

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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Chairperson

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Robert Jackson
Darlene Mealy
Albert Vann
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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You ready? Good afternoon; welcome to today's Finance Committee hearing; my name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.; I'm chair of the committee. Today is our first hearing after the holiday break and I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and I wish everybody a happy Hannicha and I hope everyone looks forward to our last... 28 days, Mr. Deputy Mayor, right?

CAS HOLLOWAY: That's... that's what I'm told.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: That's... [laughter] Today the com... and we're joined by Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz, Council Member Al Vann, Council Member Cabrera, Council Member Jackson, Council Member Richards and Council Member Jimmy Oddo. Today the Committee on Finance will have a hearing on proposed Int. 1040, a Local Law that will require the administration to create an online database to track the funds in connection with the recovery efforts to Superstorm Sandy. The legislation is sponsored by Council Member Donovan Richards and I wanna thank him for spearheading this legislation.

If you remember, on November 15th this committee held a hearing on this proposed intro, but

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2 at that time the Mayor's produced someone from the
3 Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery to testify and the
4 council members had many, many questions to answer
5 and we were not... we asked the administration if they
6 could meet with us and last week Mr. Richards and
7 myself, Council Member Richards and myself met with
8 Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway and we saw the presentation
9 he's about to make and I wanna just thank him for
10 taking the opportunity, many of our questions were
11 answered and we had a great discussion about the
12 website that's goin' up, but I asked him to come and
13 make a presentation to the Full Finance Committee so
14 everyone understands that exactly is going on. So
15 today Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway and the Office of
16 Management and Budget are here to answer our
17 questions regarding Sandy funding and questions
18 related to the database that the administration's
19 implementing to see how it can accommodate the
20 provisions in our bill.

21 I will now turn the mic over to the co-
22 sponsor of the bill, Council Member Donovan Richards.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you
24 Chairman Recchia for the opportunity to speak today
25 on Int. 1040, which is a good bill that'll bring

1
2 transparency and accountability to the way taxpayer
3 dollars are spent in rebuilding communities rampaged
4 by Hurricane Sandy. It has been more than a year
5 since Hurricane Sandy reeked havoc across New York
6 City, causing catastrophic damage to the Eastern
7 Seaboard; to date many of my constituents in the
8 Rockaways still struggle to rebuild their lives;
9 insurance companies and FEMA seamlessly have short-
10 changed homeowners across New York City by ensuring
11 they give the bare minimum of assistance to help
12 residents get back on their feet; up until today
13 there are still more than 200 families and hotels
14 because relief hasn't reached them, to no fault of
15 theirs. This is why it is critical that we ensure
16 that federal, state and city funds that are coming
17 down the pipeline are being utilized and stretched to
18 the maximum to rebuild communities, create good jobs
19 and affordable housing; we can't afford to waste this
20 golden opportunity to ensure neighborhoods like the
21 Rockaways are more resilient and sustainable than
22 ever; this is why the Council must act quickly to
23 pass Int. 1040-A; this bill will provide the type of
24 transparency that not only New Yorkers ask for, but
25 what we as elected officials always promise them;

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2 this bill simply creates a database that tracks
3 expenditures associated with federal, state and city
4 funds which are supposed to go to rebuilding
5 neighborhoods from the Rockaways to Staten Island;
6 with nearly \$20 billion coming through New York City,
7 New Yorkers deserve to know where their taxpayer
8 dollars are being spent and that they are being
9 utilized to create opportunity. It is critical that
10 contractors that are receiving taxpayer dollars pay
11 living wage to their workers and that they hire local
12 qualified residents. It would be irresponsible of us
13 to allow contractors to hire individuals from Florida
14 when we have qualified residents who live in New York
15 City. We say to New York City, it's time to really
16 build it back with the federal dollars that
17 Washington has entrusted us with; we owe transparency
18 to those who have lost their lives and homes; we owe
19 transparency to those families and hotels, and most
20 of all, to taxpayers who are footing this bill.

21 Today we have a chance to pay off the
22 debt simply by showing everyone where the money is
23 being spent; our communities no long want to hear
24 announcements about money that has trickled down to
25 New York City, it's time for that money to trickle

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2 down into everyday New Yorkers' pockets. At a time
3 when the public trust of government is at an all-time
4 low we have a key opportunity to renew the public's
5 faith in government again and it simply starts with
6 two words, transparency and accountability.

7 Again, I thank you, Chairman Recchia and
8 my colleagues for your support on this bill. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very
11 much; we've been joined by Council Member Vincent
12 Ignizio and Council Member Oliver Koppell. Alright,
13 Mr. Deputy Mayor, you're on.

14 CAS HOLLOWAY: Thanks very much. Good
15 morning Chairman Recchia, Council Member Richards and
16 other members of the Committee; I'm Cas Holloway,
17 Deputy Mayor for Operations and with me today, to my
18 right, is Chief Analytics Officer, Mike Flowers, as
19 well as staff from OMB and many other city agencies
20 who will be here to answer questions as needed.

21 Since 2002 transparency has been a
22 priority of the Bloomberg administration, from the
23 creation of 3-1-1 to the recent Open Data portal
24 where New Yorkers can already access 1100 agency data
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2 sets; we strive to provide public information they
3 need to hold city government accountable for results.

4 There is a specific precedent for
5 tracking the use of federal funds, the City's
6 Stimulus Tracker, created to provide transparency
7 into the City's use of funding from the American
8 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This Stimulus
9 Tracker was described by the Nonprofit Research
10 Center, good jobs first as "one of the best Recovery
11 Act websites" that the Public Technology Institute
12 characterized as being, "at the forefront when it
13 comes to deploying technology at the local level."

14 Building on that record I am here to
15 testify today about Int. 1040-A, which would mandate
16 the creation of a website to provide information
17 about City spending on Hurricane Sandy-related
18 recovery efforts and that connection -- and this is
19 better than the presentation you saw, Mr. Chairman --
20 this morning at approximately 11 a.m. we launched the
21 Sandy Funding Tracker website on the Recovery section
22 of NYC.gov and we believe it goes a long way to
23 achieving the goals of Int. 1040-A.

24 While the site does not provide precisely
25 the same information that Int. 1040-A would require

1
2 the Sandy Funding Tracker will give New Yorkers a
3 high level of transparency into how much Sandy-
4 related funding the City receives and how and where
5 it is spent. Moreover, and this is a key point, the
6 tracker can be updated and improved as the recovery
7 continues; in fact, we're already working on
8 enhancements, including some job-related data, that
9 will be added to the site shortly; Mike Flowers will
10 guide you through the tool immediately following my
11 testimony.

12 We believe the Sandy Funding Tracker
13 obviates the needs for Int. 1040-A and that we could
14 work with the Council to provide additional
15 information on the site that would largely cover the
16 data that the law seeks to collect, with some
17 adjustments and exclusions that we believe are
18 necessary to protect individual privacy and ensure
19 that the reporting requirements established for this
20 funding do not unduly burden contractors who are
21 helping thousands of storm victims to recover or slow
22 the process of getting those funds distributed and
23 put to work.

24 Since Sandy hit just over 13 months ago I
25 have testified before the Council several times about

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2 our progress, which continues on many fronts. Thanks
3 to the leadership of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand;
4 the entire New York delegation, Congress appropriated
5 \$60 billion for Hurricane Sandy relief, approximately
6 \$10 billion to replenish the National Flood Insurance
7 Program and \$50 billion through the Disaster Relief
8 Appropriations Act of 2013, also known as the Sandy
9 Recovery Act. Four federal agencies received the
10 bulk of that funding -- HUD got \$16 billion to
11 administer Community Development Block Grants,
12 Federal DOT got \$13 billion for transportation
13 investments, FEMA received \$12 billion for public
14 assistance and individual assistance programs and the
15 Army Corps received \$5.3 billion for various
16 purposes; the rest, which really adds up to a few...
17 maybe \$1 billion or \$2 billion, went to a bunch of
18 other agencies.

19 Now the \$25 billion allocated to HUD and
20 FEMA are the primary sources of funds available to
21 New York City and the administration is working
22 aggressively to ensure that we get as much as
23 possible to assist those impacted by the storm,
24 repair and improve New York City's infrastructure
25 damaged by Sandy and make sure that New York City

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2 makes the investments necessary to protect all New
3 Yorkers from the impacts of climate change that are
4 already upon us. The Sandy Funding Tracker will
5 enable New Yorkers to follow our progress in these
6 efforts, which I will briefly summarize by funding
7 source, starting with FEMA.

8 The City estimates that Sandy caused \$4.6
9 billion of damage to City infrastructure and costs
10 related to immediate recovery and cleanup. The City
11 has spent \$1.6 billion on immediate disaster response
12 through September 30th and this is substantial, but
13 only a down payment on the capital investment that
14 will be necessary to fully recovery and rebuilt city
15 infrastructure. Through September 30 FEMA has
16 obligated approximately \$1 billion and we are working
17 closely with them to recover the rest, as well as
18 getting additional funding that FEMA makes available
19 to build back existing infrastructure stronger.

20 Craig Fugate and his team at FEMA have worked closely
21 with us on this and we expect that the reimbursement
22 process will continue for a number of months; as of
23 today, New Yorkers will be able to follow the
24 progress of these efforts through the funding
25 tracker.

1 HUD and CDBG funding. Congress
2 appropriated \$16 billion to HUD to distribute in the
3 form of Community Development Block Grants to assist
4 homeowners in rebuilding where FEMA, insurance and
5 other funding sources are insufficient to meet their
6 needs. This gap is called "unmet need" and CDBG
7 funding is intended to meet that need. In addition
8 to homeowners, CDBG funding is intended to meet the
9 unmet needs of businesses impacted by the storm, as
10 well as the City's unmet needs, which can run from
11 rebuilding costs and resiliency investment that FEMA
12 aid does not cover.

13 HUD releases CDBG funding in tranches,
14 based on its calculation of unmet need. To date they
15 have released \$11.1 billion, including about \$600
16 million for non-Sandy-related disasters of the \$16
17 billion that Congress appropriated through the Sandy
18 Recovery Act; that's approximately 73 percent of the
19 funding Congress made available after federal
20 sequestration is taken into account. Of this \$16
21 billion, the City has been allocated a total of \$3.2
22 billion in two tranches -- \$1.77 billion in an
23 allocation made in March and \$1.447 billion that was
24 just announced on October 28. To use this funding,
25

1 the City is required to develop an action plan that
2 HUD must approve. The City's plan for the first
3 \$1.77 billion tranche was submitted in April and
4 approve by HUD on May 10th; it allocated the first e
5 of funding in four priorities as follows: first, our
6 top and most immediate recovery priority is housing
7 recovery. The City allocated \$650 million for
8 housing programs, principally Build it Back, which
9 funds and performs repairs to homes and multi-family
10 homes and will build a new home if a particular house
11 was completely destroyed by Sandy. We allocated
12 nearly \$300 million for business recovery in the
13 impacted areas and have launched four programs,
14 including a loan and grants program, investments in
15 business resiliency, a game changer investment
16 competition and also spurring economic development in
17 hard hit areas and a competition to develop resilient
18 strategies. We also allocated \$360 million towards
19 the \$4.5 billion of infrastructure damage that I
20 talked about earlier and we allocated close to \$300
21 million to resiliency investments that will protect
22 all New Yorkers, including mitigation for buildings
23 and key coastal protection projects, some of which
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2 the members of this committee have been out and seen
3 already being built.

4 Our progress in all of these areas can
5 now be followed on the Sandy Recovery Tracker and we
6 will use subsequent releases to the site to increase
7 the level of detail reported in each category. Since
8 the City's initial action plan was approved in May,
9 we have worked closely with HUD to design these
10 programs in a way that meets all federal guidelines
11 and regulations. This extensive planning process and
12 the approvals we have received from the relevant
13 federal agencies ensure that aid goes first to those
14 New Yorkers who need it most and that we can ramp up
15 these programs quickly, allowing us to draw down
16 these funds fast and efficiently.

