New York City Economic Development Corporation
Testimony of Sam Jung, Senior Vice President of Green Economy
New York City Council, Committees on Economic Development & Committee on Workforce Development
Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan Oversight Hearing
June 26, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chair Maloney and Chair Won, and members of the Economic Development and Workforce Development Committees.

My name is Sam Jung, and I serve as Senior Vice President of the Green Economy team at the New York City Economic Development Corporation. I am here today with Michele Lamberti, Vice President of Government and Community Relations.

I am excited to share the progress we have made on the Green Economy Action Plan or GEAP, which was released in Spring of 2024 in partnership with NYC Talent. At EDC we think in terms of decades and generational change. Under Mayor Mamdani and Deputy Mayor Su's leadership, EDC is approaching the green economy not only as a climate imperative—but as a pathway to economic justice, delivering good-paying jobs and expanding opportunity for working people.

New York City is surrounded by 520 miles of water and shoreline, with the risk of rising sea water on our doorstep. We have seen a hurricane leave our city dark and underwater. Heavy rain and flooding has disrupted our transportation and infrastructure. Urban wildfires have stained our skyline red and filled our air with ashes. And extreme weather has driven up power bills and insurance costs for working people. We cannot treat climate change as something we can put off until tomorrow. It requires action today.

The Green Economy Action Plan provides a roadmap to tackle those real challenges we are facing, and invest in the sectors and jobs that will help the city combat climate change and provides a pathway to stronger communities and shared prosperity.

The opportunity ahead is significant. The GEAP projected that the green economy could transition and create approximately 400,000 jobs by 2040 — jobs across construction, engineering, clean energy, building retrofits, advanced manufacturing, design, operations, maintenance, and emerging industries.

And I want to be clear; we set the 2040 target for these jobs as it will take decades to transition to a green economy. Many of the 400,000 jobs projected are what we call 'transitioning jobs', which we won't be able to track until years down the road.

But we know these jobs will not appear automatically or overnight. They require planning. The GEAP is a projection of the long-term transformation of our economy, the result of sustained public investment from every level of government, city, state and federal, as well as private investment, industrial development, and workforce growth.

Yet we are continuing to face real challenges from federal headwinds. Like the rest of the nation, job growth is slowing, and aggressive federal rollbacks of key green economy policies are having an impact. Despite this, we to take a forward-looking approach to growth, development, and the green economy.

In the two years since its release, EDC has been focused on meeting key commitments from the GEAP, advancing major green infrastructure investments and activating workforce partners across the city to prepare New Yorkers for the economy of the future.

Today, I'll use my time to share a handful of updates on this work.

Equitable Green Economy Ecosystem

New Yorkers have always used innovation and ingenuity to respond to whatever challenges come our way, and we have flourished because we have invested in our people. A just and equitable transition to the green economy means creating accessible career pathways for working people. At EDC we are supercharging our efforts to educate, train and position New Yorkers of all backgrounds to benefit from the green economy.

Earlier this year, we announced a $7 million investment into CUNY's green workforce training infrastructure. This $7 million investment will ensure students graduate into a job market with the skills to change the world for the better, get a good paying job and cement New York City as a leader in climate action.

In July 2025, we awarded $3 million from our Green Light Innovation Fund, alongside a $1.1 million grant from Council Member Oswald Feliz, to Fordham University to create the Bronx Green Job Center—a first-of-its-kind workforce and entrepreneurship hub that will build an equitable green jobs pipeline in the heart of the Bronx.

And last September, EDC joined Solar One to cut the ribbon a new, state-of-the-art Environmental Education Center in Stuyvesant Cove Park. A decade in the making, this education center will be a model for future urban coastal resiliency, while also creating an immersive, hands-on environmental learning experience for New Yorkers of all ages.

We are also creating career paths for young people through our Maritime Career and Aviation Awareness Fair. We hosted the seventh annual fair this year and connected more than 500 high school students with industry experts on potential future careers.

And we are making significant investments to prepare local workers and New Yorkers from all backgrounds, and businesses for the transition to the green economy.

Our Waterfront Pathways program is helping address disparities in public procurement by expanding opportunities for MWBE's in waterfront industries. And through We Source NYC, we are supporting local small-and-medium-sized manufacturers, construction service providers, and local industrial equipment suppliers to capture contract opportunities in the Offshore Wind supply chain. The first year of the program saw 8 local companies secure over $13 million in offshore wind contracts. The second year of this program is focused on supporting local general, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing contractors to expand within the building electrification sector.

And our economic mobility networks in Sunset Park and Hunts Point, as well as the East Brooklyn Workforce Development Fund and the Staten Island North Shore Workforce Fund, are helping more New Yorkers and waterfront communities get on a pathway to a good paying career.

Over the past two years we have also advanced coastal resiliency projects to protect waterfront communities, residents, workers and businesses through projects like the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resilience Project, the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, among countless others throughout the city.

Catalyze Innovation in Climate Tech

At EDC, we see the Green Economy Action Plan as both a climate strategy and an economic blueprint for equitable growth. It is a framework for ensuring that the technologies, companies, and workers driving the clean-energy transition can thrive in the decades to come. We want to ensure that the next great climate technologies are not simply being invented in New York City- but that they are built, tested, deployed and scaled here.

And that work is being shaped at places like the Brooklyn Army Terminal, where we are building a world class climate innovation hub. Climate challenges are not solved by one sector alone; they require collaboration between government, businesses, workers, and communities. At Brookyln Army Terminal we are embarking on a new historic chapter, supporting the hundreds of businesses, industrial manufacturers, and thousands of employees who currently call it home, and anchoring it with a growing ecosystem for new climate technologists and entrepreneurs working on solutions to combat climate change. BATworks will also be home to the largest green workforce training facility in New York City connecting New Yorkers – including residents in the Sunset Park community - to real economic opportunity while supporting green industrial growth. This former military campus is now on the frontlines of the next fight of lives, leading the line on climate innovation.

Earlier this May, we launched the BATWorks temporary space, creating an on-the-ground presence today. We are bringing the Sunset Park community and industry together to connect, learn and help shape BATWorks activities ahead of the permanent hub's completion in 2028, and accelerating the city's $100 million investment to ensure its benefits and jobs reach more New Yorkers and more communities.

Small businesses and startups are the future of the green economy, and at BATWorks we are supporting their growth through programs like Pilots at BAT and our OSW Innovation Hub programming.

We are also advancing GEAP through the Harbor Climate Collaborative or HCC, a joint initiative with the Trust for Governors Island and Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. At Sunset Park, the Brooklyn Navy Yard and Governors Island, the HCC is supporting emerging businesses and companies, helping existing businesses scale, preparing New Yorkers for good paying jobs, and training our students for the future jobs in the green economy.

Low-Carbon Alternatives in Transportation

The Green Economy Action Plan goes far beyond education and job training. It also lays out how we can deliver more sustainable infrastructure for New Yorkers. Today, transportation makes up about 25 per cent of New York City's emissions. At EDC we are building public goods for the public good, working to deliver more sustainable alternatives in transportation, that not only make our city more livable, but deliver good paying jobs to working people.

