandemic we have a different view on things on the types of careers and possibilities and technologies. How do you see that breaking?

CARLO YUVIENKO: Yeah. I mean, it is a very exciting time for this particular RFP because the New York City life sciences is in its infancy and so, with every year, it is an entirely new landscape that we get to calibrate to and leverage. And so, when we released that first RFP, the footprint of life sciences, as has been already alluded to on this meeting, that really exists along life sciences corridors and around the existing academic institution. But even in just three years, what we are seeing is a pop up of both private and public private real estate development in both other

neighborhoods within Manhattan, but also in the outer boroughs. The Bronx and in Long Island city.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: How do we integrate that? And I think we can hear from the Council members like maybe there is even a lack of knowledge of what is happening with in the outer boroughs within this new sector that is linking together in this one title of life science. It is wonderful and it is growth, but it is also a little bit for into the current landscape of how the city is working with its employment.

CARLO YUVIENKO: Yeah. Our hope is that, with this RFP and also other types of procurement that we will be able to enable the continued seating of those new neighborhoods with that type of capital infrastructure that they need to connect, for example, academic researchers that are on the leading edge of certain companies in commercializing technologies to have a presence in those new clusters. And so, that shares the wealth, if you will, of not just like the capital in the infrastructure, but also the intellectual capacity of our great institution. And so, that one to $2 billion of NIH funding that everyone touts and sort

of a question of like why it is not unlocking more commercial ventures, having that have a footprint of activity in those outer boroughs, that is our hope with this RFP and also other types of--

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You know what? And, if I may, I could just give you a real quick on how it goes from backroad a micro. So, you have-- and I know what happens in our district. We have schools that are desperate for afterschool programs for their students. We call them CASA programs and we link up with some of the larger institutions and some of those smaller nonprofits. With that type of capital investment, you can build in an almost automatic afterschool program with the lower schools in the high schools and colleges so that in the areas where you foresee some of the growth that the students and the pathways to these jobs are from day one. And sometimes what we do is we miss that opportunity and it takes years before we link up a school with this new industry and this is something that I am not just saying it is, quote, internships and jobs, but there's a way to-- because it is so new, there is not many of this excitement that we can create a brand-new investment post pandemic that is

so needed from day one because we have already done it with other afterschool CASA programs and college programs and getting kids write it from day one with these new companies in the new RFPs that it would just be my advice that using the success of previous types of programs with this, we don't need to like find another 25,000 from any particular Council member or something. We could just be built right in with our colleges and with our CUNY, though with our high school, with that area and you will have an amazing buzz from the students to know that they are getting into this and these new opportunities, post pandemic, that the city is right on it and they are excited for this. But, you know, it's, you know, like one step away from linking it altogether as the speed up this is happening. I think you are tapping into some of the, you know-- I'm not just speaking for myself. There is a lot of excitement out there with each of the Council members' districts, the school districts, the parents. They are asking where do our kids go now in this new virtual, new educational world? And here we have it. You know, Carlo and Susan, you are outlining this exciting new capital investment and careers and jobs, so it's just

kind of a matter of bringing it down from whatever, quote, operator is doing that to really linking it down to an educational-- we have a pipeline here. I don't know if you want to chime in on those thoughts, but I think that was what I would foresee that next step to be. I think that that's--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Chair Vallone--

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Go ahead, Susan.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yeah. I feel you have an honorary seat on our project teams.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I'm in. I'm going to have some time on my hands soon.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yeah. You know, every project-- we shifted over the past couple of years that every project we do is more than a building. Is more than the space. Every project we do has to have programming that goes with it and talent development that goes with it. And so, I'm going to use an example which doesn't touch on K-12 programming at this very moment, but in the future could, are our partnership at Deerfield Management for Cure at 345 Park Avenue South. We actually have a collaboration with Deerfield on talent programming that has specific funding for talent programming. And I will

share a great example that took place over this past year. Deerfield launched a program called the Exceed Award and that award is for seed funding for women and minority founders to help catalyze their business for word. They awarded five businesses, five startups, $100,000 each to support the growth of their business this past March.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I think that is exactly what Council member Barron was alluding to, too. It is linking it to small businesses and startups and careers and improvement in every neighborhood and that is a perfect example.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Great. And so, we will do that. It is incumbent on us to make sure that we are baking in those tell it programs and setting up the next generation for using those spaces and starting their companies and taking their ideas and their science forward.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And I think, Susan, I'm now putting my parent hat on. I think there is another opportunity to get that information out to New York families and to let them know. There's a lot of-- fear is not the right word. I guess it is just we are all reeducating ourselves in

the post pandemic world and I have two kids coming out of college. I have a little one now in grammar school and they do ask that very difficult question to the parents, what do we do now? So, you know, the career they may have thought they were going for has now kind of shifted and changed and that job market is changed. So, this is the type of light that is post pandemic that kids can wrap their head around and say, that is what I want, but how do I do it? And that is what I think we are missing. While we are launching this, I think that there is a larger message that can come from it and I think that we can tap into-- and you guys never do, but we don't need to reinvent the wheel. You already have that in place. It's just using those resources to let the school districts know and let the parents know and let the colleges and CUNY know that this is what's coming in this life science. You know, 1 billion-- you know, $500 million has been done. A new $500 millions-- and this is how if you are interested, you can get into that because the job is waiting for you. It literally is.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Well, if I can share two responses to that. The first is you are