17 For example, since launched in June,
18 approximately 26,000 registrants have signed up for
19 Build it Back, of which there are about 22,000 unique
20 eligible households. We're working with thousands of
21 them to determine how much aid they're entitled to
22 receive and go over their rebuilding options. More
23 than 10,700 have completed their initial meeting to
24 review financial documents and eligibility, nearly
25 1,000 have had damage inspections, more than 200 have

1 completed the entire intake and eligibility process
2 and are now ready to review and select one of their
3 award options. New Yorkers can follow the process of
4 Build it Back step by step on the Sandy Recovery
5 Tracker, including where people are in all these
6 stages of the process.
7

8 As I noted earlier, HUD announced the
9 allocation of a second tranche of \$1.447 billion of
10 CDBG funding on October 28th. It's a little too
11 early to talk specifics, as we're in the process of
12 updating our action plan and a substantial amount of
13 the second tranche will go to Build it Back and
14 public housing. The public will have 30 days to
15 comment on the City's proposed allocation of these
16 needed funds and once the updated action plan is
17 approved, these allocations will be reflected in the
18 Sandy Funding Tracker, so you won't see today that
19 second tranche represented here, just because we
20 haven't submitted the action plan and it hasn't been
21 approved yet, but you'll get the idea.

22 A final note on the CDBG funding that HUD
23 is responsible for allocating -- as I noted, of the
24 \$16 billion HUD received in the Sandy Recovery bill,
25 it has allocated \$11.1 billion or 73 percent,

1 accounting for the impact of sequestration. That
2 means there is a significant amount of unallocated
3 CDBG funding specifically designated to address New
4 York City's unmet needs, which remain substantial.
5 Taking into account the second funding tranche, the
6 amount the City has received falls significantly
7 short of our needs in every category -- housing,
8 business recovery, resiliency and city operations.
9 The bottom line is that we appreciate what HUD has
10 already allocated, but we will need additional
11 allocations to meet all of the needs of New Yorkers
12 impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

14 As I noted at the outset, and I'm not
15 gonna just move to a couple brief issues on 1040-A,
16 we believe the legislation is not needed to achieve
17 the goals of 1040-A; instead, we'd be happy to work
18 with the Council to enhance the reporting of the
19 tracker that you'll see in a minute, but if the
20 Council does wish to proceed with legislation on this
21 subject as drafted, Int. 1040-A will first impinge on
22 the private of New Yorkers who choose to participate
23 in Build it Back and other recovery programs and two,
24 impose some unnecessarily burdensome reporting
25 requirements on people and contractors that could

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2 depress participation in the program, which I think
3 would have the opposite effect of what we would like
4 to see.

5 Regarding individuals, the bill would
6 require as drafted the City to public disclose every
7 address of a homeowner that receives recovery funds
8 and the names of every contractor in the program.
9 This requirement's overly intrusive and potentially
10 stigmatizing; that's one of the reasons why FEMA
11 expressly prohibits this type of disclosure in terms
12 of who is getting FEMA aid. Throughout the recovery
13 process, from the inspection of buildings to rapid
14 repairs to aid programs that we have coordinated with
15 FEMA and not-for-profits like the Mayor's Fund, we
16 have carefully guarded the privacy of homeowners and
17 businesses and will continue to do so.

18 The bill also seeks a high level of
19 detailed reporting on contractors working in the
20 program, as well as job data and other information.
21 At the outset it's important to note that the City,
22 through the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, and
23 with considerable assistance from DOI, runs a better
24 integrity and capacity program that I believe is
25 without parallel anywhere in the country. So in

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2 terms of making sure that contractors and other
3 vendors in the program are following all the rules,
4 you can be assured that they will. Regarding any
5 additional reporting sought through Int. 1040-A, I
6 believe we can come to agreement fairly quickly on a
7 level of reporting that is useful to provide on the
8 funding tracker that would be consistent with much of
9 what the bill seeks to collect, at least on an
10 aggregated basis.

11 For example, under Build it Back the City
12 has entered into job order contracts with three prime
13 contractors who will cover particular geographic
14 areas. In a future funding tracker release we can
15 and plan to report the names of these prime
16 contractors and all of the contract information
17 sought in the bill, as well as data about
18 subcontractors. With respect to job data for each
19 task order written under the prime contracts we can
20 calculate the amount of labor required to do the
21 work, which can serve as a proxy for job creation.
22 Certain requirements of the legislation, such as
23 salary reporting at particular levels and
24 distinguishing between "new jobs" and existing work
25 and preexisting jobs are impractical or unduly

1
2 intrusive, but we're excited to work with you to
3 establish a level of reporting that is useful,
4 practical and enables our contractors and our
5 programs to focus on getting the work done.

6 In addition to the prime contractors who
7 have a direct contract with the City under Build it
8 Back, homeowners can choose their own contractor --
9 we call it CYOC, Choose Your Own Contractor -- to do
10 the work and the City will work with them to ensure
11 that they pass a simple integrity check and meet
12 other basic capacity requirements. For these
13 contractors who we expect will work on 1-, 2- and 3-
14 family homes primarily, we anticipate being able to
15 report the aggregated amount of CDBG funding being
16 used to support the CYOC program and to list the
17 names of contractors who have been approved to do
18 work. This is good for the contractors who may be
19 able to Build it Back work for other homeowners as
20 well as to the public, who'll be able to know who is
21 doing Sandy-related recovery work.

22 So in the final analysis, working with
23 the Council on simple adjustments like the ones I've
24 described, we believe the Sandy Funding Tracker can
25 serve as a tool that 1040-A seeks to put in place.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

We believe the legislation's unnecessary, but if it does move forward, we're happy to work with you to make these simple changes and a couple of others to ensure that we don't impinge on people's privacy; don't dissuade them from participating in the program and make sure that we get the reporting that we need but not require so much that it slows the whole thing down. Now Mike will show you so much of what I described.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: So just so... for the Council Members, they're gonna show us now how the program works, so... so let him make the whole presentation and then we'll hold our questions for the end.

MIKE FLOWERS: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: But first I wanna thank you for being here today and thank you for putting up such wonderful pictures.

[laughter]

MIKE FLOWERS: Especially the one in which you appear, sir, correct?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [laughter]

MIKE FLOWERS: [laughter]

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yeah, that's the
3 best picture.

4 [laughter]

5 MIKE FLOWERS: On that note... good
6 afternoon, my name is Mike Flowers; I am the Chief
7 Analytics Officer for the City of New York; with me
8 today is my Chief of Staff, Nick O'Brien, who's gonna
9 help walk us through the site.

10 Since Hurricane Sandy hit New York City,
11 my office, the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics, has
12 managed the collection, synthesis, analysis and
13 dissemination of the relevant data to ensure that
14 recovery resources are allocated transparently,
15 effectively and equitably. I've been tasked by
16 Deputy Mayor Holloway with developing the Sandy
17 Funding Tracker website to provide transparency and
18 accountability around the City's use of federal
19 disaster recovery and resiliency funds. We work
20 closely with the Office of Management and Budget, the
21 Housing Recovery Office and other agencies involved
22 in the recovery effort. This site was launched today
23 and I would like to take the opportunity to
24 demonstrate the capabilities of the site and the
25 information presented therein. Before we look at the

1
2 site I'd like to note that this is the first version;
3 we will continue to develop it further as we identify
4 additional information that must be released.

5 New Yorkers can use the Sandy Funding
6 Tracker to track the City's use of federal disaster
7 recovery and resilience funds provided through the
8 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 and Sandy
9 Recovery Improvement Act of 2013. The Sandy Funding
10 Tracker provides a funding summary which gives an
11 overview of all disaster recovery and resilience
12 dollars allocated to date by funding type and funding
13 details. The Sandy Funding Tracker also provides
14 further detailed information about projects and
15 programs in each major category of disaster relief
16 funds.

17 The landing page provides a high level
18 overview of the two federal funding sources for
19 Hurricane Sandy funds administered by the City. They
20 are the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
21 Development or HUD, Community Development Block Grant
22 Disaster Recovery and the Federal Emergency
23 Management Agency Public Assistance. From here we
24 can use the navigation tools to get a summary of the
25 funding and the current status of those funds. All

1 of the charts and tables are clickable and will
2 provide more granular information on whichever area
3 the viewer is interested in. For example, if we
4 click on the CDBG we see the breakdown by category of
5 the \$1.77 billion grant allocation received from HUD
6 in the first tranche of funding. This breakdown
7 reflects the spending priorities outlined in the
8 City's CDBG action plan, which was developed in a
9 collaborative process with stakeholders across the
10 City. HUD has recently announced a second tranche of
11 funding and we will incorporate those figures in the
12 tracker once the new action plan is finalized, as
13 Deputy Mayor Holloway noted.

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15 The action plan allocates the CDBG
16 funding into five categories -- business,
17 administration and planning, housing, infrastructure
18 and resiliency. We have represented the allocation,
19 the spending to date and the funds finalized, and
20 those are defined also on the site in plain English.

21 If we click on any one of these
22 categories we can see the specific programs those
23 funds are dedicated to. In the business category,
24 for example, we see the City's four CDBG-funded
25 business recovery initiatives -- the Business Loan

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2 and Grant Program, the Business Resiliency Investment
3 Program, the Infrastructure and Building Resiliency
4 Technology Competition and the Neighborhood Game
5 Changer Investment Competition.

6 In this first release we have drilled
7 down even further on a number of the programs. For
8 the Business Loan and Grant Program, for example, we
9 provide details by borough of the funds approved and
10 the full-time and part-time jobs associated with
11 those awards.

12 We have also provided this additional
13 level of detail for the Build it Back Program which
14 assists homeowners, landlords and tenants whose homes
15 and properties were damaged by the storm. We see the
16 applications to the program broken down by borough,
17 along with the status of the application against the
18 program milestones. We also provide a breakdown of
19 applicants by zip code.

20 So the other source of federal funding,
21 FEMA, all funds are broken down by spending category
22 and then further, by city agency responsible for
23 those funds. For example, in funding for schools we
24 see the breakdown between CUNY, the Department of
25 Education and the School Construction Authority. We

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2 designed the tracker website to be user friendly and
3 accessible. The data visualizations and tables allow
4 users to click through to get more detailed
5 information or they can use the navigations tools to
6 target specifically what they're looking for. We
7 have link to the tracker from the NYC.gov recovery
8 site, the one-stop shop for New York City recovery
9 information. We have provided plain English
10 definitions of all the terms employed so that users
11 can better understand the information they are
12 looking at and a user guide to assist with
13 navigation.

14 We are committed to keeping all of this
15 information current; all financial information will
16 be updated quarterly and programmatic information
17 will be updated monthly. We already have significant
18 expansions planned for the site, including the
19 addition of tracking progress over time and back-end
20 improvements to make the update process seamless.
21 Also, kind of wanna note as an aside, while this is
22 viewable now, if you have an IOS-run system, like an
23 Apple product of some kind, while you'll be able to
24 see the site, you won't be able to click through it;

25

1
2 that functionality will be added this weekend; all
3 others it's working fine on.

4 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well inclu... it works for
5 Macs, right... [interpose]

6 MIKE FLOWERS: That's right. So if
7 you're at... if you're at your Mac at your desk, it'll
8 work, but IOS is a mobile platform; it doesn't yet
9 work, but it will this weekend.

10 CAS HOLLOWAY: And... [interpose]

11 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: So in other words,
12 you have to tell us we have to go buy a Mac.

13 [laughter]

14 MIKE FLOWERS: I'm doing no such thing.
15 [laughter] Anyway, the point of this site is to give
16 New Yorkers clear and granular information about how
17 and where Sandy recovery dollars are being spent,
18 while ensuring that we respect the privacy of
19 individuals receiving assistance. We welcome your
20 feedback to the site and we will continue to improve
21 it to increase accountability and efficiency and
22 ensure the funds are used in a transparent and
23 equitable manner. We're happy now to answer any
24 questions you may have.

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2 CAS HOLLOWAY: In fact, before... I wanna
3 do just an addendum to Mike's testimony, because I
4 wanna see if I can make this do a quick example that
5 lines up to some of the questions that you have for
6 what you're doing in the legislation.