New York City has always been a maritime city and we are charting a new course for our economic future, using our historic waterways to create sustainable infrastructure that moves goods off the streets and roadways and onto our waterways, reducing pollution and making our city cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable. We are advancing transformative projects at the Brooklyn Marine Terminal, which will become a critical hub for New York's Blue Highways waterborne freight network and last year we released the vison plan for Hunts Point Marine Terminal, another critical link in our blue highways network.

In April this year, we took transportation and sustainability to new heights, with the first ever point-to-point electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi demonstration flights in New York City's history. At the Downtown Skyport in Manhattan, we are building a low-carbon, multi-modal working waterfront, where freight will move goods off our roads and onto our waterways, creating green jobs, while leading the world on the adoption of safe, electrified flight in an urban environment. The buildout of this infrastructure is moving ahead on time, and we expect construction to begin this year.

And we are keeping our city moving, by expanding our EV Charging Infrastructure. Last year we unveiled New York City's first community-driven freight-focused EV charging depot at Hunts Point Distribution Center, advancing the city's transition to cleaner and more efficient ground transportation of goods.

Decarbonize Buildings and Construction

Construction has historically been one of the largest contributors to emissions and waste, with 70 per cent of emissions in our city coming from our buildings. But the buildings of tomorrow cannot be built with the assumptions of yesterday. At EDC we are shifting how we think about construction — moving from extractive systems toward regenerative ones. A great example of this work is our Mass Timber Studio initiative, which is advancing the use of low carbon construction.

This year, we are launching the third cohort of our Mass Timber Studio as part of Mayor Mamdani's Block to Block Housing Plan to deliver more affordable housing to New Yorkers. This work will support a pipeline of new housing projects that will be delivered more efficiently and sustainably. The Studio will train design and development teams in the technical components of modular delivery and provide regulatory support, in partnership with DOB and the Fire Department.

The promise of mass timber is connected to a promise of economic, environmental and housing justice — creating homes that teachers, workers, young families, and longtime residents can actually afford and expanding opportunities for architects, engineers, contractors, and skilled trades workers.

But we know that this innovation must be paired with standards. That is why EDC has supported the development of Circular Design and Construction Guidelines — a framework that encourages reuse, material recovery, and designing buildings with their entire lifecycle in mind.

We see this future taking shape in projects like SPARC Kips Bay, where we are transforming an entire New York City block into a state-of-the-art and first-of-its-kind education, job, innovation hub focused on life sciences and health tech. Last year we began deconstruction on the site, and we are on track to divert an unprecedented 95% of project materials from landfill. So far, we have salvaged and diverted 76 tons of waste, repurposing hundreds of light fixtures, masonry block, wood paneling, bluestone pavers, historic relief sculptures, and iron gates.

And in Queens at Willets Point we are pairing affordability and economic-justice with sustainability, so housing and new businesses can take root. Located within a flood plain, we have said goodbye to the “Valley of Ashes”, to the pollution, decay, and neglect that has defined this area for generations. And in its place built a brand-new neighborhood with 2500 new affordable houses and residential buildings seeking to achieve high standards of environmental sustainability including green roofs. We have built new infrastructure like sewers; stormwater drains, and we have raised new streets and buildings out of the floodplain to protect from future storms. The first residents moved into their new affordable homes this May, and soon, the world’s sport will come to the world’s borough, with the fully electric, privately financed Etihad stadium scheduled to be ready to welcome NYCFC for the 2027 MLS season and open to the world for the 2028 Olympics. This is a model green neighborhood.

And last December, we took another major step forward in reimagining what the future of our city can be. We advanced the redevelopment of the Hunts Point Produce Market — an investment in the people who keep this city running every single day. This transformation will create a first-of-its-kind fully electric facility: one that delivers affordable, healthy food to working families while building a cleaner, more sustainable future for the Bronx.

For too long, communities in the Bronx have borne the burden of pollution and poor air quality while receiving too little of the investment they deserve. This project is about changing that reality.

Renewable Energy

We know that we must build a green future where the benefits are shared — where clean energy means cleaner air in our neighborhoods, good-paying jobs for our workers, and a stronger city for everyone.

And at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal we are building that future, with the largest offshore wind hub in the nation. In the heart of our Sunset Park District, a critical focal point in the City’s efforts to grow a just green economy, more than 2,500 workers have been revitalizing this port into the clean energy center of New York City. This is where our waterfront history meets our climate and innovation future. Construction is complete, and we expect first power to reach the terminal by the end of the year.

Conclusion

Building the green economy takes ambition and boldness. The Green Economy Action Plan is about choosing a future where cleaner air comes with better jobs. Where climate resilience comes with economic security. Where public investment creates public goods. And where the benefits of a greener city are shared by the many. The green economy is not a distant promise. It is being built now — on our waterfronts, in our neighborhoods, and by working people.

We are proud to work in partnership with the City Council to improve the lives of our neighbors, expand opportunity, combat climate change, and ensure New York City remains a global hub of business, culture, and innovation.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and we welcome any questions you have.

New York City Economic Snapshot

June 2026

New York City Economic Development Corporation

Dear NYC Partner,

As the entity charged with driving the city's economic growth, we are pleased to release our latest monthly Economic Snapshot. This report assembles and highlights data from key sources that we track most closely in measuring the strength of NYC's economy.

New York City added 15,300 private sector jobs in May and has now seen a net gain of 21,600 private sector jobs through the first five months of 2026. New York City has added 44,500 private sector jobs over the past 12 months, a 1.1% increase–faster than the national growth rate of 0.5% over the same period. Healthcare and social assistance led all industries in job creation, adding 5,400 jobs last month, followed by admin services (+3,900), transportation & warehousing (+3,200), and professional services (+2,500).

The broader NYC metro area added 17,300 jobs in May and leads all US metros with 48,600 jobs added over the past year.

New York City's unemployment rate fell to 5.4% in May, the third consecutive monthly decline in the unemployment rate. The city's labor force participation rate fell to 62.6%, slightly below the record high of 62.8%.

Employers posted 83,900 New York City job openings in May, the most jobs posted in a single month since August 2022, signaling stronger hiring demand across the city's labor market.

About 5,300 new businesses started in New York City in Q4 2025, and 19,800 businesses started in 2025. To put another way, **1 in 10 businesses in New York City started in the past year**. We estimate **just 4,900 businesses closed in Q4**, the fewest permanent closures since Q4 2022.

In real estate, renters continue to face rising costs, with the rental index now up 7.2 percentage points year-over-year and the inventory index down 8.9 percentage points. There is no updated office leasing data this month; the two most recent quarters represent the two strongest quarters of leasing since 2019.

Broadway attendance (mid-May to mid-June) and hotel occupancy (May) both improved but are down 3.9 percentage points and 1.1 percentage points year-over-year, respectively. Subway ridership and bus ridership both declined slightly in May; subway ridership is at 75.8% of pre-pandemic levels, up 1.2 percentage points year-over-year.

Having a clear picture of the city's economic data informs our work here at NYCEDC, as we build a more vibrant and inclusive economy. We hope you find it useful in your work as well.