absolutely right. If you ask the average New Yorker about life-sciences, they would say, I don't know what that is. And so, we have some work ahead of us to make sure that New York City knows what life-sciences is and that there is something there for them. And I hope that you will share with your children that they have many opportunities ahead because the city has so many great building blocks in life-sciences and we are creating those opportunities for them when they grow up and choose work to do with their career. It is something that they can be really excited and look forward to being a part of.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And I think that is part of the challenge today on how we spend these last six months together and, hopefully-- you know, Council member Barron had one last question with all its relevant to this exactly, but how do we know the next administration and its Council will continue this type of path? So is any of this going to be baselined? Is any of this going to be included in a budget that will survive us and the crew that is on here?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Well, my understanding is that, with OMB, we have-- this was declared as

part of the city's budget. And so, the city capital and the financial support and the operating expenses have been captured in the city budget to date. We can certainly follow up to make sure and confirm that that is in the book or post this administration. I would also hope that having been through the past 15—16 months together, that the next administration would also see the importance both of the industry for helping prep and get through something like Covid 19, but also the resiliency that is brought forward. Ultimately, investing in life-sciences is really about investing in a healthier and stronger New York City.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, I guess Carlo and Susan-- I don't see Peter Koo with his hand up or any other Council members, but if I do see another Council member's hand pop up, I will change. So, I'm just continuing on unless someone else has a question. Oh. Raised hand. Council member Barron. Inez, do you want to follow up?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. Yes. thank you so much. Just a quick question. I'm glad that you asked that question because we want to make sure that we don't-- we are not at the mercy of the whims

of others who may be coming behind to pick at this project or not the importance or elevated to the status that it needs. And back to my other question about the data that shows us the ethnicity. I would also like to know the breakdown by borough for children who apply because we say it is based, basically, in Manhattan and Long Island City and we want to make sure that, as we are getting the word out about the spread that the other boroughs are also aware that it is not just restricted to those [inaudible 00:51:49] and partners that are in the city and in Long Island City.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Okay. Thank you, Council member Barron. Can you clarify for your question when you say--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: The data--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Are you asking about--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: The data--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: the internships program?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Regarding the children-- Yes. Regarding the internship. The data for the applicants. I would like to have it also disaggregated by borough.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I had asked for this to be [inaudible 00:52:12] to also know by borough.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Got it. Well, I do know and share off the top of my head as in my notes on the right that of the internships to date, nine percent of them have been for students in Manhattan, 29 percent have been in Queens, 22 percent have been in Brooklyn, nine percent have been in the Bronx, and the remained in Staten Island.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay. Great. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you, Council member. And your work with students and education is something that is going to be a legacy for many Council members to come, you and your husband. I think our two families have served quite a long time together and we can be proud looking back on that. So, I guess for the team that is there, how did you see, with the new investments that are being made and committed, which are wonderful, it also comes after we are coming out of the pandemic. So,

how did this shift, I guess, with the original 500 million in your eyes become in a post pandemic world that we can most utilize those new investments?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, I will say with an immense amount of pride that, unfortunately, the pandemic showed the value of this industry. It was such a hard time and we really got through it by having many industry partners come together, whether that was in diagnostics or in vaccines or in the therapeutics that would be used to either treat Covid or the effects of Covid. And we learned a couple of things over the past few years. Even before the pandemic as we were learning as life-sciences was evolving. The first was that there were all our opportunities to be had for clusters across the city and that we will, as mentioned earlier, support the expansion of clusters that exist either on Life Sci Avenue or on the west side, but also putting in place investment in Brooklyn and Queens and in the Bronx, etc. And so, that is really important to us to make sure that the opportunity to develop and grow in life sciences happens across the five boroughs. The second learning that is really an evolution of the industry over the past several years is coming back

to that definition of life sciences. I mentioned that it is really the intersection of biology and technology and we are seeing that grow and expand in definition more so every day, whether that is in bioinformatics which is the study of DNA and RNA and the use of technology with that data or in the use of technology in-- will use the example of Open Trons which is a robotics company that helped us build the Pandemic Response Lab. So, using technology to develop new therapies, new technologies themselves to expand the use of biology and deploy that whether in the use of therapeutics or the more technical nature of devices and robotics, but also the adjacent industries that could be the food industry, that could be the energy industry. There are many different applications that biology has an our great universities are studying these things and we now want to make sure that we are expanding the effort to accelerate that growth for New York City and bring that opportunity and keep it here.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: You know, I just-- As you mentioned robotics and the students, I have a group called the Robo Pandas out in PS 94. We are about as far as you can go before you get to

Nassau County and they do this great citywide competition with Legos and robotics and they put these things-- but it's really based on a format from maybe like 10 or 20 years ago, right? This would be a perfect new-- you can create this new, maybe next year, given those groups, the citywide groups that compete on that Robo Tronic panel to see what they come up with all in this new life science course where they can now take something that they have been working on for years and give it to this new technology. Like you say, it is always connected and you had these kids that are six, seven, and eighth grade and already thinking about futuristic-- with Legos and robots and combining the two and how they can do a bio dome or something new. They are amazing. Every year they invite me out to judge on it and I hate it because they all look like winners to me. But it is a perfect example of like how you can trickle down. They are already doing it. If you give them just like from middle school, high school, college type plans to work with that, you've already got these great kids waiting for you. I see--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yeah. That is--

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Council member--

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: the age that kids can decide what they can do. So--