7 So Chris, will you go to funding source...
8 [crosstalk]

9 MIKE FLOWERS: Nick.

10 CAS HOLLOWAY: I'm sorry?

11 MIKE FLOWERS: Nick.

12 CAS HOLLOWAY: Nick, right; sorry...
13 funding source, got to CDBG-DR, go to Build it Back,
14 go to single-family, scroll down. Okay, so this
15 shows your applications by borough, this shows all of
16 that; now hit that button, Contractor Info, up top.
17 Okay. So we have placeholders for the jobs created
18 that we're gonna be able to calculate on the basis of
19 unit pricing for workers. Now where do we get those?
20 Go back to recovery, 'cause there's already a ton of
21 information up here. Now go back onto the recovery
22 page. I just wanna make sure that you know... we don't
23 get sold short here. Go to Procurements, Contracts
24 and Jobs. Okay, go to... let's see, the... I just did
25 this... for the Department of Environmental... oh, go... oh

1
2 I'm sorry, keep going... Information for Contractors...
3 go. Okay. If you're interested in... the repair
4 program is Build it Back, the rebuild program is
5 HPD's program; let's just go to the repair program.
6 Okay. So the job order contract program, I had
7 mentioned that there were three prime contractors,
8 okay, who are in three different geographic areas.
9 Basically they are... some of them will do the work
10 themselves, they'll have subcontractors that'll be
11 done through direct contracts with the City and there
12 are benefits to doing that, just because the privacy
13 of the contracts with the City, so some things like
14 accountability and so forth on each individual job...
15 it's just easier for us to... we're gonna be working to
16 guarantee it in every case, but that's just when you
17 have a direct contract, that's one of the reasons to
18 do it with us; we'll also do all the work. But
19 Choose Your Own Contractor, I mentioned this, and let
20 me just say, months ago, when we knew that we were
21 gonna try to create this option, we worked with Small
22 Business Services to try to do intensive outreach to
23 small businesses in all of these impacted areas,
24 Minority and Women Business Enterprise contractors as
25 well, and so this site tells you step by step how if

1
2 you're a contractor you can sign up, basically get
3 prequalified and all you have to do is match yourself
4 up with someone you've known has signed up for this
5 program and they can tell us that they wanna work
6 with you. So let's just say you're willing to
7 perform the work according to pre-established unit
8 prices; this is important, they have unit prices,
9 okay. Alright. These unit prices, just so you'll
10 have an idea, these unit prices are the prices for
11 what we anticipate to be... and its pages; I mean it's
12 a unit price book, okay, it's highly detailed, but
13 you may be asking... one of the questions I'm
14 anticipating is; what are people paying? There is a
15 multiplier that I don't have on this sheet and I can
16 get the exact number; I just... I... I... but... for the
17 Choose Your Own Contractor Program, basically for the
18 job program we did a competitive bid where we said to
19 them, tell us what a multiplier is that you could..
20 you know, basically that's... the unit price
21 establishes the price for the thing, the multiplier
22 establishes what you're gonna get paid to get the
23 thing and put it in, okay. So 1.5 times all the
24 stuff you're gonna buy; the .5, you have to cover
25 your overhead and labor costs and so forth. So these

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2 unit prices are basically the same unit prices that
3 the job order contractors are gonna pay and the
4 multiplier is just... we... we did a... we bid out 12
5 different regions for the job contract program; the
6 multiplier is essentially a blended average of what
7 the multipliers were for that program. So if you are
8 a... say a, you know a small contractor and you wanna
9 do two homes on India Street, then... and you connect
10 with two homeowners there, you can go right here and
11 you can pretty much figure out like that how you get
12 in the program, what's a ballpark estimate of what
13 you're gonna be able to be paid and all of these
14 prices were established through competitive bidding,
15 okay. So I think it's important to link this
16 information up with the Sandy Funding Tracker because
17 at an aggregated level this tells you a lot of what
18 you need to know, particularly if you're a contractor
19 who wants to just, you know, go and do the work,
20 either as a subcontractor to the City's contracts or
21 as a Choose Your Own contractor. So I thought it
22 might be helpful to go through some of that.

23 So Nick, you can now go back to the
24 tracker and now we'll take any questions.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. First of
3 all, we're joined by Council Member Brad Lander; at
4 this time we'll start off with the sponsor of the
5 bill, Donovan Richards, followed by Minority Leader
6 Jimmy Oddo. Donovan Richards.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,
8 Deputy Mayor and I wanna commend you guys on the
9 amount of work you guys have certainly done on the
10 tracker; this is really a good... a good thing. First
11 I want to speak on the privacy concerns; the first
12 issue concerned the bill's definition of recipient,
13 which as written would include individual homeowners
14 and thus require their recovery assistance
15 information to be posted online. For homeowners,
16 would an adequate solution be to only provide zip
17 code information, mail provided to homeowners in such
18 zip code and type of funding provided thereby
19 maintaining individuals' privacy?

20 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well, any level of
21 aggregated reporting is gonna be better than
22 reporting at the home level. Nick, do you wanna just
23 go... I saw that you clicked at one point on the sign-
24 ups by zip code map; do you remember that?
25 [background comment] I just didn't remember what

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2 page it was and you... you were... you were moving so
3 deftly through the site... there we go. Okay. So you
4 know, you could easily create something like this,
5 which we have for registrations, that would show
6 rough... you could show the number of homes per zip
7 code; now if you only have one, you know... but even
8 then, you know it's not like you're necessarily gonna
9 be able to figure it out, but this basically is what
10 we call a heat map of registrations by... this is by
11 zip code; is that right? Okay. So you could do
12 something like that; that would certainly address...
13 it's not hard to do and it also would address the
14 privacy concern.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay, great.
16 Alright, that may... that should be an easy fix. Our
17 legislation... and I'm gonna speak on contractors now...
18 require the City to provide job creation and job
19 maintenance data and contracts entered into by the
20 City and contractors; while there are currently no
21 provisions in these contracts to report on job
22 creation and job maintenance, can't the City request
23 this information from the contractors without a
24 contract modification and while there certainly won't
25 be a contractual obligation for the contractor to

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2 provide this data to the City, isn't the monetary
3 consideration for these contractors to comply with
4 the City's request to ensure future contracts?

5 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well, could I... I wanna
6 start by trying to address the question maybe from a
7 slightly different starting point, which is; what
8 does it take to report job data and if you're gonna
9 take... let's just say a... there are two types of
10 contractors, right; we have the big jocks contractors
11 who are the, you know, three of the general
12 contractors; they're... all that contract data's gonna
13 be listed and you know, there's gonna be tons of
14 information about them. If you have took a... just a
15 general contractor who is in one of your
16 neighborhoods in Staten Island who is gonna do maybe
17 one home, okay, or say they're gonna do seven homes
18 over the course of the whole program; we know, based
19 on what... we will know, based on the unit price chart
20 that I showed you, plus the multiplier, how many
21 labor hours that contractor is gonna get... or any
22 contractor is gonna get paid to do that work and that
23 can easily be basically translated into a job number.
24 I mean, we can do all of that just based on knowing
25 the pure number of homes that a contractor is doing,

1
2 and from a... you know, for the bigger contractors,
3 could we ask them to do some additional level of
4 reporting? You know, potentially, but if the goal is
5 to try to get an accurate job number or a proxy for
6 job number, I think the City would have most of the
7 information in had to know what the economic impact
8 and the "job impact" is, because as a practical
9 matter; I mean look, I... my father's a general
10 contractor; I grew up doing work on his construction
11 sites; I mean you know, you guys all know these
12 contractors, so they have maybe three guys doing the
13 drywall and you know, they aren't necessarily gonna
14 hire somebody new to do these four homes; does that
15 mean they created three new jobs? No, because those
16 guys worked for the company beforehand, but it's the
17 level of economic activity that they're generating,
18 which I could tell you before they go onto the job,
19 which is good about this project, because sometimes
20 when you're doing it household owner to you, you
21 don't know what you're gonna end up paying, but this
22 time they know what they're gonna get.

23 So I feel like there is a way to report
24 this job data based on what we're already... what we
25 already know and what we will know about these

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2 contractors; asking them to provide us with it, I'm
3 not sure that it's gonna tell you anything... the data
4 I would submit, probably, isn't gonna be any... won't
5 be better and might be worse than what we can
6 calculate.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: So... Okay, I
8 won't get into that debate. How does your unit
9 pricing stack up against prevailing wage, so the unit
10 price and chart you gave?

11 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well those unit prices are
12 competitively bid, okay, so you... the first thing is,
13 we know that the market determined what those unit
14 prices would be and then the multiplier for the
15 Choose Your Own Contractors was determined through...
16 as a blended rate of a competitive bid for the jock
17 contracts. Here is the rough breakdown on prevailing
18 rate, okay; the state prevailing wage law applies to
19 public work; that means that prevailing wages are...
20 will be paid and that the Mayor's Office of Contract
21 Services and others, you know we do some enforcement
22 here and we certainly take complaints about this
23 stuff all the time -- any beach work, resiliency
24 work, any public work, okay; that is prevailing rate.
25 The... work on individual homes is not public work,

1
2 it's private work; it's not... or let's just say not
3 public work; it is not subject to prevailing rate.
4 So basically the bidding does not... you know, the bid
5 for those unit prices does not include, you know, a
6 requirement that they be bid out at prevailing rate;
7 there's one exception to this -- under HUD rules for
8 CDBG grants, if a unit that you are working on has
9 eight units or more, then Davis-Bacon applies, and if
10 Davis-Bacon applies, that's essentially the State,
11 you know, equivalent of the prevailing rate law. So
12 that's the breakdown, I guess, at a macro level.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alright; I just
14 would hope that if you guys are giving taxpayer
15 dollars to contractors that they are paying some sort
16 of prevailing wage; I would hope that no one is
17 being, you know, certainly underpaid here.

18 I'll just sum up; I just have a few more
19 questions. What agency or agencies will be
20 responsible for creating this database... for actually...
21 not... sorry, for maintaining the database, actually?

22 [background comment]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: For inputting
24 all information?

25

1
2 MIKE FLOWERS: I'm sorry; I could speak
3 to that, sir. My office is basically the project
4 manager of the entire opera... [crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: And your office
6 is again?

7 MIKE FLOWERS: The Mayor's Office of
8 Analytics.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay.

10 MIKE FLOWERS: We work with DoITT and the
11 agencies that submit the data to OMB and OMB.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: And how much
13 money... I guess this question is more for the Deputy
14 Mayor... we've got a lot of complaints on the Build it
15 Back Program and how many people have applied and I'm
16 talking about from March, February, and they haven't
17 heard anything back on that program; is there any
18 update on how soon, you know movement will happen on
19 Build it Back?