Melissa Pumphrey
Chief Economist,
New York City Economic Development Corporation

Labor Market

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Legend

- Indicator improved from prior reading
- Indicator worsened from prior reading
- No change

Indicator	Latest	Previous Period	Year-Over-Year Change	Pre-COVID
City Private Sector Employment Change & Annual Growth Rate (May 2026)	+15,300 +1.1% y/y	-5,700 +0.6% y/y	+44,500	+7,900 per month +94,800 total (2019)
Metro Area Employment (May 2026)	+17,300 +0.5% y/y	+4,400 +0.4% y/y	+48,600	+7,800 per month +93,600 total (2019)
Job Postings (May 2026)	83,900	76,300	855,500	77,700 per month 932,800 total (2019)
Labor Force Participation (May 2026)	62.6%	62.7%	+0.8 pct pts	60.2% (Feb 2020)
Unemployment Rate (May 2026)	5.4%	5.6%	+0.4 pct pts	4.3% (Feb 2020)
Long-Term Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	2.0%	2.0%	+0.2 pct pts	1.1% (2020:Q1)
Part-Time for Economic Reasons (2026:Q1)	3.1%	3.1%	+0.1 pct pts	3.2% (2020:Q1)

Sources for the New York City Economic Snapshot include the NYS Department of Labor, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Lightcast, Pitchbook, Kastle Systems, Costar, Cushman & Wakefield, Newmark, Savills, Colliers, JLL, StreetEasy, Broadway League, STR, and MTA Open Data.

**Quarter-to-quarter changes within half of a percentage point are likely statistically insignificant due to the small sample size.*

***This is a simple average of vacancy rates from Cushman & Wakefield and JLL, and availability rates from Newmark, Savills, Costar, and Colliers. The Citywide rates are using Costar data.*

Labor Market

The unemployment rate for white New Yorkers fell in 2026:Q1, while there was no significant change in unemployment rate for any other racial or ethnic group. White New Yorkers have seen their unemployment rate fall 0.6 percentage points year-over-year, while every other group has seen an increase in the unemployment rate; the unemployment rate for Black New Yorkers has risen 2.6 percentage points year-over-year. The labor force participation rate for Asian New Yorkers has risen 5.1 percentage points year-over-year; Black and Hispanic New Yorkers have also seen increases in their labor force participation rates, while white New Yorkers have seen a drop of 1.4 percentage points year-over-year.

Indicator	Latest	Previous Quarter	Year-Over-Year Change	Pre-COVID
BIPOC Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	7.3%*	7.1%	+1.4 pct pts	5.5% (2020:Q1)
Asian Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	4.3%*	3.9%	+1.5 pct pts	2.2% (2020:Q1)
Black Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	9.8%*	9.8%	+2.6 pct pts	8.5% (2020:Q1)
Hispanic Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	7.5%*	7.1%	+1.2 pct pts	5.5% (2020:Q1)
White Unemployment Rate (2026:Q1)	2.6%*	3.1%	-0.6 pct pts	2.8% (2020:Q1)
BIPOC Labor Force Participation Rate (2026:Q1)	60.9%*	60.4%	+2.1 pct pts	58.2% (2020:Q1)
Asian Labor Force Participation Rate (2026:Q1)	62.4%*	61.0%	+5.1 pct pts	59.3% (2020:Q1)
Black Labor Force Participation Rate (2026:Q1)	58.6%*	58.3%	+1.3 pct pts	56.2% (2020:Q1)
Hispanic Labor Force Participation Rate (2026:Q1)	60.9%*	61.0%	+0.4 pct pts	58.9% (2020:Q1)
White Labor Force Participation Rate (2026:Q1)	66.8%*	67.5%	-1.4 pct pts	63.8% (2020:Q1)

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Business Activity

About 5,300 new businesses started in New York City in 2025:Q4, and 19,800 businesses started in 2025. To put another way, 1 in 10 businesses in New York City started in the past year. We estimate just 4,900 businesses closed in Q4, the fewest permanent closures since 2022:Q4.

New York City-based companies raised $11.1B in venture capital funding in 2026:Q1, the largest quarter of funding since 2021.

Indicator	Latest	Previous Quarter	Year-Over-Year Change	Pre-COVID
New Business Formation (2025:Q4)	5,300	5,100	19,800	7,100 (2019 quarterly avg) 27,400 (2019 annual chg)
Net Business Formation (2025:Q4)	+380	-490	-5,100	+500 (2019 quarterly avg) +2,000 (2019 annual chg)
VC Funding (2026:Q1)	$11.117B	$10.763B (2025:Q4)	+$7.360B	$6.007B (2019 avg)
VC Funding (2026 through Q1)	$11.117B	$3.756B (2025 through Q1)	+$7.360B	$9.433B (2019 through Q1)

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Real Estate

Renters faced a tougher residential real estate market in May, with the rent index rising and the inventory index falling compared to the previous month.

Commercial real estate indicators are mixed; metro area office occupancy reached a post-pandemic record high of 61.5% and is up 7.0 percentage points year-over-year, while citywide office visitation is down over the past year–both overall and for Class A+ office buildings.

Indicator	Latest	Previous Period	Year-Over-Year Change	Pre-COVID
Kastle Metro Area Office Occupancy (4-wk avg, 6/17/2026)	61.5%	58.3%	+7.0 pct pts	100%
Placer/EDC Office Visitation (May 2026)	64.6%	72.6%	-4.4 pct pts	100% (May 2019)
Placer/EDC Class A+ Office Visitation (May 2026)	70.7%	79.6%	-4.2 pct pts	100% (May 2019)
Manhattan Office Availability Average** (2026:Q1)	15.0%	15.6%	-2.5 pct pts	10.3% (2019 avg)
Citywide Office Vacancy Rate (2026:Q1)	13.4%	13.7%	-1.0 pct pts	7.6% (2019 avg)
Citywide Office Leasing Activity (2026:Q1)	91.9%	98.2%	+5.8 pct pts	100% (2019 avg)
Citywide Retail Vacancy Rate (2026:Q1)	4.4%	4.3%	+0.4 pct pts	3.4% (2019 avg)
StreetEasy Rent Index (May 2026)	132.5	131.2	+7.2 pts	100.0 (Feb 2020)
StreetEasy Inventory Index (May 2026)	74.6	75.5	-8.9 pts	100.0 (May 2019)

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Tourism & Transit

Broadway attendance and hotel occupancy both showed improvement over the last month, but both are down year-over-year. Subway and bus ridership both fell in May; while subway ridership is up 1.2 percentage points year-over-year, bus ridership is now down 4.3 percentage points over the same period.

Indicator	Latest	Previous Month	Year-Over-Year Change	Pre-COVID
Broadway Attendance (4-wk avg, 6/14/2026)	104.7%	104.2%	-3.4 pct pts	100%
Hotel Occupancy (May 2026)	96.1%	95.0%	-1.9 pct pts	100% (May 2019)
Subway Ridership (May 2026)	75.8%	77.8%	+1.2 pct pts	100% (May 2019)
Bus Ridership (May 2026)	59.2%	61.5%	-4.3 pct pts	100% (May 2019)

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NYC Employment by Industry

The most recent monthly and annual changes, along with the change from pre-pandemic to the present month.