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I have a Lego wall downstairs. It's really just medieval times and city. Nothing like what these kids are doing with robotics and combining it. It is pretty amazing. Council member Cornegy, I see you have your hand back up my friend.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sorry. I tried my best not to get too far in the weeds on this, but I am concerned that you have the breakdown of the jobs. Are they primarily in manufacturing? Because you mentioned, which is absolutely true, that during the pandemic, we suffered from and you guys picked up a lot of the slack-- but we suffered from the inability to produce things and turn that around quickly. So I know that manufacturing, but we know that there are opportunities on our commercials campuses, especially in Brooklyn. I've got to, you know, [inaudible 00:57:56] in Industry City and in the Navy Yard, the ability to create light manufacturing that includes everything from scalpels to PPE. Do you have a breakdown of what actually

goes into what bucket and how much goes into each bucket in terms of jobs and manufacturing?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, I don't have a specific breakdown in terms of percentages or numbers to share. I can follow up on that with you afterwards. What I will share, though-- and this is one of the reasons to make an investment like this for New York City is that our calculations estimate a range of different types of skills and different types of jobs. So, for example, there may be what you would expect for scientists and doctors in life-sciences, but there are also, myself included, from experience, there are many, many jobs in business and manufacturing and operations and then there is a halo effect to the neighborhoods that life-sciences clusters sit with in and, if you look at the recent economic downturns, whether that is this past one that we were in or back in 2009, across life sciences, the industry weathers that storm more resiliently. And so, that is something where we want to make sure that we are investing both for the health of New York City, but also for the opportunity for economic resiliency. We know those two are just

totally intertwined. That both the health and the economic opportunity.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: And just lastly, when I thought of life-sciences, I certainly thought about the fight that we have around resiliency in our waterfronts, around reducing our carbon footprint, overgrown all of those types of things and certainly our alternative energy. Does that fall into this life science model, as well?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, I think were there are direct applications of biology and technology, it would certainly overlap. I think that there is-- at UDC, we have a number of different industry pillars and we also have, as part of that, focus on various different environmental and sustainable city efforts. And so, if there is more information that you would like on the effort from EDC for that, we would certainly be happy to follow up.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yeah. I mean, in another life, I'm hoping to be able to create a resiliency plan for our waterfronts as the maritime city and as a maritime borough and I just wondered that if-- and I always wondered where I get that

money from, but if it is already available through your programming, that would be pretty awesome.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: See, that? They linked it right to you, Council member Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yeah. Yeah. I've been sitting and trying not to do this, Chair, but I have to ask.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Listen, you've got great visions for your borough, my friend.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yes, sir.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Yeah. And I will tell you waterfront resiliency is not my personal area of expertise, but I do know that EDC feels it's incredibly important, as well. So, we can certainly follow up offline on that.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair, for your indulgence.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Perfect. Again, maybe if we could just kind of-- because we're coming up to your hour. I don't want to keep you too much past that. You mentioned the Pandemic Response Institute. So, is that something that is going to be out of an actual building? Is that going to be a larger scale so it is going to link the different

campuses together? You know, there is always a little creeping in the back of all of our heads of what if something happens again, how will we pivoted and do it differently and better? So, when that you are taking those steps now because it would be naïve to think that there won't be something else coming down the road. It is just that something always seems to come these days. So, we prepare for it. What is this division? What is actually invested to it and how do you see the Pandemic Response Institute?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: So, I don't know if you heard me take a deep breath as you said I hope this never happens again. I also hope this never happens again. Unfortunately, with climate change and with the circumstances that led to Covid, for example, I hope it never happens again, but we can't act as if it definitely won't. And so, it is really imperative for this city to make sure that we are bringing together the various agencies and the various both public and private sector actors, the community business organizations and taking a hard time now and focusing on learning from previous pandemics, including Covid 19. And really focusing

on how to stem health emergency use and make sure that we are more integrated into the community and bringing forward connectivity and data and trust as part of that as we move forward. And so, the Pandemic Response Institute is meant to address those issues whether that is for making sure communities have what they need and being connected for being on the forefront of innovation. You know, I think back to last year as EDC was helping stand up supply chains for test kits and overlap for Covid testing. That is not necessarily what you would expect members of EDC to do and so we hope that having a pandemic response Institute will put in place some more dedicated team that is a commitment across the public and the private sector to be that already and to be better prepared if and when something does happen in the future to be able to act very quickly to minimize how long the impact of that pandemic might have on the city. And so, I'm not going to comment too much on the specific set up of the Institute because we are in the middle of the procurement and we have received some really incredible responses to it that we are in the review of now, but we do anticipate it to have a physical presence and to have a robust

network. And I would love to take this opportunity to get some really great credit to our partners at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to the New York City Emergency Management Team for coming to get there with us and thinking about how can we engage together as a city, as the government actors for the city, but also with our community business partners and to the private sector to bring this forward.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So, do you have a general timeline of what you envision that might look like or at least two conceptually think what that would look like in the near future?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Oh, sure. Sure. We moved very fast. The procurement was released within the past few months. The deadline for submissions was on June 4 and we have just started reviewing those proposals. We anticipate making contingent award with $20 million of city capital. Or up to $20 million of city capital by the end of this summer and we actually expect the Institute to be putting activities forward at least virtually at the very beginning before the end of this year.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Do you see that occupying existing space or do we have to create a new building for it?