20 CAS HOLLOWAY: Sure. Well... well first,
21 just to be fair to the effort, the action plan was
22 approved in May, Build it Back was launched in June
23 and we did very aggressive outreach for registration,
24 so we now have 26,000 registrants, 22,000 individual
25 property homeowners and why don't you go to... Nick,

1
2 the... we can... go to the drill-down page. Okay; is
3 that the... there we go. Okay. Here are the macro...
4 so... so the Build it Back Program breaks down into...
5 what you're showing here is one, two, three, four,
6 five, six... seven critical milestones, okay --
7 registration document collection and review, damage
8 inspection, award calculation, award selected, okay,
9 and then construction. Now... and... stay up... stay up...
10 or uh you can go down to the table, sorry. Okay; is
11 this the same program milestones for the multi- and
12 single? Okay, good. So this actually shows you at a
13 very granular level where we are for all these. So
14 we have done a lot of initial applications;
15 completed, you know, about 50 percent of the 22,000
16 individual homes, 10,700; they've had an initial
17 meeting and initial document collection; this... damage
18 inspections, we've done about a 1,000, but that's not
19 a gating issue and it goes in parallel with this
20 document collection. The... move back up real quick...
21 so this... for the single-family homes, the award
22 selection... so award calculation completed and award
23 selection, that right now you don't see a large bar
24 there, but I can tell you, we are working intensively
25 to try... to make sure that we get... start to push as

1 many people through that as possible; it actually
2 takes quite a bit of time; we have to get... and there
3 is another flowchart that goes behind this one that
4 shows you all of the different sources of potential
5 funding that you have to verify; we have to get
6 verification from the private insurance company,
7 flood insurance, FEMA, Rapid Repairs; we have to add
8 all of that up; we have to add that up against their
9 income; we have to take the damage assessment that we
10 do in the field; we have to verify what they say
11 their damage is, what their eligibility is and then
12 you basically put that through a formula and it comes
13 out with a number, and the number is, how much aid
14 they're entitled to get and then we say to them, this
15 is the level of work that you're entitled to; we have
16 contractors you can pick or you tell us somebody you
17 wanna work with. So, I guess, we have definitely, in
18 terms of all the registrations, I would say we're 50
19 percent through that initial meeting and the document
20 collection and working intensively; we're ramping up
21 the number of people doing that; we'll also be
22 ramping up the number of people... you know we really
23 just this month, just in November, were able to start
24 finishing enough of these applications to make award
25

1 selections. In December we're gonna ramp up those
2 award selections; now I think we're probably at about
3 80 people who have actually selected awards, which
4 starts the flow to the contractors. But this is
5 gonna be something that, you know, throughout 2014
6 and into 2015 we will see this construction process
7 go. Now, my experience is that, if you look at the
8 program like Rapid Repairs, we announced Rapid
9 Repairs in November; [background comment] we... now
10 that was simpler, because a homeowner, all they had
11 to do was sign a piece of paper, they didn't have to
12 tell us anything about them; they could be a
13 millionaire, they could be somebody who, you know,
14 had been unemployed for six months; we went in and
15 fixed their heat, power and hot water; by January we
16 were doing, you know, 300... about a hundred a week... a
17 day, I'm sorry, and by February... between the end of
18 January and February we were doing something like 300
19 completions a day. So I'm confident that we will see
20 a significant pick-up in once the construction gets
21 going; it's just perfecting this process of trying to
22 make as efficient as possible getting everything you
23 need and making sure you don't miscalculate what
24 people are owed; that's the challenge.
25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Just two more
3 questions, and this is back on the contractor
4 integrity HUD requirements. Currently HUD imposes
5 contractor requirements that ensure vendor integrity,
6 in addition to prevailing wage requirements and
7 Section 3 requirements, which require job employment
8 and contract opportunities for low- or very low-
9 income residents in connection with projects and
10 activities; what other requirements are imposed by
11 HUD that relate to contract integrity and are there
12 any additional requirements imposed on the contractor
13 by the City and how does the City enforce these
14 requirements, and that'll be the end of my questions.

15 CAS HOLLOWAY: Okay. So the... in terms
16 of... let me just sort of see if I can get the HUD
17 answering. Just as a matter of hiring from local
18 communities. So there's kind of a bit of a tension
19 between state and federal law in terms of the extent
20 to which this is explicitly allowed in contracts;
21 however, HUD's notice from last March when they did
22 this allocation basically had a requirement that
23 encourages geographic preference and so... or allows
24 for the encouraging of geographic preference, which
25 you would interpret to mean, I guess, the communities

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2 where the harm was suffered and where the need is
3 going, and so in our contracts we have said
4 explicitly the City encourages contractors to
5 understand the local community and use local
6 resources where appropriate, so that requirement's
7 there, that encouragement is there; it is something
8 that we talk about with our contractors; we are
9 actively doing... and I've personally initiated this
10 process, based on all the MWBE work that I've done
11 with SBS and you know, the local one related stuff,
12 to do outreach meetings with contractors in the areas
13 that are hardest hit and just direct them to how to
14 sign up, because that's the key; helping them to
15 understand how to actually engage and do work with
16 the City. My experience is that many of these small
17 businesses, you know, there's an intimidation factor
18 when it comes to doing work for the City or they
19 believe that they're not gonna be able to wait 45 or
20 90 days or longer to make their first payment,
21 because the City basically can't give you a \$20,000
22 advance like you can between two private parties.
23 Now SBS has a construction loan grant program that we
24 put in place explicitly to address that. So I think
25 that the encouragement is in the contract, but we are

1
2 also... you know, whether it's allowed or not, we are
3 aggressively recruiting firms in the neighborhoods
4 that were hardest hit to be part of this program.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: And you'll give
6 us a list of those? Can you give us a list of those
7 firms? Okay. [crosstalk]

8 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah, absolutely. Yes.
9 Yes. And as the Choose Your Own Contractor list
10 grows, and we want it to grow, it's gonna be up here;
11 I mean one of the things that isn't up here yet, you
12 didn't see a lot of data in those contractor tables,
13 but you're gonna see the data on all of the jocks
14 contracts and will be able to put their subcontracts
15 up, but Choose Your Own Contractor will... you know,
16 we'll be able to put the aggregate amount that is
17 being dedicated to the program and a list of all of
18 the contractors who are in the program and I think...
19 what I have tried to emphasize and it would be
20 helpful if the members of the Committee would do that
21 as well; it is very easy to sign up to work in this
22 program, very easy, comparatively. Okay, literally
23 everything that you could need is there and then SBS'
24 programs can help you, even if... you know, there's a
25 bonding requirement of \$250,000 depending on what

1
2 level of construction that you're doing; we have
3 programs that can help with that. So we are gonna...
4 look, tell us... give us 10 companies and we'll try to
5 get them into the program, or 50.

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Council Member

7 Jimmy Oddo, but before that I wanna recognize we've
8 been joined by Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; after
9 Council Member Jimmy Oddo, we'll have Council Member
10 Brad Lander.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you Mr.

12 Chairman; thank you gentlemen. I don't wanna talk
13 about the legislation; I wanna talk about the over-
14 arching issue, if I might, Mr. Chairman, and I guess
15 I wanna speak publicly about issues that you and I
16 have been talking about privately and I am grateful
17 for the generosity of your time these last weeks and
18 months in particular. For those of us who represent
19 the hardest hit areas, obviously our top priority is
20 getting people back to being as close to whole as
21 possible... [background comment] thank you... and so I...
22 the part of your testimony that was particularly
23 interesting to me was the breakdown in the money so
24 far in tranche one and your comment about tranche
25 two. Some elected officials, including our local

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2 congressman, have been quite critical of the
3 administration and I wanna give you an opportunity to
4 publicly sort of respond to that; I... he's used words
5 like priorities misaligned and he wants the City to
6 reprioritize, and I guess the gist of what he's
7 saying is, he believes that of the first tranche, the
8 \$1.7... the \$600 million wasn't enough. So I want you
9 to talk about... if you wanna respond to those in
10 particular, fine, but talk about housing as a
11 priority and expand if you will on tranche two and
12 what the City's mindset is as we move forward with
13 that one, specific to making housing a priority.

14 CAS HOLLOWAY: Sure. Well first of all,
15 and I think it's clear that in terms of where the... if
16 you judge priorities where the single largest
17 allocations that we've made have gone, housing wins;
18 you know, it's \$650 million to housing and then you
19 have \$300 million in resiliency, \$300 million to
20 business recovery, but some of that actually goes to
21 making businesses more resilient, so you know,
22 there's a construction element to that too, and then
23 you have about \$360 to City operations.

24 Now, we made those allocations... I mean
25 here's how, in an operations context, what I was

1 thinking, which is the following: \$650 million was
2 plenty to get the program fully up and running, and
3 we have developed a massive organization to roll out
4 this program. I mean, this website, I hope it's
5 clear from... and Nick, why don't you just go back to
6 the beginning of the recovery website, okay. We
7 have... you know, thousands of hours has gone into... we
8 have contractors who are ready to go, we have all of
9 the specifications of this very complicate program
10 already worked out; we have a whole customer service
11 organization that has been stood up to get people in
12 and you know, honestly, if it was a little easier to
13 calculate what people are entitled to get, we would
14 be moving a little faster. But you know, the
15 thinking was that that allocation, a significant
16 allocation from the first tranche, is certainly
17 adequate to get the program running; we do not have
18 any funding issue with housing in terms of running
19 the Build it Back program and so, we made what I
20 think was the judicious decision... it is clear from
21 the Sandy bill itself, from HUD and from FEMA and the
22 allocations, that housing is a top priority; a top
23 priority for the federal government and a top
24 priority for us and that's reflected in our funding,
25

1 but the resiliency and business recovery and even the
2 city infrastructure dollars were also explicitly
3 called out and so we did not choose any one area to
4 put 100 percent of the funding, mostly because you
5 couldn't use it, certainly effectively, even if you
6 wanted to symbolically put it all there. I can tell
7 you for the second tranche, and we haven't made the
8 announcement yet, but a significant chunk of that...
9 you will still see... [background comment] the tranche
10 is not... I can say two things with certainty -- one is
11 that 100 percent of that funding will not go to any
12 single category of those four categories, so there
13 will be some division of the funding, but a
14 significant, you know, and a very significant portion
15 of the funding will go to housing recovery, because
16 we also know a heck of a lot more now than we did in
17 June; we know that we have 22,000 people signed up,
18 we know that 50 percent, on average, of those
19 homeowners who are signed up are priority one; that
20 means that they make less than 80 percent of AMI and
21 are the most severely damaged homes. You know, we
22 didn't know any of that when the first allocation was
23 made in March, we knew we had a need, but again, you
24 know, the analytics behind what we know... you know,
25

1
2 again, we say 26,000 people; we know a lot about
3 these 26,000 registrants, we know what their self-
4 reported damage is, we know what their self-reported
5 income is, we know where they live, we know whether
6 they've gotten awards from FEMA at all; we know
7 whether they've done any partial recovery or they
8 just need reimbursement, about 50 percent of this
9 group has done some work in the home, but not all the
10 work in the home; we know that about a 1,000 of the
11 22, and I think this number has probably dropped at
12 this point; at some point were telling us that they
13 were not in their home and we know that that number
14 has actually gone down to some extent. I mean, we
15 know a lot about this group that we need to help that
16 we didn't know and so it makes sense now for the
17 second tranche to say, okay, well now I know what my
18 priority one group is and what my priority two and
19 priority three are roughly gonna look like, so we can
20 make, you know, a more intelligent allocation.