Indicator	Employment					
	May 2026	Apr 2026	Previous Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change	Job Change, Pre-Pandemic to May 2026	Average Annual Wages (2024)
FIRE	**520,600**	**521,200**	**(500)**	**1.6%**	**33,500**	**$309,600**
Finance & Insurance	387,600	388,100	(500)	1.7%	38,900	$387,200
Securities	212,800	212,900	(100)	3.2%	30,100	$505,000
Banking	111,100	111,200	(100)	0.1%	5,600	$264,500
Other	63,700	64,000	(300)	-0.2%	3,200	$206,100
Real Estate	133,000	133,000	0	1.3%	(5,400)	$100,500
Services	**2,943,000**	**2,928,600**	**14,400**	**1.3%**	**189,800**	**$99,900**
Information	221,000	220,100	900	1.1%	(8,000)	$215,400
Professional & Business	806,300	799,300	7,000	1.8%	25,600	$150,700
Profession, Scientific & Technical	460,000	457,500	2,500	1.6%	14,100	$182,800
Management of Companies & Enterprises	81,200	80,600	500	1.5%	8,600	$210,500
Administrative & Support	265,100	261,200	3,900	2.3%	2,900	$73,900
Educational	267,900	267,900	(100)	-0.4%	10,900	$98,200
Healthcare & Social Assistance	1,023,200	1,017,800	5,400	2.4%	202,500	$60,400
Arts & Entertainment	89,100	88,600	400	0.3%	(6,800)	$102,300
Accommodation & Food	360,700	361,100	(400)	0.1%	(13,600)	$46,900
Other	174,800	173,700	1,100	-1.0%	(20,800)	$67,100
Trade	**429,600**	**430,900**	**(1,300)**	**-0.7%**	**(55,000)**	**$77,300**
Retail	298,700	298,700	0	-0.2%	(46,200)	$57,900
Wholesale	130,900	132,200	(1,300)	-1.7%	(8,800)	$123,900
Manufacturing	**50,600**	**50,900**	**(300)**	**-4.4%**	**(15,200)**	**$79,400**
Transportation and Utilities	**150,700**	**147,500**	**3,300**	**0.1%**	**700**	**$86,400**
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	**137,400**	**137,700**	**(300)**	**1.6%**	**(24,800)**	**$95,900**
Total Private	**4,232,000**	**4,216,700**	**15,300**	**1.1%**	**129,100**	**$121,700**
Government	621,900	**621,400**	500	1.9%	12,900	**$98,900**
Total (Private + Government) NYC	**4,853,900**	**4,838,100**	**15,800**	**1.2%**	**141,900**	**$118,900**

Note: *Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Employment trough is April 2020 except for the following sectors, for which the trough is July 2020: FIRE (inclusive of all sub-sectors), Information, and Government*

NYC Metro Area Employment

Compared to Other Major Metro Areas

To give local employment data a national perspective, we compare employment in the NYC Metro Area to other major metro areas around the US. We use metro areas rather than cities to provide a more consistent basis for regional economic comparison.

MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area)	May 2026 Employment (in thousands)	Year Over Year (in thousands): May 2025–2026 (NSA)	Year Over Year %: May 2025–2026 (NSA)	Pre-Pandemic to Current Month: Feb 2020–May 2026 (SA)
New York	10071.5	48.6	0.5%	2.7%
Los Angeles	6299.1	-11.2	-0.2%	-0.3%
Chicago	4767.8	-0.3	0.0%	1.3%
Dallas	4345.8	24.7	0.6%	13.3%
Houston	3497.5	21.3	0.6%	9.3%
Washington DC	3300.6	-100.5	-3.0%	-1.6%
Philadelphia	3140.4	5.9	0.2%	4.5%
Atlanta	3127.1	1	0.0%	7.8%
Miami	2985.4	-9.1	-0.3%	8.3%
Boston	2735.1	-15.7	-0.6%	-2.2%
Phoenix	2484.4	23.6	1.0%	12.0%
San Francisco	2426.1	6.7	0.3%	-3.9%
Seattle	2138	0.8	0.0%	0.7%
Detroit	2031.8	-15.4	-0.7%	-1.0%

NSA – non seasonally adjusted
SA – seasonally adjusted

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

About NYCEDC

New York City Economic Development Corporation is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization that works for a vibrant, inclusive, and globally competitive economy for all New Yorkers. We take a comprehensive approach, through four main strategies: strengthen confidence in NYC as a great place to do business; grow innovative sectors with a focus on equity, build neighborhoods as places to live, learn, work, and play; and deliver sustainable infrastructure for communities and the city's future economy.

For more economic data, insights, and analysis from NYCEDC's Economic Research & Policy group, and to receive economic reports via email, visit edc.nyc/research-insights.

Contact us: **press@edc.nyc** | Follow us: **@nycedc**

Testimony Draft - NYC Council Oversight Hearing: Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan

June 26, 2026

NYC Office of Talent and Workforce Development

Introduction

Good afternoon, my name is Doug Lipari, and I am the Executive Director of the New York City Office of Talent and Workforce Development, or NYC Talent. I'm joined today by Stephanie Klocke, the Executive Director of our Industry Partnership for the sustainable infrastructure sector. Thank you to the members of the New York City Council Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development, Workforce Development Chair Won, and Economic Development Chair Maloney, for inviting us to testify today. And thank you to our colleagues at the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Sam Jung and Michele Lamberti, for your partnership.

NYC Talent's mission is to ensure that the City's workforce system connects New Yorkers to good jobs and helps employers access local talent. The public workforce ecosystem in New York City is made up of over 120 programs administered by 28 different City agencies and their many contracted providers. This includes the City's core workforce agencies like the Department of Small Business Services (SBS), the Human Resources Administration (HRA), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the City University of New York (CUNY) and New York City Public Schools (NYCPS). While each of these agencies focuses on its own core mission and service delivery, NYC Talent works across all partners so that the City's workforce development strategy aligns with jobseeker needs, employer demand, and a changing economy.

Investments in sustainability and climate change resiliency have been building for decades, but in 2021 and 2022, former President Biden injected an unprecedented financial investment into the green economy by signing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Inflation Reduction Act was the largest investment in clean energy in U.S. history, and between the two bills, billions of dollars were allocated to infrastructure projects and numerous tax incentives were developed to encourage electrification, electric vehicle use, clean and renewable energy generation, and energy storage. In the wake of these planned investments, NYC Talent and EDC developed the Green Economy Action Plan, or GEAP, which, as EDC described, outlined the current and projected size and scope of the green economy in New York City, and offered actions city stakeholders could take to support the equitable growth of this sector.

Our role in the report's development focused on ensuring that all stakeholders involved in fostering the green economy, including our partners in government and in the private sector, are proactively thinking about workforce development as a tool to connect New Yorkers to opportunity. NYC Talent knows that workforce development services and systems constitute essential opportunity infrastructure that is needed to equitably achieve our climate and economic goals. And just like physical infrastructure, workforce pathways are not built overnight. We worked closely with EDC to develop the report by contributing workforce expertise to inform recommendations, facilitating conversations with industry stakeholders, and helping to identify the good jobs that are key to building toward a decarbonized future—which include occupations related to construction, electrical work, and working with electric vehicles and other new technology.