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: It well really depend on the proposal. The proposals each have their own flavor to them of what they--

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well, we don't need an actual-- I mean, you already have the people and the folks already have pivoted post pandemic to do this already. So, if something were to, God forbid, happen sooner rather than later, we are already prepared because you already did it. And I would have to say that that whole interagency cooperation has been something I have been clamoring about for eight years and it always comes from one hearing to the next, oh, this agency does that, so when you have already incorporated that, that makes us happy. You already win. So, with that, I thank you guys for giving us great information. These are the good news is that the city needs in these times and I think, like I said, we have a responsibility to do it a bit better in passing that word on and giving that hope in this time that is happening. This is exactly what we need in the post pandemic world and

how the city will continue to rebound. I know we have some panels that have been waiting to go, so I am going to turn it back over to our committee chair-- counsel for Alex to take us through that. So, Susan and Carlo and the team, as always, thank you for your questions and answers today.

SUSAN ROSENTHAL: Thank you, Chair Vallone and everyone.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Vallone. We will now turn to the public testimony portion of the hearing I would like to remind everyone that, unlike in our typical Council hearings, we will be calling individuals one by one to testify. Each panelist will be given to minutes to speak. Please begin your testimony once the Sergeant has started the timer. Council members who have questions for a particular panelist should use the zoom raise hand function and we will call on you in the order you raise your hand after that panelist has completed their testimony. For panelists, once your name is called, a member of our staff will unmute you and the sergeant-at-arms will set the timer and then give you the go-ahead to begin. Please wait for the sergeant to announce that you may

begin before delivering your testimony. I would now like to invite Morais Brown to testify. After Morais Brown, I will be calling on Samuel Sia followed by James Nguyen. Morais Brown, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

MORAIS BROWN: Hello. I'm Morais Brown. I'm a biochemistry PHD student at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx and currently interning as an analyst at Hibiscus Bio Adventures, a position I obtained through the Life Sci NYC internship program. I'd like to thank the City Council for welcoming me today as we as the New York City Economic Development Corporation for launching and supporting the internship program. Thank you, Carlo and Sue, as well as the rest of Life Sci NYC team. New York attending Brooklyn Technical High school followed by Florida International University. I was thrilled to return home to New York City to attend Einstein. For a long time, I felt that the weight to have a largest impact on eliminating or at least stymieing modern diseases was through scientific hard work by my own hands. This led to my decision to pursue a PhD in biochemistry.

Along my scientific journey, I became inspired by nonscientist like Elon Musk in the energy sector and Ken Frazier at MERK who made impacts and their respective STEM fields without being scientists themselves. Their work made me realize that for my own goals, contributing to global improvement in health doesn't necessarily mean creating the effect of drug. Expertise in other areas such as business development, market research, and marketing are necessary for that successful drug to have its largest global impact. I feel like Life Sci NYC recognizes this, as well, and seeks to provide interns with opportunities needed to develop these skills. As a science student, there are well marked pathways that guide one towards medical school or to pursue the research path via a PhD, however, at any level of science education, it is not always clear how to pursue other pathways within the Life Science industry or even what many of those alternate pathways might be. The Life Sci NYC internship program--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

MORAIS BROWN: issue by providing New York City students with one place where they can

learn about opportunities at dozens of companies, many of them startups that would otherwise be under the radar. Then via a single application, students can apply for these positions via a centralized process. I would not have known about most of the opportunities listed by the program without this set up in these companies would not have known how to find me either. Having gained my internship through the program, I have also had the opportunity to attend this three day boot camp where I met and connected with many of the other 120 plus students participating in the program this summer and heard from industry leaders who presented on a range of important topics. I feel that participating in this internship program, I will develop a much more well-rounded skill set in my ultimate pursuits to eradicate the worst of the diseases that infected humanity and I will get to do that here in New York City. Thank you for supporting Life Sci NYC.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Wow, soon to be Dr. Brown, you just made this whole hearing worthwhile. That is exactly what we wanted to hear, so congratulations to you. So, if I were to deputize you today and say, okay, Morais, you're going to run

this program and make it better or expand it, what would you like to see for the next step of this program? Because this is the team that is on today that can make that happen and, as you can see, we want to expand this to as many students as possible.

MORAIS BROWN: That is a good question because I was actually looking for an internship. I had it in my brain and so I sought out-- I did a Google search myself and so I think maybe the advertisement to-- like, for example, I went to Tech and I didn't know directly what I would want to be. Like I didn't know I would want to be a scientist, but if this was like on a poster or like posted over the intercom or something that I was aware of, I would've made my planning much more streamlined even though I found my way eventually and I could be a big improvement. Like just getting the word out in a more efficient manner.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Yeah. I agree with you. I think there is such a great template for the growth of this, but I think we are missing some of those on the street and on the school -type details that we can bring that information out to the students and the principles and, you know, it should

really be the student's responsibility to search and find it. It should be our responsibility to get it to you and then give you that clear path, especially now, right, as things change. So, what grade do you think would be best impacted to start seeing these opportunities? What age do you think would be best?

MORAIS BROWN: I would think junior year of high school because Brooklyn Tech does something unique where they kind of modeled their system based on the college system where your junior and senior years you have a major, quote unquote, so that is really when we kind of-- the age whereas high school students decide and really start thinking about who we want to be when we get out there and of the real world and I think that is the stage we kind of have the idea of the kind of work we want to do an internship we want to apply to.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Morais, I think you for spending the time and waiting. I would love to follow up with you today. We've got these two great teams in our office. City Council and EDC and Susan and Carlo, his whole team. So, maybe that is something when all the semesters are done and in the calm of the summer we can think about how to grow

this in the fall and the spring-- especially with the new investments that are coming in. I'd love to talk to you more, if that's okay.