21 We also know a couple of other things; we
22 know now much more fully what the level of damage is
23 to city infrastructure and we wanna make some
24 investments like Crescent Beach and others that we
25 have been out at together that are gonna... we need to

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2 start making those investments now, they take years
3 to do and you don't know when and where the next
4 storm is gonna hit, so you wanna make a sensible
5 allocation, but the prioritization is still clearly
6 gonna be housing; let me say one more thing -- but
7 also, there is then business recovery, okay, which
8 you know, critically important, and we have allocated
9 a lot of resources there and we're gonna need to see
10 in some of these categories; does the need match up
11 with what we thought we need and where it's gonna be
12 allocated finally on resiliency piece. If you look
13 at the Mayor's plan, okay, what does it tell us? It
14 tells us what the significant vulnerabilities of the
15 city of New York are, in terms of the coast, the
16 critical networks that we need to keep the City
17 running and the climate predictions tell us that
18 storm surge, heat and downpours are the most
19 significant threats that we face. So we can't go
20 after just one of these issues, we have to do a
21 multi-front approach with a clear prioritization of
22 homes first.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Okay. Two quick
24 questions on that. Everything you just said I'm
25 trying to understand through the prism of one

1 sentence in your testimony, and that is, the bottom
2 line is we appreciate what HUD has already allocated,
3 but we will need additional allocations to meet all
4 of the needs of New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane
5 Sandy. So appreciate significant chunk of tranche
6 two going to housing, but in the bigger picture,
7 where are we in terms of meeting the needs of
8 everyone impacted; are you confident that we will do
9 that and how much more and what is the state of
10 discussions with HUD to get that additional amount of
11 money?
12

13 CAS HOLLOWAY: Okay. Well so, there's a...
14 gonna try to tackle that, and first, am I confident
15 about that everyone will ultimately get help who
16 signed up for the program or who needs it for
17 homeowners? I feel pretty confident that yes, the
18 answer to that question is yes. I think that... it's
19 not... it won't happen for everyone as... I mean look,
20 it's not happening for anyone as fast as they would
21 like, everybody would like this to be done and I
22 acknowledge... so I want to acknowledge that off the
23 top, but I think, even within the context of the
24 program, you know, it won't happen as fast as some
25 people would like, but I do think we will be able to

1
2 ultimately help everybody in the program, because I
3 think not only are we making the case to HUD, you
4 know, to make sure that we get all that we need to
5 meet these needs, but I think there will also be a
6 reshuffling of some dollars within these categories
7 as we go to make sure that, you know, that we ultima...
8 I don't think the time is there yet for that, but I
9 think that, you know we may see some rebalancing,
10 depending... and I think we're gonna run a good
11 program, so I think that we'll ultimately be able to
12 satisfy a lot of the need. But we are right now
13 working very intensively... look, we think that our
14 data shows, and we're putting this together for HUD,
15 that our unmet need is still very significant; we're
16 pointing out where that is in terms of homeowners in
17 particular and we believe it is gonna make the case
18 for an additional allocation that's gonna basically
19 close any gap that we would have on the homeowner
20 side. And look, \$4 billion is still there that you
21 allocated for this purpose. I think, I guess; I'm
22 not gonna speak for HUD, but if I had to guess, that
23 probably... you know that bill required them to retain
24 funding for other emergencies, we've seen a couple of
25 others, in Colorado and one or two others; there was

1
2 also \$600 million of payments that went to other
3 disasters that were allocated in there, but the fact
4 is, there is a significant amount that is still
5 there, so once the year ends, I would argue that you
6 don't have to be conservative anymore; now you can
7 just make sure that the money gets used for the
8 purpose for which it was intended.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Mr. Chairman, I'll
10 close at this -- you know, I've... in the 12 years
11 that... my council tenure's overlap with the Bloomberg
12 administration; I haven't been shy in going head to
13 head with you guys when I thought it was my job and I
14 haven't been shy about kicking in the shins when I
15 thought that's what I needed to do; with less than 30
16 days remaining, I'm trying to squeeze out, you know
17 as much cooperation as possible and I think the best
18 way I can help my constituents in the remaining days
19 as a council member is to work as collaboratively
20 with you as possible, so I appreciate that help. I
21 guess my question is; what happens on January 2nd,
22 new administration coming in; what happens to this
23 program; is it already on a path and the train has
24 left the station... although that might be a terrible
25 pun today, given the situation yesterday, but is it..

1
2 you know, can it be altered; do we have to worry
3 about that, those of us who will be still in city
4 government; do we have to worry about a new
5 administration coming in and changing this on a dime
6 or is it, you know, well underway to the point where
7 it can't?

8 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well, I guess I won't
9 answer that in terms of worry, you know, transition
10 means there will be change certainly in lots of
11 things, but this plan requires the approval of HUD
12 and it requires... you know, all of that funding is for
13 unmet need for disaster-related purposes primarily
14 and above all else, Sandy-related disaster purposes.
15 I think if you look, and HUD and you know, Secretary
16 Donovan has told me this personally, New York City's
17 data is among the best they've ever gotten,
18 demonstrating what the need is, that's there; that
19 corpus of work is there that demonstrates, I think in
20 pretty exacting detail, what the level of damage that
21 New Yorkers suffered is, where that damage is and
22 what it's gonna take to fix that damage. I think
23 that's not gonna change, so I think it would be... you
24 can try to go through the action plan process again
25 and make adjustments and things like that, but I mean

1
2 unless you're gonna not use the funding for those
3 purposes or try to, I think we will have set up a
4 good framework to approach helping New Yorkers make
5 that ultimate recovery.

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Council
7 Member Brad Lander; then it'll be Council Member
8 Vincent Ignizio.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Chairman for convening this follow-up
11 hearing and I wanna say thank you to the Deputy Mayor
12 and the Director; we really appreciate this level of
13 detail and obviously much more, the work behind it,
14 both the work to capture the information and make it
15 available to us and to all New Yorkers and then of
16 course the work behind it and I think I do wanna
17 start by saying, well as you know, there's a couple
18 of areas on 1040 that we need to work through in the
19 big picture, the goals that we share in getting this
20 work done and that in making it clear and transparent
21 and keeping an eye on it are really overwhelming, so
22 I wanna just say a big thank you; I was not happy at
23 the earlier hearing and today I'm glad to see this
24 information and we're on... [interpose]

1
2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: They brought you
3 the whole product.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And that we're on
5 the same page, and part of the reason that we were
6 distressed there is that I think probably we know
7 we're on the same page in getting this work done and
8 getting communicating about, so I just really wanna
9 start by saying that; the work is incomplete and
10 there's a lot more to do, as you yourself said, but
11 there's an enormous effort that gone into it from so
12 many people in the City and in the private sector and
13 doing the work and communicating about the work and
14 then reporting on it, so... and we appreciate that not
15 just getting that work done, but setting up a system
16 like this take a lot of time and a lot of effort and
17 a lot of energy and we're really appreciative of it.

18 So the first question I wanna ask,
19 follow-up on these questions of transition; I mean
20 part of the reason why we wanna have a Local Law to
21 make sure that this is required and not just hey,
22 it's great, is that we want it continuing, so this is
23 good, but if it just stays here or it stays to
24 wherever you get it on December 31st, that's not
25 gonna be good enough; as you pointed out, this is a

1
2 long-term process and I think it's our responsibility
3 as the Council to set something up that makes sure we
4 update this, that we continue it for as long as it
5 takes to, you know, make every homeowner whole, but
6 also to continue... you know, receive and retrieve and
7 spend all this money. So I first just wanna get a
8 little clearer on... so you showed us that page for
9 example of applications for Build it Back, so that's
10 gonna be being updated for a long time to come, until
11 the bottom line is... I mean it won't be in the 100
12 percent of the top line, there'll be a few drop offs
13 along the way, but obviously there's a long way to
14 go. So just walk me through a little better the path
15 for how that gets updated, you know, obviously,
16 because I think as we move into transition we wanna
17 make sure not only that we're confident the work is
18 continuing, but that the ability to update and
19 continue to make it transparent and provide the
20 information to the public; continue... I assume it's
21 not every single time a contractor goes to a home
22 they have a hand-held device that automatically
23 updates the website, so walk us through how these
24 different pieces of the work are getting done and
25 then how the data gets to you and gets up on the

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2 website and how we can make sure that continues, you
3 know after transition.

4 MIKE FLOWERS: I can take that. So the
5 data... the financial information will be updated
6 quarterly, alright, and it aligns with the federal
7 reporting obligations. [interpose]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And OMB...

9 MIKE FLOWERS: And OMB provides the
10 information to us... [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: provides that
12 information.

13 MIKE FLOWERS: and OMB collects that
14 information from the agencies that are actually
15 expending the funds, alright. So... you know, so that
16 quarterly update will certainly occur, it's almost
17 self-executing; they have to collect it, they have to
18 report it; there is no reason not to then surface it
19 on the webpage, right. [interpose]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So if we were...
21 and I'm not saying we're gonna drill down and make
22 the law even a little more detailed, [laughter] but a
23 quarterly financial update is gonna happen, because
24 it has to go to the feds and OMB's gonna collect it

1
2 and that's the appropriate timetable for updating
3 this?

4 MIKE FLOWERS: I mean that's correct,
5 broadly speaking.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Okay.

7 MIKE FLOWERS: And then, there are, you
8 know, other programmatic information that we will be
9 updating monthly, right. You know, Nick, you wanna
10 give an example of both, right, so why don't you show
11 the Council an example of that which will be updated
12 quarterly based on the federal requirements and that
13 which we expect to update monthly, and then I can
14 describe as he's doing that how we expect those
15 updates to go.

16 So for this initial round of the site,
17 these are manual, and by manual I mean, there was... my
18 engineer manually entered information that was
19 provided to us so that it could be visualized. In
20 the next round of this, that will be automated so
21 that... or much of it will be automated, so that we
22 ourselves... my goal here, generally sir, is to remove
23 the human fingerprints from the process so that it
24 doesn't matter that there's a transition, in some
25 senses, because we still have, for example, you know,

1
2 transparency obligations, right; this may not fit
3 squarely within open data, but you know, it is
4 certainly a first cousin of open data in terms of
5 what we seek to achieve, as Deputy Mayor Holloway
6 mentioned. And then from... you know that what must
7 remain manual, a lot of that has to do with the fact
8 that OMB itself must do a significant amount of labor
9 each quarter to get those figures in shape to report
10 to the feds and once that's available, then we can
11 surface it. So Nick... so what's... give us an example
12 of a quarterly update.

13 So this is CDBG... could you please tell us
14 what... what... [interpose]

15 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: This will all be
16 updated monthly... [crosstalk]

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Hold on. Hold on,
18 put a microphone on.

19 MIKE FLOWERS: Now... now, please... start
20 off with a quarterly, so give us an example of a
21 quarterly update. [crosstalk]

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Just state... state...
23 tell 'em who you are.

24 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah.

25

1
2 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: Nicholas O'Brien,
3 Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office... Nicholas O'Brien,
4 Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office of Data Analytics. So
5 all the financial information that is under the
6 funding sources that you see here, that we were just
7 going through, will be on the quarterly update and
8 then for the ones where we have drill-down
9 information... [interpose]

10 CAS HOLLOWAY: So wait, Nick... So the
11 allocated bar will probably then change for the
12 second tranche and we can figure out how to visualize
13 that; you could visualize it two different ways, you
14 can just blend it together or you can have a double
15 split bar; you guys get to have all the fun to decide
16 that. But, then the red and the green bars will be
17 updated quarterly and that also just makes sense,
18 because you know, there's a nice definitions page
19 which is really useful actually, but I mean, it's not
20 the way that we think about... when the money's
21 allocated and we know the money's been allocated to
22 us, this is how... the reason we're able to build this
23 massive organization to do Build it Back is because
24 we're fronting the money; I mean we're spending lots
25 of resources to move this program along; we haven't

1
2 gotten the HUD money yet, so you know, that
3 continues... anyway.

4 MIKE FLOWERS: So the updates will kinda
5 balance a couple of things; one is the labor
6 allocated by OMB towards getting the figures ready
7 that must be surfaced; another is the specific data
8 source and type and activity that it reflects and
9 then another is just trying to strike a balance
10 between, as you said, do we wanna update every time
11 we bought a new hammer versus do we wanna do it in a
12 way that it can actually be digested and usable? So
13 we kind of hit on monthly as a good balance there.

14 CAS HOLLOWAY: And that, by the way, the
15 data for the Build it Back office, the business
16 recovery office; I mean they have got data analytics
17 people there, you know, and having gone... still going
18 through the FEMA process, you know, you've gotta have
19 this stuff, so.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And this is... I
21 don't know, 15 or 20... at least a dozen agencies it
22 looks like and a good number of programs who are
23 generating this program data and who know they need
24 to be feeding it to you monthly?

1
2 MIKE FLOWERS: Yeah, Nick; do you wanna
3 show 'em an example of the programmatic information
4 that's updated monthly? [interpose]

5 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: And so...

6 MIKE FLOWERS: The... the short answer is
7 yes, alright, if... structurally speaking, the way
8 these grant applications are decided, you must have
9 this data. So this isn't really a change-over issue...
10 [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So this aligns
12 with the grant reporting... [interpose]

13 MIKE FLOWERS: That's correct.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: process; it needs
15 to be assembled anyway to give to HUD and you then
16 are also putting it up here, but there's not an
17 additional...