The federal policy landscape has shifted considerably since the Green Economy Action Plan's original release in February 2024. Reckless, cruel, and short-sighted policy changes including House Resolution 1, executive orders, and tariffs, have rescinded tax incentives for electric vehicles, accelerated the phase-out of tax credits for wind and solar projects, reprioritized fossil fuels, and created an atmosphere of economic uncertainty for workers, businesses, and other stakeholders active in the green economy, and beyond.

Despite these headwinds, the administration and NYC Talent believe strongly in climate justice and are committed to ensuring the growth of the green economy benefits all New Yorkers, particularly communities that have disproportionately borne the impacts of environmental injustices. With this unwavering vision, since the report's release, NYC Talent has launched a **new Industry Partnership** focused on resilient infrastructure, taken significant steps to **increase equitable access to careers in the construction industry** and related sectors, supported **green public sector career pathways**, and developed **new opportunities for New**

York City's young people to learn about and gain skills relevant to the green economy. We also continue to support agencies across the public workforce ecosystem, as well as private partners, in aligning workforce strategies to meet the demand of the green economy.

ReMaIIC:

In 2025, NYC Talent launched a new Industry Partnership to expand and lead our office's work in the green economy, the **Resiliency, Manufacturing, Industrial and Infrastructure Council**, or "ReMaIIC." ReMaIIC works to support equitable growth within the resilient infrastructure field by bringing together stakeholders across manufacturing, industrial, construction, transportation, utilities, decarbonization, supply chain, waste and materials management, building operations, and water systems to coordinate workforce development strategies and solutions.

As outlined in the plan and in EDC's testimony, some sectors will see the creation of entirely new jobs, while many sectors will adapt by changing the skills required within existing occupations. For example, electricians install building electrification systems and EV charging infrastructure; HVAC mechanics support heat pump deployment and energy-efficiency retrofits; plumbers and pipefitters work on high-efficiency building systems; and construction managers oversee projects that must meet evolving climate and energy performance requirements.

Because of this, understanding ongoing employer demand is key to this work and ReMaIIC engages businesses across New York City's green economy to better understand emerging hiring trends. ReMaIIC has hosted 7 industry roundtables with more than 35 businesses, and continues to conduct site visits with small manufacturers to hear directly about recruitment and retention challenges. We also actively engage climate tech startups as they begin planning for future workforce growth. These engagements help ReMaIIC to provide guidance to businesses interested in developing on-the-job training opportunities and has informed the launch of a Labor Market Intelligence webinar series designed to connect the workforce field directly with businesses. The first webinar focused on roles as Certified Energy Auditors and Certified Energy Managers and attracted representatives from training providers, CUNY institutions, and City agencies, underscoring the importance of translating employer demand into actionable workforce development strategies.

Expanding Equitable Construction Pathways:

NYC Talent is also supporting and operating initiatives to help more New Yorkers enter fields that are critical to the development of a climate resilient future, including construction laborers, plumbers, electricians, HVAC mechanics & installers, facilities managers, and more. The City's **Pathways to Industrial and Construction Careers (PINCC) program**, which is managed by the NYC Human Resources Administration in partnership with our office, provides expansive supportive services, including providing funding for transportation, costs associated with starting a job like uniforms and tools, and drivers licenses, so that low-income individuals can successfully start and retain job opportunities. Since 2024, almost **1,500** PINCC participants have been placed in union or prevailing wage careers in sectors including construction, transportation, and building services.

NYC Talent utilizes multiple levers to expand equitable pathways into quality careers for New Yorkers. A key example is **Community Hiring**, which leverages the City's purchasing power to connect City vendors to talent and jobseekers to career opportunities. Through Community Hiring, City agencies set workforce goals in their contracts for vendors to provide employment and apprenticeship opportunities to low-income individuals and those who live in low-income communities, including NYCHA housing. Community Hiring covers green economy-related investments, such as the construction of bioswales and resiliency infrastructure, building services such as efficiency and decarbonization, and consulting services such as engineering and design. This initiative, which was made possible by state legislation, was operationalized by Talent in 2025. And to date, **289 procurement**s have been released with Community Hiring Goals, which represents **$14 billion** in projected procurement value.

I also lead the negotiations for the City's **Project Labor Agreements (PLAs).** PLAs are types of collective bargaining agreements that are unique to the construction industry. They are pre-hire agreements that are negotiated between construction unions and construction owners, in this case the City, that establish the terms and conditions of employment for construction projects. PLAs are a great tool to ensure cost-effective, efficient, and safe capital project delivery, while ensuring labor harmony, fair wages and benefits for workers, and opportunities for other workforce development efforts, like Community Hiring. The City signed new PLAs across 2024 and 2025 that cover a cumulative project value of approximately **$9 billion**, including many resilient infrastructure investments, like the construction of new buildings and parks, installation and renovation of wastewater filtration plants, and more. The City has had PLAs since 2009, but the recent PLAs cover the most amount of capital construction work ever and also include Community Hiring Goals directly in the PLAs. This increases opportunities to access pathways to quality union construction careers, which will set more New Yorkers on a path to contribute to and benefit from the sector's green transition.. And to make these apprenticeship goals more equitable and impactful, NYC Talent worked with SBS to secure **$1 million** in baseline funding for **construction pre-apprenticeship programming** starting in Fiscal Year 2025.

Adult Workforce Programming Across Agencies

Across the public workforce system there are many other examples of new programming to help workers meet the demand of the green economy. In April of this year, the Department of Environmental Protection announced a **$4.5 million**, three-year pilot program with The Doe Fund to train New Yorkers, including those with histories of incarceration, homelessness, or substance abuse, for careers maintaining critical infrastructure that reduces flooding and protects local waterways. Known as GROW, or **Green Readiness Opportunities for the Workforce**, the initiative combines classroom instruction, hands-on training, and career development to a 20-member crew that will maintain over 1,000 rain gardens in East New York, Brooklyn, and South Ozone Park, Queens.

The Department of Small Business Services also continues to support green workforce programming via its trainings in **Construction Site Safety**, **Cable Installation**, and **NYC Cool Roofs**. NYC Talent has directly supported the expansion of NYC Cool Roofs, which provides New

Yorkers with paid training and work experience installing energy-saving reflective rooftops, by steering investments from New York State's Office of Just Energy Transition's Renewable Energy Training Initiative, or RETI. More than **$550 thousand** in new RETI funding has gone to the program.

Greening the Public Sector Workforce

Additional investments have enabled NYC Talent to partner with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to upskill its public sector fleet workforce through **Introductory & Advanced Electric Vehicle Trainings**. This first-of-its-kind foundational training to increase safety awareness for incumbent City employees working around electric vehicles and their high-voltage systems, particularly for non-technicians and support personnel, is on track to serve more than **300** workers.

NYC Talent is also ensuring the City's next generation of public sector workers is preparing for the green economy through our work expanding youth apprenticeship into new green pathways. Funded by a grant from the Robin Hood Foundation, NYC Talent is working with DCAS and City agencies to leverage the **new Youth Apprentice civil service title**, whose creation was shepherded by NYC Talent in 2025, to expand its use across the City in in-demand green occupations. Through analyses of the City hiring landscape, including active youth programs, we are working to coordinate and align partners so that youth apprentices can help fill the public service roles needed to meet NYC's sustainability and resiliency goals.