MORAIS BROWN: Yeah. For sure.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you for coming today. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Brown. Next up is Samuel Sia followed by James Flynn and Ben Dubin-Thaler. Samuel Sia, you may begin when the Sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And I am just going to jump in, Samuel. Council member Keith Powers is going to be closing out the hearing, one of our committee members also for that. So, thank you, everybody for this hearing. I see Keith Powers smiling and ready to go. So--

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'm ready. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: for the following folks who are going to testify, Council member Powers will have it. God bless everyone. Have a good summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Chair.

SAMUEL SIA: Well, good afternoon, Chairman Vallone and Councilman Powers and members of the committee. My name is Sam Sia. I am the founder of Harlem Bio Space. Harlem Bio Space is an NYC EDC sponsored initiative that opened its doors in 2012 as a shared lab incubator in New York City. At the time, there was a lack of commercial lab space for start up companies, even in Manhattan at that time, almost no affordable commercial lab space. Because of NYC EDC support, we opened up the space to allow innovative companies to pursue their ideas at an affordable rate of less than $1000 per month. We opened up to a full roster of companies on day one and we have been full over the last eight years of operation. We are proud to have incubated over 60 bio tech companies that have raised many millions of dollars in investment. We have also worked with community leaders in Harlem and in all five boroughs to bring STEM to K-12 students from underrepresented backgrounds, including a high school program in collaboration with Columbia University that has walk-in students from all five boroughs, STEM programs to over 600 students in NYC DOE classrooms, a program for elementary school girls called Hypotho-Sisters,

and currently bringing a science club to residents of NYCHA housing in the outer boroughs with a focus on Staten Island where we have seen full representation of applicants to our high school major program. Today, not everyone is aware, but New York City is an international pillar in basic research and life sciences. I have worked with Sue, Carlo, and the NYC EDC life sciences team over the last eight years and have seen their incredible efforts to open up for more commercial lab spaces and attract investors to the city. But there are still important gaps such as growth spaces for medium-sized biotech companies and mechanisms to share ideas and infrastructure across research centers. Biotech innovation is happening at a fast and furious pace. It is a large and growing component of tomorrow's economy. New York City has all the ingredients of intellectual, people, capital, and--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

SAMUEL SIA: to be the number one life sciences city in the world. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks for all you are doing with all the education and the economy are New York City.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Sia. Seeing no Council member hands raised, we will move on to the next panelist. Next up we have James Flynn from Deerfield Management followed by Ben Dubin-Thaler and Ari Espinal. Mr. Flynn, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

JAMES FLYNN: Good morning. It is a pleasure to be with you today and share how Deerfield's CURE is helping to drive New York City's ascent in healthcare innovation. Deerfield has been advancing healthcare or investment, information, and philanthropy for more than 25 years. Today, because of our strong partnership with EDC and folks like Sue that is been amazing, the Care, New York City's new multidisciplinary healthcare innovation campus was made possible. The flexible real estate of the Cure is more than just a physical space to collaborate. It empowers innovators through state-of-the-art technology and extensive programming. As examples, it fosters interactions to support nascent companies, provides professional development and opportunities to learn for entrepreneurs and managers, and cultivate synergies between large and small

healthcare companies. Each floor at the Cure is lab ready and digitally cabled in order to support all types of healthcare focused companies. And with these 12 floors, including the collaboration residency, a space where we all come together, the Cure has the capacity for at least 80 companies. We are truly bringing together innovators across academia, government, private, not-for-profit organizations, scientists, engineers, patients, students, and researchers within one campus to achieve the singular mission of enabling everyone that lead a healthier life. The Cure has five classrooms which can convert into a large hybrid enabled conference space, large enough for almost 500 people and will provide an egalitarian learning environment where one can be in the far Bronx and Brooklyn and have the same experience as sitting in the room. Through our programming, women will feel heard and supported through initiatives like Break Into the Boardroom and Women in Science, programs committed to addressing the gender gap in life science. And the collective diversity of the healthcare ecosystem--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

JAMES FLYNN: reflect New York City's own population through programs like the Deerfield Fellows Program and companies such as Humanity Health. I will finish up real quick here. With the Cure unique structure of integrating all stakeholders in one ecosystem, it can create unique opportunities for not-for-profit healthcare organizations to benefit from state-of-the-art technology. For example, Deerfield Catalyst, the Cures for profit med tech incubator, will support Code of the Cure, public charity focused on developing children's cardiovascular devices that would not normally be able to make it to market. We have a lofty goal with the powerful mission. During the next decade, we will create a life science and healthcare ecosystem based in New York City which will educate more than 100,000 people and include more than 500,000 members. With all this, Cures startups and stakeholders are enabled to turn their ideas and hard work into products and services that serve the collective purpose to and disease. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And I didn't get the-- I meant to ask you what is the location of the Cure?

JAMES FLYNN: We are at 345 Park Avenue.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: 345. Okay. You are right out of my district, but that is okay. Good location. And just the status of that? It sounded like you were talking prospectively. So, that is coming online or you are--

JAMES FLYNN: So, we have been building furiously during the pandemic. We have a couple of floors that are operational. We are just starting to build out the first labs. The collaboration residency where a lot of the great stuff will occur will be open around September an additional collaboration spaces on the roof, additional lab space will be complete towards the end of the year.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Got it. And is there any reason for that exact location? Was it existing space that you decided to convert or is there any other sort of location based for where you are?

JAMES FLYNN: Yeah. We actually looked very extensively in Long Island city. We looked in Brooklyn and we looked at a lot of places. Because we are converging a lot of stakeholders and have relationships with, for example, Columbia, Cornell,

Rockefeller, Memorial, Sloan-Kettering, a lot of the academic organizations that, from which the intellectual property columns, we needed to be at some place where everyone could converge. So, when we found the availability of this property, it seemed to fit that bill. Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay. Great. Thank you for testifying and good luck and hope to see you guys get off the ground. Thank you. Appreciate you testifying here today.