18 CAS HOLLOWAY: We were able to build this
19 so quickly because we had to build... [crosstalk]

20 MIKE FLOWERS: We already had it.

21 CAS HOLLOWAY: we did it; I mean...
22 [crosstalk]

23 MIKE FLOWERS: Right.

24 CAS HOLLOWAY: and we also learned a lot
25 from Rapid Repairs and other things; I mean, you

1
2 know, so actually, that's why it wasn't that... I mean
3 it was hard, it was a lot of work, but you know, it
4 wasn't the hardest thing we've ever done.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Alright, so you
6 mentioned this issue of getting the money that we've
7 laid out and some of... at least my interest in this,
8 came from a conversation that we had with Budget
9 Director Page in the budget hearings this spring
10 where it was clear that there was meaningful concern
11 about us getting the money back that we'll... I mean at
12 that point it was really the funds that had been laid
13 out during the crisis itself, but in some ways that's
14 ongoing, so just help me see where on this site we're
15 gonna be able to use this to, you know, keep the
16 focus on making sure we get back from the federal
17 government what we've laid out.

18 CAS HOLLOWAY: Alright. So Nick, just
19 hang on for one second, go back to the summary of
20 CDBG. CDBG... now, just move down so we can see the
21 bars; how do we get to the bars? Uh... [interpose]

22 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: They're on the build-
23 out.

24 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah. Well, for all... how
25 we allocate... [background comment] the summary page...

1
2 does the summary page... does that show it, or is this
3 show... [interpose]

4 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: Summary page; this
5 will have it by...

6 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah.

7 NICHOLAS O'BRIEN: and the programs are
8 on the individual.

9 CAS HOLLOWAY: Right. Okay. Go ahead.

10 Yeah, so for these allocated amounts, you know for
11 the CDBG funding; I mean, they've told us what
12 they've given us; we've allocated it to programs, and
13 basically you can watch the bar, one bar catch up to
14 the other bar as we iteratively do that with them.

15 FEMA funding; you wanna go to the FEMA
16 site? Let's... wait, let's go to... oh uh... okay. Okay,
17 this is... this chart, this is something to look at,
18 okay. So if you look at cost tracker, right, and
19 here is where your terms and definitions are actually
20 useful; that's basically the amount that the City
21 estimates we have laid out or will lay out, okay,
22 that we are then... think we could get granted from
23 FEMA that will ultimately be obligated to the
24 programs, you know, and count as spent.

1
2 So we are now working with FEMA, and this
3 really goes into... this is about project worksheets,
4 so you have to do hundreds of these project
5 worksheets at a project level for, you know,
6 repairing the lights on the Belt Parkway, for
7 example, and actually, that's an example; that might
8 actually be under the transportation act, but it's
9 the same kind of thing, or Coney Island Hospital,
10 okay. So I have personally... if you just wanna know a
11 little bit about this... five city agencies basically
12 account for 95 percent of the FEMA spend that we are
13 working to recoup -- the Parks Department, NYCHA, the
14 Health and Hospitals Corporation, DOT and the School
15 Construction Authority; then there's DEP and a couple
16 of others, a lot of agencies have done it, but if you
17 wanna go to the big numbers. So each of those
18 agencies is working with OMB to develop a series of,
19 you know, kind of a waterfall internally of project
20 worksheets for all of the hundreds of projects that
21 we believe, because they were damaged, were able to
22 get public assistance funding from FEMA to get.

23 So you will be able... can you hit
24 hospitals; does that go further down? Okay. So you
25 see granted obligated spent, funds finalized; it

1
2 actually looks like here you're not doing necessarily
3 too badly between what you... the 145 and the spent.
4 Go to DOT. Okay. So you see the spent, you know,
5 and this is... but if you go to the total... oh, this is
6 the dollar amounts... the estimated chart that I showed
7 you before shows something like \$800 million to fully
8 recoup... redo what we need from FEMA for DOT related
9 stuff; FEMA or the Federal Department of
10 Transportation... [interpose]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: That's the cost
12 tracker?

13 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah. Yeah, exactly. So
14 that is... so this is where you go to look at it.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Can I just
16 suggest that as you're looking forward and to the
17 next iterations, this... helping this question be
18 viewed, essentially; what are... what's Washington
19 still owe us? Making that a little easier to figure
20 out would be great. I mean I see that it's here and
21 that's helpful, but one use of this is gonna be our
22 continued effort to make sure Washington pays us what
23 we're owed, and helping this be useful in that effort
24 would be great. Uhm... [interpose]

25

1
2 CAS HOLLOWAY: I agree with you and we
3 will continue to have some ideas for some other
4 things we could show as well... [crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Super. Good.
6 Can you tell me what it means that NYCHA's got the
7 zero in the cost tracker on this chart? I rec... this
8 is day one, so I don't expect you to know every
9 number in here, but... [interpose]

10 CAS HOLLOWAY: It probably is just that
11 we don't have that data point at a level that we were
12 comfortable with, but as you can see, we have just
13 about everything else, but... [interpose]

14 MIKE FLOWERS: Yeah.

15 CAS HOLLOWAY: it's not zero.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Okay.

17 MIKE FLOWERS: That's right. I mean we...
18 we wanna make sure that what's up there is...
19 [interpose]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Wa...

21 MIKE FLOWERS: is correct.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: And I really
23 appreciate your answering a lot of questions in
24 detail on day one. One of the things I was just
25 looking for myself and trying to find, 'cause I spent

1
2 a lot of time on it, was the shelter costs, the
3 shelter and transitional housing and hotels and I
4 couldn't find that, which again, this is... I mean this
5 not a... this is not gotcha; I was just starting to
6 look and trying to... and trying to find it, so...

7 [background comment]

8 CAS HOLLOWAY: If you... Nick, move up to
9 the obligated amount. I'm not sure where this would
10 be... we're gonna get back to you on that... [crosstalk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: That's fine.

12 CAS HOLLOWAY: we'll get back to you on
13 where it is; I just wanna say... [interpose, background
14 comment]

15 CAS HOLLOWAY: It's in the... it's in the...
16 [interpose]

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Other... it's under
18 housing.

19 CAS HOLLOWAY: it's probably in the other
20 on the cost tracker. John; do you wanna... John
21 Garofalo here is [crosstalk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: You can follow
23 up; we don't... I don't need this right now, so...

24 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yeah, we can... okay, we'll
25 get it... [crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: so... [crosstalk]

MALE VOICE: We have the detail in the first round, we just didn't present all [crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You have to go on the record. [crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Great.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: That's okay. I'll look forward to following up on this, so that's great.

And then, just my last... my last... I guess it's sort of more of a point than a question, just so you understand our goals around the jobs. You know, look, the first goals here are to understand broadly, how is... you know, how is it going; what are we getting done along the things that we need to; how many homes are moving through this process to make sure we're getting the money back from Washington to focus on the broad priorities, the infrastructure priorities and understand it, so those are the broad goals. We do have a goal of the, you know, maximum, appropriate good jobs for residents of hard-hit neighborhoods; that's a goal some of us have for how... what will happen here; I'll just give the example

1 that when I was down in Red Hook in the days
2 immediately after the storm, the cleaning contractor,
3 not so much the contractor bringing the mobile
4 boilers from across the country or the contractors
5 figuring out how to deal with those blow out
6 electrical rooms who brought people from all over the
7 country, but the cleaning contractor mostly hired Red
8 Hood residents who were making \$15 bucks an hour, and
9 I can't tell you what a difference it made, that a
10 couple hundred Red Hook residents made \$15 bucks an
11 hour to clean out those buildings in the weeks after
12 the storm, it was great; it gave people hope, it gave
13 people some money; it made a big, big difference and
14 it wasn't their obligation, and they did it because
15 it was the simplest, fastest way to meet the
16 obligations that they had taken from the City; not
17 because they knew there would be Section 3 or
18 prevailing wage requirements that came with money
19 reimbursing the City many months later; probably not
20 yet at all, but it made a big difference and we want
21 as much of that to happen as we can encourage, push,
22 oomph; require to make happen. So where money
23 travels with a federal requirement, whether it's a
24 requirement like prevailing wage or encouragement
25

1
2 like Section 3 and it's supposed to bringing that
3 about, or where some amount of additional
4 transparency and reporting can help us bring a
5 spotlight to provide encouragement for contractors to
6 be hiring local residents into good jobs, we wanna do
7 that. And so I think we have to get privacy right,
8 we have to get... we don't wanna make it so it's
9 difficult to get contractors to do the work, but we
10 do wanna provide that transparency and encouragement;
11 that's what's behind, I believe. Council Member
12 Richards' and I worked together on some of these
13 things, so as we're taking the next steps here to
14 figure out how to finalize this bill, our goal is to
15 make sure we can maximize that appropriately; there
16 is a right balance to get against privacy and
17 efficiency, but we wanna find the right ways to do
18 that and have this website also help us encourage and
19 provide information about that as well, so thank you;
20 thank... [crosstalk]

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Thank you
22 Council Member. Council Member Vincent Ignizio.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you very
24 much... [crosstalk]

25

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2 CAS HOLLOWAY: You mind... you mind if I
3 just... I just wanna say one thing... [interpose]

4 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You're ahead of the
5 game.

6 [laughter]

7 CAS HOLLOWAY: I... we... I hope... and just in
8 term... because of your... depending on your timeline for
9 finalizing the legislation, I think that just one
10 thing to keep in mind on the jobs data is; just
11 because of where we are in the process, it is hard to
12 know exactly where we're gonna land easily in terms
13 of what we might be able to report anyway, just by
14 calculating by a certain metric; you know, certainly
15 knowing how many contactors are in the program and
16 then you can take based on how many jobs they have;
17 you know, do you show that x contractor has every
18 single job that they have? I mean those are the
19 things that we need to, you know, hammer out, but I
20 think as a general matter, we share... you know, we're
21 able... you're able to do it; the question is, how do
22 you dot it?

23 MALE VOICE: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Council
25 Member Vincent Ignizio.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you Mr.
3 Chairman and thank you guys. I mean, I'd first like
4 to start with taking inventory for the public, for my
5 colleagues, that this great work and Mike and Cas,
6 you ought to be proud of it; I think my colleagues'
7 goal... my colleague, Council Member Richards' goal was
8 to do something like this and I think there's some
9 tweaks, but I believe too that we should be codifying
10 this to ensure that the transition, the next
11 generation and everyone there going forward has
12 something like this and I think it's a good thing
13 where we could work together. The public should know
14 that seven years after Katrina; Council Member Oddo;
15 yourself went down there; seven years later 50
16 percent of the FEMA funds have not been reimbursed to
17 that city, and that is a major statistic. We are
18 already ahead of the game and that's because of the
19 great work of people like Brad Gair who knows the
20 whole system and knows how to get the money back and
21 we should look at people like that who have had
22 experience as an asset to the city going forward.

23 So once again, we lead the way, New York
24 City leads the way, both in being able to do
25 websites, clearly, and in getting our money back and

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2 I think that's a good thing. There's a couple issues
3 that I wanted to raise. What is the status of the
4 MOU with the state? That is a big... for those who
5 don't know, the governor's office committed to
6 working on an MOU to do some acquisition for
7 redevelopment, to do some acquisitions, and overall
8 help with state aid to our city, but I don't see it
9 here and I don't know kinda where it is; I... I was
10 away, I was on vacation, unfortunately, when the
11 governor came down, so I was not informed on what the
12 status of those negotiations are; can you enlighten
13 me?

14 CAS HOLLOWAY: Yes. So I actually saw
15 what is, I think... hopefully the... an ultimate draft of
16 that document [laughter] and I was working on it at
17 11 p.m. last night. We're basically at the same... we
18 just need to basically finish the nits on it and I
19 think it'll be signed within the next couple days;
20 certainly before the end of the week.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: And will that
22 allocation be... or those allocations be reflected
23 somewhere on the... [crosstalk]

24 CAS HOLLOWAY: We're gonna need to figure
25 out how to reflect that... [crosstalk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Okay. Yeah, I
3 don't know either.

4 CAS HOLLOWAY: because... because the
5 funding source for that is actually going to be some
6 of the state's allocation...

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah.

8 CAS HOLLOWAY: City will have certainly
9 obligations, but the state is, you know very
10 generously working with us on this and... but it is...
11 for all... all the material terms have been worked out;
12 we just need to kinda finish it and sign it and I was
13 workin' on that right before the hearing, so...