Youth Pathways to the Green Economy

NYC Talent's support for youth employment continues beyond public sector careers. Leveraging our industry expertise, we contributed to NYCPS's expansion of **FutureReady**, which now includes an **HVAC and Building Decarbonization Pathway,** which we continue to support through our role on NYCPS Industry Commissions. This pathway, which was launched in 2024, expands career-connected learning opportunities in green economy sectors including HVAC, decarbonization, clean energy, electric vehicles, and sustainable building operations. This pathway is currently available at 11 high schools and currently serves nearly **400** students in grades 10-12. NYCPS is expanding their investments in green economy workforce development and has committed **$6 million** in capital funding to support these initiatives.

Additionally, ReMaIIC launched **Inside Industrial,** a career exploration initiative that brings together NYCPS students and green economy employers so that students can visualize a career in the sector and employers can build connections with New York City's talented young people. To date, NYC Talent has held 13 tours for more than **350** students across 7 schools. We recently partnered with the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development to bring on cohorts of middle school students through DYCD's Exploring Futures program and are looking forward to identifying additional opportunities to grow and scale Inside Industrial.

Conclusion:

While there is no doubt that the impacts of federal cuts are significant and the growth of some occupations within the green economy may be slowed, this administration is committed to ensuring all New Yorkers can benefit from the growth of the green economy. The need for a more sustainable and climate resilient future is undeniable. We are proud of the progress that our office and the City has made in spite of the federal headwinds. And we will continue to develop more equitable pathways into the careers that power the green economy's growth. By strengthening pathways into these industries now, we are ensuring New Yorkers across the five boroughs benefit from New York City's transition to a more climate resilient future. Thank you and we look forward to your questions.

Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee:

My name is Sophia Oliveira, and I am the Director of Development and Communications for the Andromeda Community Initiative ("ACI"), a nonprofit workforce development organization that provides free construction and green construction training to New Yorkers facing barriers to employment.

Since our founding, ACI has trained more than 1,200 individuals—including people returning from incarceration, experiencing homelessness, navigating long-term unemployment, and living in chronic poverty—for careers in the construction industry. Through industry-recognized certifications, hands-on training, and comprehensive workforce support services, we help participants access family-sustaining careers and long-term economic mobility.

I am here today to highlight the critical role workforce development organizations play as New York City advances its energy efficiency, sustainability, and climate goals.

The demand for skilled workers who can support building retrofits, energy-efficient construction, electrification projects, and climate-focused infrastructure continues to grow. Through ACI's Clean Construction Technology Training program, developed with industry partners and aligned with emerging workforce needs, we are preparing New Yorkers with the certifications, technical knowledge, and workplace readiness skills needed to enter these growing sectors.

However, training alone is not enough. Workforce providers need stronger connections to employers, developers, labor partners, and public-sector projects to ensure that graduates can transition directly into careers. ACI currently has job-ready graduates who are eager to contribute to New York City's clean energy future, yet more intentional hiring pathways are needed to connect trained workers to available opportunities.

We encourage the City not only to continue investing in workforce development, but also to expand dedicated funding for green construction and energy-efficiency workforce training programs. Organizations like ACI are already building the talent pipeline needed to support the City's climate objectives, but greater investment is necessary to meet the scale of demand that lies ahead.

We also encourage the City to continue collecting, publishing, and sharing current labor market information related to the green economy, including projected occupations, anticipated hiring needs, wage data, and emerging industry trends. Access to timely labor market intelligence allows workforce organizations to align training programs with employer demand and ensures that public investments are preparing New Yorkers for the jobs that will be available in the years ahead.

ACI stands ready to partner with City agencies, employers, developers, labor organizations, and industry leaders to help build the workforce necessary to meet New York City's climate and economic development goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Inclusion of People with Disabilities in the Green Economy Action Plan

June 29, 2026

To the Committees on Economic Development and Workforce Development:

My name is Molly Senack, and I am testifying today on behalf of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) as their Education and Employment Community Organizer. This testimony is supported by Sharon McLennon Wier, Ph.D., MSEd., CRC, LMHC, Executive Director of CIDNY.

According to the NYS Department of Health, there are approximately two million adults with disabilities living in NYC. Yet despite being the population most likely to be impacted by climate change, least likely to have equitable access to gainful employment, and, simultaneously, most likely for their employment to be impacted by climate change, people with disabilities have been largely absent from the discussions of the implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan. There are, as of yet, no set benchmarks for hiring people with disabilities, no tracking of how many people with disabilities are being connected to Green Economy jobs, and no clear plan on how to partner with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) on how to develop and implement the Green Economy Action Plan.

As NYC continues to see an increase in days that break records- record heat, record cold, record flooding, record smoke, record snow- it is critical to consider the broad impact that climate change has on the disability community. People with disabilities are more likely to live below the poverty line, meaning they are less likely to be able to afford higher utility bills, putting many people with disabilities in the difficult (and often deadly) position of choosing between physical and financial safety. People with disabilities, particularly those who are immunocompromised, can face health risks that are exacerbated by extreme heat, extreme cold, and poor air quality. Street closures, elevator outages, public transit reroutes, etc. that occur due to weather-related damage are more than service disruptions when there aren't accessible alternatives, creating additional barriers for people with disabilities to get to work, to attend school, to make doctors' appointments, grocery shop, or- during more urgent emergencies- to evacuate an area that has become dangerous.

Additionally, jobs in climate-impacted industries are more prevalent among people with disabilities than among people without disabilities. Based on an analysis of claims filed with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board between May and September from 2002-2022, the construction industry sees a 20% increased likelihood of workplace injury on days over 85 degrees. The other industries most likely to be impacted by extreme heat are warehousing, waste management, manufacturing, and food services. These are industries that are notorious for hazards exacerbated by extreme weather and poor air quality: poor air circulation, lack of reliable temperature control, and, in the case of many food service locations, the presence of additional heat sources. On days over 85 degrees, each of these industries see a 13-18% increased likelihood of workplace injury.

Jobs in the aforementioned indoor sectors are more prevalent in disabled community than in nondisabled community: according to a 2025 report published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 32% of employed people with disabilities work in what are considered the highest risk sectors (including construction), compared to 29.7% of people without disabilities. It is also critical to acknowledge that the physical impact of climate change on employment is not limited to onsite dangers: poor air quality and extreme weather can also make commuting to and from work inherently dangerous, particularly for those who rely on accessible public transit. Extreme delays, overcrowding, and broken air conditioners can put employees' health at serious risk before even arriving at work, and can force employees into the difficult position of having to miss work (and possibly pay) when the process of getting there poses a significant health threat.

Missing work is, unfortunately, a luxury that many people with disabilities cannot afford. In 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), only 37.4% of disabled people between the ages of 16 and 64 were employed in the United States. According to the same report, employees with a disability were almost twice as likely to work only part time as people without a disability (31% vs 17%), and less likely to work in traditionally higher paid managerial or professional positions than people without disabilities (37.9% compared to 44.1% respectively). The American Community Survey (ACS) reported that even when people with disabilities did work fulltime, their median salary was more than $9,000 lower than the median salary of people without disabilities ($48,937 vs $58,113); and among working-age people between the ages of 16 and 64, poverty was more than twice as prevalent in the disabled community as in the non-disabled community (24.2% vs 9.9%). People with disabilities seeking gainful employment face gaps in hiring, advancement, and wage parity.