JAMES FLYNN: Sure. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Flynn. Next stop will be Ben Dubin-Thaler followed by Ari Espinal and Nancy Kelly. Mr. Dubin-Thaler, you may begin when the sergeant calls time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

BEN DUBIN-THALER: Council members, thank you so much for the opportunity to speak in support of the Life Sci NYC internship program. Life Sci NYC has been instrumental in Bio Bus's efforts. I am the founder and Executive Director of Bio Bus, the science education nonprofit. Life Sci NYC has been instrumental in our efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive life sciences community and ultimately

a more equitable life sciences economy like we have been discussing in this hearing. We have had 26 college students in the program since 2018 and we have focused-- Bio Bus focuses on students that have fewer education and research opportunities and the super majority of our students are students of color. Life Sci NYC interns have completed sophisticated research projects, solidifying their own identities as scientists. They have honed their entrepreneurial skills through their work at Bio Bus. One student in particular, [inaudible 01:22:30], exemplifies this work. She designed and implemented a rigorous series of experiments that reveals how and's intent I work and [inaudible 01:22:22] overcame many challenges during her work at Bio Bus through the Life Sci NYC program. Her queen aunt died twice. She confronted the ethics of experimentation on ants to which you actually grown quite attached. [Inaudible 01:22:35] later told us that facing those challenges would support but also independence from her mentors that Bio Bus gave her the confidence and skills to truly consider herself a scientist. This kind of transformation is common in our program. A key indicator is that 96 percent of our former interns

responding to a survey have remained on a science career path. And as we have discussed, it is a pathway. Our interns also help work with the 50,000 young scientists that come to Bio Buses other programs through our partnerships at DOE and DYCD. And, finally, they also help run public events where we are providing people young, old, in person, an online in all five boroughs with inspiration to join--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

BEN DUBIN-THALER: with inspiration the joy New York's thriving and growing life sciences community.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.

BEN DUBIN-THALER: [inaudible 01:23:33] and thank you for your time.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I just for clarification, Bio Bus is a mobile lab? Is that what it is or what is the--

BEN DUBIN-THALER: Yeah. We have two mobile apps. We are not just a bus, though. We also have brick-and-mortar labs in partnership with Columbia University and also on the lower East side

and we actually just received city Council funding to expand to Queens.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Got it. And where are you on the lower East side?

BEN DUBIN-THALER: Well, we are partnering with schools all across the Lower East Side including East Side Community High School, PS 34, and pretty much every school in district 1.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Got it. Okay. I appreciate it. I see Council member Barron has a question. So, we can get to her. Can we unmute Council member Barron, please?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Thank you so much. I was listening because I was attending to other matters and I heard the panelist mentioned the Bio Bus and I've had direct experience with them about maybe three or four years ago at our Juneteenth program. We had the Bio Bus, and it was parked outside of the venue where we were having our event and we encourage the community to go on to the Bio Bus and go on to envisage and see the exhibits that they had and see the work. So, I'm glad to have a specific example in one that was quite relevant and quite appropriate and quite exciting and to know that

that is a part of the funding that this program is doing. So, I want to support that, acknowledge the great involvement, and we look forward to continuing to have the Bio Bus come to events in our district and encourage people to participate. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Council member Barron. Appreciate that context and support for that. Thank you. Thank you for your testimony and we will head over to the next panelist. Thanks.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council members. Next up we will hear from Ari Espinal followed by Nancy J. Kelly and George James. Ari Espinal, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

ARI ESPINAL: Good afternoon and thank you, Chair Vallone and Councilman Powers for the opportunity to testify before this committee. I am testifying on behalf of the Construction and General Building Laborers Local 79 to express our strong support for the growth and development of life sciences industry as part of the NYC economic recovery. Local 79, which serves the five boroughs has over 10,000 active and retired members and is the largest laborers local in North America. We believe

our city will benefit from an industry poised to create tens of thousands of good paying jobs that CUNY students and young people and New Yorkers from disadvantaged backgrounds can be training for. In addition, as you know, this industry creates lifesaving cures and treatments for diseases. That is why we support development projects focused on growing the life sciences industry which can also improve the health of NYC communities by building with union jobs that provide family health benefits. One key life sciences development project city government should fully support its Center East, the planned expansion to reiterate New York blood Center on Being used to 67th Street. The New York Blood Center is the leading supplier of blood to area hospitals and has worked for decades on lifesaving cures and treatments for sickle cell and other diseases impacting black New Yorkers another New Yorkers of color. The development partner, Longfellow, is a top life sciences developer committing to thoughtful, inclusive development building with union labor and creating jobs for New Yorkers of color and low income households. They have committed to working with local 79 to ensure

local residents from these adventurous communities have access to careers both in union construction in life sciences sector. Opponents of this project complain that the new people will crowd their space. We think that people, like our members, New Yorkers of color, public housing, residents, and immigrants looking to work in the upper Eastside medical corridor or simply to seek medical care should be--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

ARI ESPINAL: not kept and excluded. Center East can boost wages for various Harlem, South Bronx, Queensbridge, and other neighborhoods hit hard by Covid. City government cannot afford to allow opposition from multi elites to stand in the way of thousands of family sustaining jobs for communities, life-saving cures, and treatment. Thank you for the opportunity and for me to express our support. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Nice to see you, Ari Espinal. I hope you are doing well. Thank you for the testimony and all your work on behalf of working New Yorkers here. So, I appreciate it and I think your [inaudible 01:28:21] there, as well. All

right. Thanks so much. We will go to the next panelist.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council member. Next, we will hear from Nancy J. Kelly followed by George James and then Maria Gotch. Nancy Kelly, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