14 [interpose]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I believe... and
16 that's something for my colleagues and I to make sure
17 we stay on top of as well; I mean that we... the money
18 the state owes the City is there as well; they're
19 doing a lot of things in other counties around the
20 state that we need to make sure we get ours
21 sufficiently.

22 The game changer grant, I've been
23 somewhat... I mean, somewhat critical of this because
24 communities that almost need it the most, or the
25 communities that were the least organized and the

1
2 hardest hit, and thereby unable, unwilling; had a
3 lack of understanding of how to really apply for this
4 and try to get the money. I could tell you; I tried
5 to organize my community in Great Kills and what I
6 got... Great Kills, the beach area, and what I got was,
7 look, we're just tryin' to get my business open; I
8 don't have time to be talkin' about game changing and
9 you know, and working through this, so I don't know
10 that the goal of this program is gonna hit the
11 hardest hit communities that need it the most and I
12 think you can't say well, you know, people didn't
13 apply. Well they didn't apply because of the reasons
14 that I just said, so I don't know how we reflect
15 that, how if it's possible to amend not this tranche
16 of that money for... to use... to borrow the federal
17 words, but perhaps there's a supplementary assistance
18 that we could do for communities that could help
19 that, but the goal of the game changer was to get
20 into these communities that were hit hard and try to
21 help them foster a new economic climate and I could
22 tell you, in many areas I don't think we hit home on
23 that one; is there any way that we can or in the next
24 30 days...

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: 28 days, but
3 who's counting, right, Dom... reflect that or, or do
4 you guys have an appreciation that that could've been
5 the case? Start there and then, what, if anything we
6 can do about it.

7 CAS HOLLOWAY: Well I know first that
8 Kyle Kimball and Jonathan Gouveia and the team at EDC
9 have been working tremendously hard and have rolled
10 out a lot of programs I think that... you know and what
11 Rob Walsh is also focused on too is now making sure...
12 I think we have about 300 applicants for loans and we
13 are now very focused on pushing those through the
14 process and getting them made. I know for example
15 one or two in Rockaway that were approved at the end
16 of the last week. So I am... but I think for the game
17 changer program, we need to talk to Kyle and I will
18 put him in touch with you, but we need to... that's the
19 kind of... I'm not sure what the right timing is in
20 terms of whether it's, you know, the time to conclude
21 that there's some areas where it might not get as
22 much uptake as we thought we might and thought it was
23 important to allocate funding for, so I think that we
24 just need... I mean we're very open to looking at that
25 question, 'cause as I've said throughout this,

1
2 there's a lot of unmet need and there's certainly
3 good uses for all of that funding and if this
4 business program isn't exactly the right thing. But
5 I don't know... [crosstalk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Okay.

7 CAS HOLLOWAY: so we'll follow up.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Well just so you
9 know, my experience here; so my colleagues know my
10 experience, I called up, I think it was a week or two
11 before the deadline and I was asking questions about
12 it and I was basically informed by EDC that these are
13 highly technical proposals that need to be laid out
14 and some of the people who put forth the proposal
15 hired consultants and they put everything together
16 and I said, well how impractical is that to ask a
17 community that's on their heels to come up with this,
18 that people just trying to get... you know, to get
19 themselves back in order, clearly the communities
20 that didn't have as much damage and that have better
21 resources, that have it's exact... in my view, the
22 exact opposite of who should've received these grants
23 I think will, and I think we just need to revisit
24 that; I'm happy to talk to Kyle about it. But I
25 don't want my testimony here to be negative at all; I

1 think there's some really great work going on here
2 and I thank the council member for putting forth this
3 legislation and think the, you know, the birth of
4 this website came about strongly by his initiative
5 and I really think we're gonna be tracking this money
6 for many years to come, my colleagues, and I just
7 hope we stay on this, because come budget time, when
8 my colleagues wanna fund x, y or z, there's gonna be
9 a big open items of what we haven't received from the
10 federal government and we need to ensure we get the
11 right people to bring that money back to the City.
12 Thank you very much, thank you Mr. Deputy Mayor and
13 great job, Mike.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, thank you
16 Coun... [laughter] No, uhm wai... I have some questions.

17 CAS HOLLOWAY: Oh.

18 [background comments, laughter]

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I wanna just follow
20 up what Council Member Ignizio was saying the game
21 changer, because I've been hearin' from all the areas
22 that were hit that the focus was to bring in new
23 businesses; new ideas to the communities, but in
24 order... before we do that, I think we should have to
25 concentrate on helping these small businesses get

1
2 back up and running and many of them are still out of
3 business; they don't have the funds, they need help.
4 So number one, I agree with Council Member Vincent
5 Ignizio; we should focus on that, 'cause the game
6 changer is, that if we get that business back open,
7 local people will be back to work; not that maybe
8 bringing in another business that could change the
9 community or make things different, but we have to
10 get those people that have been there before the
11 storm that live there that really want help, but...
12 it's something that we have to really work on, so I
13 would appreciate if you could look at that and work
14 with us.

15 I wanna go into something you said about
16 the housing recovery and we saw up there. You said
17 about priority one, priority two and priority three;
18 could you tell us, people here, my colleagues, what
19 is a priority one?

20 CAS HOLLOWAY: So uhm... and these are
21 definitions that are established by HUD, so I am... and
22 there is an explicit mandate from HUD that the way
23 that Community Development Block Grant funding gets
24 distributed is in accordance with need, so it's not
25 just anybody who applies and was harmed gets help in

1
2 equal priority order. So priority one is anybody
3 who... so the average median in... the area... the average
4 median income for an area, which is measured in
5 different geographic areas, is the metric that is
6 used; if you're making less than 80 percent of that,
7 then you're in the lowest income bracket which is the
8 highest priority, so it's basically... if you wanna
9 think about it in terms of two matrices -- y could be
10 AMI, area median income, and then the x could be
11 damage. So our prioritization for priority one is
12 based on the people who have the most damage or the
13 most unmet need, okay, and the least ability to meet...
14 have... or the least means to address that need. Then
15 priority two is basically if you're between 80
16 percent, I think, and a 165 percent of AMI, and we'll
17 confirm this, and then the third is 165 percent and
18 above are priority threes. So it's a... that is... but
19 it's that and combined with a damage assessment or an
20 unmet need assessment where we've put people, where
21 they fall, the category that they're in.

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. I just wanna
23 thank you for coming here. Does any other council
24 member have any follow-up questions?

25 [background comment]

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Alright.

CAS HOLLOWAY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We've been also joined by Darlene Mealy. Okay. Okay, we'll take the public comment now. [background comments] Thank you, Deputy Mayor.

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Alright, we'll call the first panel.

TANISHA EDWARDS: Jorge Torres, Stephen Benavides and Elaine Short.

[background comment]

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Alright, let's move this forward. Shh. Okay; you ready? [background comment] Go ahead.

STEPHEN BENAVIDES: Alright, good afternoon. My name is Stephen Benavides; I'm the Director of Research for Laborers Local 78; we have jurisdiction over the asbestos, lead and hazardous waste removal remediation, including mold remediation in New York City, all of the boroughs, Long Island and New Jersey, as well. I wanna thank the chairman and all the council members for having this second

1 hearing today. I was here during the first hearing
2 and then we testified regarding some of the
3 recommendations that we had for the Sandy Tracker
4 Bill 1040, so I'm gonna reiterate some of those. But
5 before I got to that, there was some notes that I
6 took while some of the members of the Bloomberg
7 administration were here giving testimony about the
8 website. It seems to me... like I'm not sure exactly
9 the timeline as far as when the bill was proposed and
10 when they started working on the Sandy Tracker
11 website, but it seems like there was like a race to
12 get this thing out ahead of whenever the legislation
13 was gonna be passed, because it seems like this bill
14 has a lot of support. [laughter] I'd like to draw
15 distinction between what they're doing on the
16 recovery website and what the bill does; there are a
17 lot of similarities there, but there's a lot of
18 differences as well, some major differences. So to
19 say that you can make simple changes to it and
20 incorporate the aspects of the bill into the recovery
21 website I think is a misstatement; I would say that
22 if anything, that some of the things that the
23 recovery tracker has should be incorporated into the
24 bill itself, because I think it's very important that
25

1
2 these requirements be codified, like we've mentioned,
3 and than moving forward, this is gonna be something
4 that's not gonna go away; we wanna make sure that we
5 have it in law and that there's no negotiation, or
6 wiggle room, really, as far as reporting is
7 concerned.

8 [bell] Are we on a timer?

9 MALE VOICE: Yeah.

10 STEPHEN BENAVIDES: We are on a timer?
11 Alright, well... [background comment] Alright, 'cause
12 I wanna go through these recommendations.
13 [interpose]

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Well just... just
15 highlight, because you... we already went through your
16 testimony from the last time... [crosstalk]

17 STEPHEN BENAVIDES: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: are they... are they
19 the same ones; do you have anything... [crosstalk]

20 STEPHEN BENAVIDES: Uhm...

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: do you have
22 anything else you wanna add?

23 STEPHEN BENAVIDES: Yeah, so this is...
24 Local 78 recommends that the database tracking system
25 created by Sandy Tracker Bill Int. 1040-A stand

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2 separately and independent of any similar system
3 being constructed by the Bloomberg administration.
4 In the first hearing the Bloomberg administration
5 representatives openly opposed passage of the bill
6 for numerous reasons, which they reiterated today;
7 this misguided opposition creates serious doubt
8 whether it is wise to rely on an exiting
9 administration to coordinate the merger of any Sandy
10 tracking systems. We also are very, very in favor of
11 tracking all of the funds to day zero, retroactively;
12 that's something that's very important to all of the
13 workers and to Local 78 as well. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Next.

15 JORGE TORRES: To... mic check...

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Go ahead.

17 JORGE TORRES: So my name is Jorge
18 Torres; I work for Centro del Immigrante in Staten
19 Island. Good afternoon Chairperson Recchia and
20 members of the New York Council Committee on Finance.
21 I don't wanna read too much about recommendations; I
22 think you guys had the letter and you guys have the
23 time to read about it. The only thing that worries
24 me a lot is that we're talking about millions and
25 millions of dollars in New York City and according to

1
2 a recent study of Baruch College, 82 percent of
3 workers of day laborers as being victim wage theft
4 and more than 91 percent were exposed to really bad
5 conditions in the reconstruction after Sandy. I
6 think day laborers were the first responders, are the
7 first responder in any kind of disaster and then I
8 just wanted to suggest that there has to be somehow a
9 way to research the construction companies or the
10 construction companies that are receiving this money;
11 if they have been violate... they have been violate any
12 kind of safety or health violations. So I don't know
13 if somehow we can put it on the website and if
14 there's somehow we can get this background of the
15 construction companies that we're giving the money.
16 Thanks.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Next.

18 ELAINE SHORT: Good afternoon, Council
19 Members, my name is Elaine Short and I'm from the
20 Faith in New York organization and I represent a lot
21 of the congregation churches and whatnot in the Far
22 Rockaway area and in New York City itself and I'm
23 here to reinforce our support for the 1040-A bill. I
24 was at the first meeting on the 15th and I just
25 wanted to like to reinforce the community's support

1
2 of this bill and I had mentioned to you all how I had
3 lost my husband due to the response time bein' very
4 slow and I had mentioned also of how we have to make
5 sure that the tracking system is in place for the
6 employees, to make sure that local people are hired
7 and are tracked, and also, with the health and the
8 safety of the employees who you hire and also, to
9 track to see how the mechanisms are bein'... hazard
10 materials are bein' removed from the area, 'cause
11 that in itself creates jobs. But the 1040-A bill is
12 a much fairer bill and after what the mayor's team
13 said today, I really am in support of the 1040 bill;
14 this is a bill that the new administration needs to
15 make sure that you all keep and enforce, because this
16 is keepin' track of the aids and the unmet need of
17 the people in our area in a timely manner, so please
18 stick with the 1040-A bill. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very
20 much. I wanna thank you all for testifying today.
21 We'll call our next panel; we are not takin' anymore
22 people who wish to testify; it's closed. Go ahead.