To exclude people with disabilities from the development and eventual implementation of a plan that seeks to create and expand employment opportunities, mitigate the impact of climate change, and explore what constitutes a "green" job- three issues the disability community is actively in the center of- is a critical and even dangerous oversight. **We therefore ask that the above omissions be included in the Green Economy Action Plan: set benchmarks for hiring people with disabilities, tracking how many people with disabilities are being connected to Green Economy jobs, and a clear plan on how to partner with MOPD on the development and implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan,** as it is critical that people with disabilities are not only included, but centralized, in these conversations.

We thank the Council for their time and effort, and for their continued investment in ensuring access to gainful employment for the disability community.

Sincerely,

Molly Senack (She/Her)
Education and Employment Community Organizer
Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York
Email: msenack@cidny.org Phone: (917)415-3154

Written Testimony of Dr. Christopher Malone
Deputy Executive Director of Policy and Education Innovation
Consortium for Worker Education (CWE)

Before the New York City Council Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development

Hearing on the Green Economy Action Plan
June 26, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon Chair Won, Chair Maloney, and members of the Committee.

My name is Dr. Christopher Malone, and I am proud to serve as the Deputy Executive Director of Policy and Education Innovation at the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan (GEAP) and the workforce system required to meet its ambitions.

CWE represents a network of over 40 workforce providers and partners with unions across New York City to train and place workers into high-quality careers. Last year alone, we served over 34,000 New Yorkers. A good deal of this work includes apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship pathways—the gold standard for workforce development in the trades.

It seems to me that the central question before this Committee is clear:

Does New York City have the workforce pipeline necessary to meet the demand created by Local Law 97 and the broader green economy?

Based on our experience, the answer is: not yet—but CWE stands ready to help build it.

What We Are Seeing on the Ground

CWE works closely with union partners and community-based providers across a full workforce pipeline—from recruitment to apprenticeship and long-term careers.

Across this ecosystem, several trends are clear:

- Demand driven by Local Law 97 is already accelerating across retrofit and building operations work
- Apprenticeship programs remain one of the most effective pathways into middle-class careers
- Pre-apprenticeship programs are effective but not yet operating at sufficient scale
- Workforce systems remain fragmented and insufficiently aligned with industry demand

CWE Proposes a 10-point Green Workforce Acceleration Strategy

To address this gap, CWE recommends that the Council advance a *Green Workforce Acceleration Strategy* grounded in the scale and urgency of GEAP.

1. Scale Proven Pre-Apprenticeship Models

If the City is targeting 12,000 apprenticeships, the feeder system must be significantly larger.

The City should invest in tens of thousands of pre-apprenticeship participants through proven providers such as Building Works, NEW, and Pathways to Apprenticeship – all dedicated and successful partners of CWE which are indicative of how to scale up the apprenticeship system.

2. Align Workforce Investments with Local Law 97 Demand

Workforce strategy must be directly tied to the pipeline of work created by LL97.

Workforce policy must follow the work.

The City should:

- Map all workforce investments to high-demand LL97 occupations
- Track whether placements are actually entering those sectors

- Use outcomes—not enrollments—as the core performance metric

3. Create a Green Workforce Accountability System

The City should establish a public-facing *Green Workforce Dashboard* tracking:

- Entry into green jobs
- Apprenticeship placements
- Conversion rates from pre-apprenticeship
- Retention and wage progression
- Equity outcomes by race, gender, and geography

4. Strengthen Workforce1 as an Entry Point to Apprenticeship

Workforce1 is a critical front door, but its connection to apprenticeship pathways must be improved.

The City should:

- Standardize apprenticeship-readiness criteria
- Embed trade-aligned ESOL and skills prep
- Formalize referral pipelines into union pre-apprenticeships

5. Expand Earn-and-Learn Pathways for Incumbent Workers

Because most green job growth involves transforming existing occupations, the City must invest in incumbent worker upskilling, including:

- Funding “earn-and-learn” models for current workers
- Supporting building service workers transitioning into energy efficiency roles
- Expanding short-cycle, targeted credentialing aligned with LL97

6. Use Policy Levers to Shape Employer Behavior

Workforce policy cannot be solely supply-side, focused on the worker.

The City should:

- Tie incentives and financing to apprenticeship utilization
- Reward contractors that invest in training pipelines
- Embed workforce expectations in public investments

7. Fund Workforce Coordination Capacity and Model

Given the complexity of aligning multiple systems, the City should formalize a Green Economy workforce coordination function with intermediaries to bridge industry demand, training providers, and apprenticeship systems. Workforce intermediaries can create:

- Alignment between industry demand and training supply
- Coordination across NYCEDC, NYC Talent, and workforce providers
- Integration with union apprenticeship systems

8. Invest in Supportive Services at Scale

Access alone is not sufficient. Completion matters.

The City should expand funding for:

- Childcare
- Transportation
- Tools and equipment
- Contextualized ESOL

This support is critical to participation and retention.

9. Advance a Near-Term "LL97 Workforce Surge Strategy"

The GEAP plan benchmarked the creation of 400,000 jobs by 2040 to the number of green jobs in 2021. In order to remain on target, the trajectory of job creation must be amplified. CWE recommends that the City implement an LL97 Workforce Surge Strategy over the next 2–3 years to meet immediate compliance deadlines.

This includes:

- Rapid expansion of pre-apprenticeships
- Accelerated training programs for key occupations
- Mobile and flexible training models
- Targeted funding for high-performing providers

10. Set Borough-Based Workforce Targets

Collectively, you represent all the residents of New York City but come from your respective boroughs and neighborhoods. To advance equity, workforce investments should include geographically targeted goals, particularly in:

- Environmental justice communities
- NYCHA developments
- Outer-borough neighborhoods with limited access to opportunity

Conclusion

The Green Economy Action Plan provides a bold vision. Local Law 97 creates urgency. The City has made meaningful investments in workforce development. If we get this right, we can simultaneously decarbonize 40,000 buildings and create one of the largest, most inclusive workforce expansions in a generation.

But if we fail to align our systems, then Local Law 97 will be more constrained by workforce capacity than political will or ambition.

CWE and our partners stand ready to help meet this challenge and build a green economy powered by New Yorkers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JobsFirst NYC

Testimony by
JobsFirst NYC's
Keri Faulhaber, Senior Vice President
before the
New York City Council Workforce Development Committee
with the City Council Committee on Economic Development
Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan
June 26, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Won, Chair Maloney, and members of the Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan. My name is Keri Faulhaber, and I am the Senior Vice President at JobsFirst NYC. Our mission is to create and advance solutions that break down barriers and transform the systems supporting young adults and their communities in the pursuit of economic opportunity and our work involves hundreds of partners across all five boroughs and has connected more than 20,500 people to education, training, and employment.

As part of our sector and work-based solutions, the Green Economy Network is a partnership of workforce training providers, employers, city agencies, postsecondary institutions, and intermediaries working together to train, place, and support New Yorkers entering the green workforce. Since 2019, over 200 unique organizations have partnered with the Green Economy Network and since 2023, the network has trained over 7,000 New Yorkers for green careers.