NANCY KELLY: Hi, Councilman Powers and members of the committee. My name is Nancy Kelly and I am founding member of NYC Builds Bio. NYC Builds Bio is a nonprofit whose mission is to bring the life science and real estate communities together in order to foster growing life science cluster in New York such as those found in Boston and San Francisco. At a moment when the importance of developing life science infrastructure has been made starkly clear by the Covid pandemic, it is critically important that New York continues to invest in its capacity to support this growing industry. Global crisis has demonstrated the importance of laboratory space and life science and biotech research to develop timely, effective vaccines, but also the potential for biotech to solve many of the planetary problems associated with climate change and other things.

2020 was a pivotal year for life science in New York City and in the global market as the industry continuously rose to the challenge is that this critical juncture in our history. Two of New York's leading biotech Pharma companies, the Pfizer and Regeneron, led the way to new vaccines and therapeutics for Covid 19. Pfizer launched the Pfizer Breakthrough Growth Initiative with a $500 million commitment to funding new breakthroughs. The company joined a host of private equity firms that raised or committed over $6 billion to invest in biotech research and companies post pandemic. Several New York City, such as Schrödinger, Black Diamond Therapeutics, AI Analytics, and Innovation Bio were among those completing IPOs last year and a record number of New York companies raised substantial rounds of private equity during the pandemic, including C16 Bio Sciences, Callie Opie, Red Pin Therapeutics, Compass Pathways, MUA, and Elevation Oncology. Though this hearing is focused on life sciences in New York City in general, I would like to take a moment to speak on the New York Blood Setters proposal which would provide significant additional space for institutional partners and

biotechnology firms. This project is a tremendous opportunity for the life science infrastructure here in our city. Needless to say, the Wide Center plays a critical role, not only in New York's life sciences industry, but our national healthcare ecosystem, supplying blood to millions of people and serving as a hub for lifesaving biological research. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of the life sciences industry to the future of New York City and voice my support for the New York Blood Center essential project and for New York City's continued investment in life sciences.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks for the testimony and we will now head to, I think, George James next.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: That is correct, Council member. George James followed by Maria Gotch and George infinite. Mr. James, you may begin when the sergeant calls time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

GEORGE JAMES: My name is George James. I am an urban planner. In 2016, New York City had a problem. Investing in life sciences was a priority, but zoning for life science research labs was use

group 17, which is an industrial land use which made them very hard to cite, consequently. Deputy Mayor Alicia Glenn had a memo produced to that effectively changed research labs to use group 9, allowing them in most commercial districts. Also in 2016, the Department of Health change to the health code to require that research labs register because, quote, the Department is concerned that an accident at a New York City based high containment research laboratory could have catastrophic consequences, unquote. This year, I have [inaudible 01:32:52] that listing of registered research laboratories. Department of Health rejected the foil because, quote, to release the names and addresses of these facilities would constitute an untenable security risk. So, on one hand, New York City is making these uses easier to cite saying they can co-locate with residences in elementary schools well, on the other hand, New York City is saying that these facilities are too dangerous to even disclose an accident could cause catastrophic consequences. Now, I don't know a lot about this industry, but I do now that we do not make land use policy by decree. I also know that citing a facility that could cause catastrophic harm alongside

sensitive uses is land-use malpractice. Deputy Mayor glands memo changing where these facilities may be cited was improper, while the DOB interprets zoning if they want to change their 50 year interpretation, that is changing law and if an agency wants to change law, they must involve the city Council. Considering the potential of catastrophic consequences, I hope counsel will--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

GEORGE JAMES: require the administration to go back and follow our land-use process. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thanks, George. Good to see you.

GEORGE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. James. Next up we will hear from Maria Gotch followed by George Infinite and Najah Valera. Ms. Gotch, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

MARIA GOTCH: Good afternoon. I am very excited to be here to testify about life sciences which we believe is one of the great potential growth sectors of the New York City economy, particularly

coming out of Covid. We have had a long-standing partnership with the city, EDC, Sue and her team to try to make this belief a reality and we put our money where our mouth is and we have invested over 40 percent of our fund and various investments to support the growth of life sciences in New York. We have been tracking the growth of the sector and, when it comes to employment, business formation, and growth city product or economic output, the numbers over the last five years since the city made its investment are all up relative to where the overall city economy is. And, in particular, New York City has done a very good job of attracting investment capital and that is really the key thing because it is the investment capital in the individual companies that allow those companies to create jobs and supports the internship program that we all think is so important to the city. So, in 2020, the city attracted $2.3 billion of venture capital. That is up three times from the number the year before and that money is ongoing to support the entrepreneur companies in New York City. And how the city is thinking about the future growth and not current proposal to do $500 million is really about making an

investment in the two sides of the equation. The money to support the growth of real estate is an investment in the industry. It is not supporting an individual company, but it is building the infrastructure that multiple companies can use over the coming years to grow their companies, do their research within their wet lab space. And then, the internship program, which we have heard a lot about, we think it is critical for bringing in making sure that a wide variety of people in New York have access to a job. So, we think, in general, a very well-crafted plan by the city--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