23 TANISHA EDWARDS: Fazeela Siddiqui,
24 Daniel Contreras and Bettina Damiani.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We also wanna
3 recognize the Council Member from Upper West Side,
4 Gale Brewer.

5 [pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. [background
7 comments] All roads lead to Gale Brewer, the next
8 Borough President. [background comment] Okay.
9 [background comments] No; you gotta turn it on.

10 FAZEELA SIDDIQUI: Oops, I'm sorry.

11 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Didn't Gale teach
12 you that in the office?

13 FAZEELA SIDDIQUI: Thank you Chairperson
14 Recchia... [interpose]

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: She... she never
16 taught you how to turn it off? Go ahead.

17 FAZEELA SIDDIQUI: Thank you Chairperson
18 Recchia and the members of the Committee on Finance
19 for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I
20 already provided a long testimony on November 15th,
21 so this will be a much abridged version and the main
22 point of this is for us to provide you with the
23 amendment to our recommendations.

24 My name is Fazeela Siddiqui and I am a
25 Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society; I work in

1
2 the Queens office and I primarily focus on Hurricane
3 Sandy disaster-related issues and the majority of my
4 clients reside in the Far Rockaways.

5 So today... you know, Legal Aid has helped
6 and assisted directly over 5,800 families affected by
7 the storm and we really do not want to... we are here
8 to make sure that happened in New Orleans does not
9 happen in New York City. After our Disaster
10 Lawyering Conference we realized that eight years
11 after Hurricane Katrina a 100,000 people have still
12 not returned and \$700 million of the CDBG money has
13 been unaccounted for and the federal government is
14 demanding that money back.

15 So I'd like to fast forward to our
16 recommendations, as you've already heard my
17 testimony. Again, under Section 3 of the current
18 bill we recommend that the effective date be lowered
19 from 90 to 30 days for expediency and then we've
20 changed our recommendation to... so under Section 6,
21 138, Paragraph 1 of the current bill, we will
22 recommend that the monetary value of the Hurricane
23 Sandy funds be lowered from the \$100,000 threshold.
24 Before we said it should be lowered to \$20,000 but
25 now we indicate that it should be lowered to \$50,000

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2 and as the City had testified earlier, we are
3 concerned about the Choose Your Own Contractor
4 category and we are still very unclear about the
5 \$50,000 to \$100,000 level and the small-time
6 contractor, the small developers who will receive
7 this money, because a majority of our low-income
8 clients have been victims of contractor fraud, and so
9 we are still worried [bell] about... about that... those
10 clients.

11 MALE VOICE: You wanna sum up?

12 FAZEELA SIDDIQUI: Oh, okay.

13 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Sum up.

14 FAZEELA SIDDIQUI: Yeah. So real
15 quickly, we really urge the passing of a mediation
16 program; it's helped many of our clients; I've been
17 through successful mediations with many of my
18 clients; this is what Governor Cuomo had created in
19 February, so we really urge for that donut hole, for
20 that low-income population, a mediation program be
21 created for victims of contractor fraud. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Next.

23 DANIEL CONTRERAS: Thank you; I'll be
24 brief. Good afternoon Chairperson Recchia and
25 members of the New York City Council Committee on

1
2 Finance; thank you for the opportunity to provide
3 testimony here today. My name is Daniel Contreras
4 and I am testifying on behalf of Shirley Aldebol,
5 Vice President of SEIU 32BJ.

6 "32BJ strongly supports the Sandy Tracker
7 Bill 1040-A and I urge the Committee to bring the
8 bill to a vote before the body of the City Council.
9 This is imperative to make sure the City's making the
10 best use of public aid dollars going towards recovery
11 effort and at the same time is laying a strong
12 foundation for how we deal with natural disasters
13 like Hurricane Sandy in the future. Public dollars
14 should be distributed equitably to rebuild strong and
15 resilient communities in all of the impacted
16 boroughs. The funds should be used to provide good
17 jobs for those doing the difficult work of rebuilding
18 the city and the funds should be distributed in a
19 transparent manner. However, this is not currently
20 happening; in addition to the lack of transparency
21 there have also been reports of wage theft and
22 workers safety violations in post-Sandy rebuilding.
23 The Sandy Tracker is a step in the right direction;
24 by including data on job creation, wage rates,
25 prevailing wage standards and the track record of

1
2 contractors who receive public recovery funds, this
3 database will help promote the use of responsible
4 employers and the protection of workers' dignity and
5 publicly fund the rebuilding projects.

6 It will also allow New Yorkers to see
7 where aid money is being spent so we can ensure it is
8 being distributed equitably to all those who need it
9 the most.

10 Finally, we encourage the Committee to
11 also guarantee that reporting enforcement mechanisms
12 are put into place and that these reporting
13 requirements apply retroactively to funds that have
14 already been distributed. 32BJ strongly encourages
15 the movement of this bill into the full body of the
16 Council and its passage into law. We look forward to
17 working with all the City Council members in the near
18 future to support this issue. Thank you for your
19 time."

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very
21 much.

22 BETTINA DAMIANI: Good afternoon, I'm
23 Bettina Damiani and I direct Good Jobs New York; we
24 keep track of how the City allocates economic
25 development subsidies. Our submitted testimony is an

1
2 amendment to the one we provided earlier, with two
3 very important points. First of all, we'd like to
4 recognize that the administration's movement forward
5 and their presentation today was definitely a step in
6 the right direction, and in a weird way it was a
7 little more... it was even very frustrating for me
8 because we know this administration can do this, we
9 know they can do it well; if the businessman there,
10 Bloomberg's administration can't put forward an
11 incredibly brilliant website, we're gonna be in a lot
12 of trouble, so we know they can do it and we're glad
13 that they're on it. Recognize that transition is
14 important -- this is a good framework to build from,
15 but I think we need to dig a little bit deeper. For
16 example, there was a conversation about which
17 hospitals have gotten funds -- which hospitals got
18 those monies; is it... you know, did NYU; not to
19 belittle NYU, but they have better resources and
20 access than in some of the other entities. Grantee
21 information is critical for transparency in the
22 coming years. We've learned much too much after
23 9/11, where we were able to talk about all the stuff
24 that happened afterwards; we need this information to
25 come much more efficiently and much more detailed so

1
2 we can put stops on programs that are not being done
3 efficiently; the game changer program is an
4 absolutely perfect example. We've been critical of
5 that program since the first day it was announced and
6 in our responses to the City.

7 We wanna recognize the... I seem to be a
8 little confused about the local hiring conversation;
9 there was some emphasis about how the administration
10 looks like they're gonna try and do some local
11 hiring; I'm under the understanding under Section 3 a
12 variety of efforts they're going to have to do that;
13 we know the City already takes in some of this
14 information through the Economic Development
15 Corporation; corporations already provide job
16 detailed information, so that's absolutely critical.
17 And also, recognizing... there's supposed to be a
18 public hearing... this actually a question I'd like to
19 ask; maybe somebody on the Council can get us a
20 straight answer -- the new recommendations that came
21 out from HUD about two weeks ago talked about how
22 there has to be a 30-day comment period, which is
23 much better than the two-week comment period; I mean,
24 no doubt, that we had before. But the language says
25 public hearing and we've only been hearing from the

1 administration that there needs to be public comment
2 period, so if there could be a clarification for your
3 constituents and for advocacy groups like ours, then
4 we can help bring more conversation and transparency
5 to the process overall. And also, we just got a FOIL
6 request back from the New York City Industrial
7 Development Agency last week -- this is what happens
8 when we don't have good transparency -- these are
9 sheets and sheets of redacted [bell] information on
10 corporations that have already received funds for
11 Sandy recovery. This is unacceptable; this is not
12 gonna allow us to proceed forward transparently.
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very
16 much. Does anyone have questions? I'm not seeing...
17 thank you very much.

18 TANISHA EDWARDS: This will be the last
19 panel; we will hear from Josh Kellerman and Natalie
20 Hager [phonetic].

21 JOSH KELLERMAN: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Josh Kellerman; I work for ALIGN, the Alliance for
23 a Greater New York; we're a permanent alliance of
24 laboring community in New York City. I submitted
25 testimony, but I'm just going to speak in response to

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2 some of the points that were made earlier. The first
3 comment is on the jobs data and contractor burden
4 that was identified by the Mayor's office and it's
5 something that Bettina Damiani just brought up; that
6 the Mayor's office is saying we can't get good jobs
7 data and that is somewhat true, but we are collecting
8 this data anyways right now, the New York City EDC,
9 on nearly every single project that it finances
10 collects very detailed jobs data; it's provided by
11 contractors, it's reported in a downloadable
12 database; it states how many they promised, how many
13 they currently have, etc. and I also agree that the
14 City is obligated to comply with Section 3 for some
15 components of the Community Development Block Grant
16 funding and that requires a degree of collecting of
17 jobs data.

18 On prevailing wage, eight units and above
19 and public works all require compliance with
20 prevailing wage; that data is already collected and
21 should be collected in this database and available to
22 the public.

23 On the threshold amount of \$100,000 that
24 our friend from the Legal Aid Society mentioned, I
25 think that is an open question; we should have a very

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2 specific rational for why \$100,000 is the right
3 threshold and lower it if necessary.

4 On privacy, the era funding,
5 recovery.gov, reports address data for every project
6 and also the EDC for all of their funding, tracks
7 very specific addresses of recipients, so I think
8 that there is a precedent for this.

9 And there was a question as to whether
10 the Mayor's argument is a legal argument or simply a
11 practicality argument and we should identify what
12 specifically they are concerned about; if it's legal,
13 let's figure that out.

14 And I'd also like to mention on the
15 usefulness, they did not mention [bell] whether their
16 database is downloadable; they did not mention
17 whether it's going to be tied specifically to the New
18 York City Open Data portal, which I think is
19 essential and also, I think that aggregate data,
20 while it's useful, really does not allow community
21 members and government to really assess the success
22 of these programs; this aggregated data is essential
23 and we will not get this under the Mayor's proposal.
24 So I think that 1040-A should proceed. Thank you.

1
2 NATHALIE ALEGRE: Thank you. My name is
3 Nathalie Alegre and I'm Coordinator of the Alliance
4 for a Just Rebuilding, or AJR. As you know, AJR is a
5 statewide coalition of many organizations having
6 doing work on the ground with Sandy communities since
7 after the storm happened and we have been focused the
8 last couple months and really making sure the
9 recovery is equitable and is done in a just way. I
10 also testified at the last public hearing; I won't
11 repeat all my comments; I will mention just that we
12 continue to thank Council Member Richards and Lander
13 and members of this committee for leadership on this
14 issue; we're really happy to support the bill. At
15 the last hearing with a press conference that was
16 well-attended we had a lot of folks there from Sandy
17 survivors, like Helene from Faith in New York, day
18 laborers and others that really care about this
19 issue. So I will just say we do agree it's a step
20 forward in the right direction what the City is doing
21 right now; we will echo a lot of the recommendations
22 colleagues here have already mentioned; I think in
23 particular it is really, really important that we
24 have grantee-specific data and not aggregate data;
25 that is the only way we'll really get to the core of

1
2 the concerns many in our coalition want to know;
3 namely, what jobs are we creating, what wages we're
4 creating; are they Section 3 compliant jobs; are we
5 hiring contractors with a history of health and
6 safety violations, and other details that are very,
7 very specific and as Josh Hermeling [pneonic] has
8 mentioned, this is not information that is press in,
9 set in or new; this is stuff that cities are
10 requiring on a grantee-specific way in many other
11 programs. So we would like to really ask that as we
12 move forward with the bill we make sure, again, I
13 think as Council Member Lander mentioned, that we
14 make sure transition makes all of this possible and
15 continue to express and will continue to support Int.
16 1040-A as we move forward. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you very
18 much. I wanna thank you for testifying; I wanna
19 thank everyone for comin' out again and testifying;
20 this concludes the hearing.

21 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date December 17, 2013