MARIA GOTCH: life sciences. And then just a final word that the city's investment is within the context of other groups coming to support the industry. The state has made a big commitment. We have invested in a life sciences incubator program called Indy Bio which every year is cre-- bringing and supporting 20 companies and we believe that will be an important engine to support both the real estate that is being built and also to create jobs and potential internships that the city is paid for. So, we think, again, to conclude, life sciences has

great prospects and we think it will be a big growth sector for the city post-Covid. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks for your testimony and your work here to help been make investments from life sciences here in New York City, as well. Hope you are doing well. We will go to the next panelist.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council members. Thank you, Ms. Gotch. Next, we will hear from George Infinite followed by Najah Valera and Martin Bell. Mr. Infinite, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

ANTHONY GEORGE: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. My name is Anthony George and I am a member of Local 79. I am here to express my strong support for the growth and development of the life science industry. As a lifelong New Yorker who grew up in public housing, I believe the city would benefit from tens of thousands of good paying career opportunities for New Yorkers from disadvantaged areas and lifesaving cures and treatments for diseases. One key life science project city Council should fully support is

the City East, the expansion and innovation of the New York Blood Center on East 67th Street. The New York Blood Center is the leading supplier of blood for that area hospitals in New York and that development and treatment of sickle cell and other diseases impacting black New Yorkers and New Yorkers of color. In addition, its public health mission, this project will generate thousands of construction jobs with area sustaining wages and benefits to support workers and their families. The development partner, Longfellow, is committed to thoughtfully and inclusive development building with union labor and creating jobs for New Yorkers of color and low income households both union, construction, and in the life science sector. Opponents of this project are complaining about the people crowding their neighborhoods, like many local 79 members that have grown up in Queens Bridge housing in Long Island city just across the bridge from the proposed center. I helped that people like me looking for work in the Upper East Side medical corridor or simply to seek medical care on the [inaudible 01:39:17] residents and residents of East Harlem, South Bronx, and other neighborhoods hit hard by Covid. The city government

cannot afford to allow opposition from wealthy elites to stand in the way of thousands of family sustaining jobs for our community and life saving treatments. Thank you again for the opportunity to express my support.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks for being here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. George. Next, we will hear from Najah Valera and then Martin Bell. As a reminder, if you still wish to testify but have not heard your name called, please raise your hand in the zoom chat. Thank you very much. Mr. Valera, you may begin when the sergeant calls time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

NAJAH VALERA: Hi. Thank you so much. On behalf of the Greater New York Laborers Employers Cooperation and Education Trust in support of the life sciences industry. Greater New York LECET is a jointly managed trust fund of the Mason tenders District Council of Greater New York. In New York City, we represent 17,000 hard-working men and women in construction and 1200 signatory contractors. I just want to echo what some other folks have said.

We want to advocate for a life site sector that will not only work on science sector internships and lifesaving treatments, but will also contribute to the health of our communities by building with union labor that provides family sustaining health benefits and family sustaining wages. Again, I want to echo what folks have said about supporting a key project which is Wanted Center Beast on East 67th Street. The developer is committed to working with Local 79 on local hired to being thoughtful and inclusive in the neighborhood and building with union jobs and creating career opportunities for our members and for new internship opportunities and apprenticeship opportunities for new people. We hope that the Upper East Side would welcome people like our members who are largely immigrants and people of color and that our members would also benefit from the lifesaving treatments and cures that the blood center works on. Again, thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thanks for the testimony.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. And now our final panelist will be Martin Bell. Mr. Bell, you may begin when the sergeants call time.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

MARTIN BELL: Hi. My name is Marty Bell. I support life science. I work in life science, but I am violently opposed to one proposed project you have already heard about which is attempting to use life science bandwagon as a Trojan horse to get approved. I am talking about the Blood Centers propose 334 foot mid-block tower on a narrow side street up a set of the school and a park. As this committee knows, life science hubs can and should go in many locations, but not in every location and the blood center site on East 67th Street is perhaps the worst possible site. It is directly opposite Julia Richmond Educational Complex which is six schools, including one school for children with autism with 2000 students drawn from every city Council District throughout the city. That school complex currently enjoys, as you know, Council member Powers-- you were there at the rally. It enjoys bright sunshine all day long. This tower would put it in permanent darkness. It is opposed by every principal and every

teacher in every student in that school. You can't be for school children and support the blood center project. It is not possible. The blood center is also across from a park which-- in the tower would put most of that park in shadows all afternoon when it is most use by local seniors and families with school-age children. I would ask that this Council qualified support of life science hubs by requiring that they take into account the direct impact on the neighborhood in which the project is being proposed and the sentiments of the local community. Let me repeat again. You can't support and be in favor of schoolchildren and support the blood center project. It is just not possible. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Mr. Bell.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks, Marty.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Seeing no additional hands raised, at this time, once more, I would just like to save your name has not been called and you still wish to testify, please raise your hand using the zoom raise hand function. Seeing no

additional hands raised, I will turn it to acting Chair Council member Powers for closing remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks, everyone for being here. We have heard a lot of different examples and I think thoughts and ideas around the growth of the life sciences industry here in the future. I think we all recognize its place and importance in our long term economic growth year. So I appreciate and say thank you to EDC and everyone who came to testify here today and to talk about what is the future. Where, how, and what is the role relative to New Yorkers here particularly in our education system. So, I want to say thank you to all the staff from the Economic Development Committee here at the Council. So, thanks to the EDC and thanks for everyone being here today. With that, I'm not Chair Vallone, but I will close the hearing out and thanks everyone for being here.

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: That is me gaveling out. Thanks so much, guys. Thanks so much.

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 July 26, 2021