The Green Economy Action Plan is a critical unlock for economic mobility in New York City, projecting 230,000 jobs by 2030. These jobs will not exist simply because they are projected. These jobs will not exist simply because they are projected. They will exist only if the City treats workforce development as core infrastructure and aligns public investment, workforce strategy, education, and industry.

Based on recommendations published by JobsFirst NYC and our Green Economy Network, Building a Workforce Infrastructure for the Green Transition, we recommend the following:

Establish a Centralized Workforce Authority with Enforcement Power

This recommendation provides the critical operating system to achieve the goals set forth by the Green Economy Action Plan. New York City's workforce initiatives currently span multiple systems without a central coordinating entity; approximately 21 city agencies explicitly manage separate workforce development funding and programs.

To move beyond disconnected programming, the city should create a centralized Workforce Authority housed within City Hall that reports directly to a Deputy Mayor. This authority would serve as the City's central owner of workforce outcomes, aligning agencies, policy, procurement, and implementation across government.

This authority would hold enforcement power to embed consistent job quality, local hiring mandates, wage benchmarks, and mandatory long-term retention reporting directly into climate-related procurement contracts. By integrating these expectations into the procurement and capital delivery process rather than treating them as social services, the city can ensure that public infrastructure investments directly yield high-road, family-sustaining careers for local residents.

Strengthen Coordination between Schools, Workforce, and Industry
Education, workforce organizations, and industry each play a distinct role in preparing New Yorkers for green careers. The City should strengthen coordination across these systems so education, training, credentials, and work-based learning remain aligned with evolving labor market demand. This alignment will create clearer pathways into the emerging occupations identified in the Green Economy Action Plan while giving employers greater confidence that the workforce is being prepared for the skills they need.

Include Industry Leadership as a Driver of Green Job Demand
The City's projection of more than 230,000 green economy jobs is contingent upon widespread implementation of building decarbonization, infrastructure investments, clean energy deployment, and compliance with climate regulations. Those jobs will only materialize if employers, developers, building owners, contractors, and industry partners actively invest in and execute this work.

If climate policy and workforce systems are designed separately, the City risks producing trained workers without sufficient hiring opportunities, or creating jobs faster than the workforce can respond. Industry partnership is the mechanism that keeps workforce supply aligned with labor market demand. Employers should play an ongoing role in shaping the workforce system to ensure it evolves with changing labor market demand.

Conclusion
The Green Economy Action Plan provides the blueprint for a greener economy, but blueprints alone do not create jobs. Success will ultimately be measured by whether New Yorkers are hired into quality careers. Achieving that outcome will require the institutional infrastructure to coordinate agencies, align education and workforce systems with industry, and ensure employer demand keeps pace with talent development. With stronger coordination, clear accountability, and

sustained industry partnership, New York City can build the workforce needed to power a greener economy while expanding access to family-sustaining careers.

We invite you to read and download Building a Workforce Infrastructure for the Green Transition on our website at jobsfirstnyc.org.

SBIDC

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

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SBIDC.org

June 25, 2026

Re: Committee on Economic Development and Committee on Workforce Development oversight hearing on Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan

Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation (SBIDC) thanks Chair Maloney, Chair Won, and the members of the Committees on Economic Development and Workforce Development for the opportunity to submit testimony on implementing the Green Economy Action Plan. SBIDC has served the industrial businesses and workers of Sunset Park, Red Hook, and Gowanus for more than 40 years. Each year, we provide direct technical assistance and advocacy to approximately 250 businesses. Since 2017, leveraging our deep relationships with industrial employers, we have helped place more than 2,000 New Yorkers into quality, family-sustaining jobs.

Across these neighborhoods, more than 2,000 industrial firms anchor these local economies, from food production and garment manufacturing to film and television, fabrication, wholesale, logistics, utilities and transportation. SBIDC has deep, decades-long relationships with these businesses. We know the pulse of these sectors and serve as a trusted intermediary connecting industrial firms to government, resources, workforce pipelines, and new market opportunities. As a proud member of the Industrial Jobs Coalition, SBIDC is one of nine Industrial Business Service Providers (IBSPs) operating across all five boroughs—together, the only coordinated public infrastructure the City has built to support its industrial economy.

We urge the Committees to use their oversight authority to ensure that the next chapter of the Green Economy Action Plan is implemented through the City's existing industrial infrastructure: the businesses that make, mend, move, and maintain New York, and the IBSPs that know how to reach and support them.

IBSPs are implementation infrastructure for the Green Economy Action Plan

To ensure that climate solutions are home-grown, the City must build on existing industrial assets. SBIDC and our IBSP partners across the five boroughs have block-by-block knowledge of Industrial Business Zones built over decades. We help businesses navigate City agencies and utilities, address quality-of-life concerns, connect companies to workforce and training resources, and serve as the trusted intermediary when agencies such as DOT and DCP need to reach local businesses.

This role is already producing measurable results. SBIDC and our partner IBSP, BOC Network, operate We Source, NYCEDC's market access program for businesses in the offshore wind and building electrification sectors. Through the We Source Program, SBIDC and BOC have provided technical assistance to more than 50 companies in its first year, including direct business development support, microgrants, and connections to contracts. That work has resulted in more than $3 million in contract opportunities for local small businesses.

Across our green economy programs, SBIDC has engaged more than 500 businesses and referred 140 businesses to offshore wind contractors. Seventy percent of participating businesses are minority- or woman-owned, demonstrating that targeted industrial support can advance both climate and inclusive economic development goals.

We also use our relationships with businesses and local partners to deliver the Sunset Park Economic Mobility Network on behalf of NYCEDC. The SPEMN is the first coordinated workforce ecosystem in Sunset Park connecting residents to careers in the green economy, technology, and industrial sectors. Together, these programs show that when the City invests in trusted industrial intermediaries, small businesses and local workers can access emerging green economy opportunities.

The impact is clearest in the stories of participating businesses:

- Alexios Shaw of Ionic Order reported that SBIDC's support helped the company land $700,000 in additional offshore wind contracts across three projects in just six months.
- Mark Kupferberg of Kepco Dynatronix emphasized that SBIDC helped him network with the right people, meet key potential customers, and begin ongoing business conversations.
- James O'Hare of PIRTEK noted that SBIDC created access to offshore wind decision makers the company would not otherwise have been able to reach.

These programs are not outliers. They reflect the complex partnerships between IBSPs across the five boroughs that lead to thousands of industrial businesses served annually, helping them to participate in the City's green economy. The firms that make, mend, and move goods across New York are already part of the solution. With the right public investment and coordination, they can help deliver the Green Economy Action Plan at scale.

Requested Actions

We urge the Committees on Economic Development and Workforce Development to:

1. **Continue and expand green economy investments that work.** Sustain and grow programs such as We Source, the Waterfront Pathways Program and the Sunset Park and Hunts Point Economic Mobility Networks that connect industrial businesses and local workers to emerging green economy opportunities. Invest in local job training programs to foster walk to work communities in neighborhoods with key green economy employers and projects.
2. **Modernize industrial financing and business support tools.** Align resources such as the City's Industrial Development Agency with today's industrial realities so firms contributing to green

economy goals can access capital, contracts, and technical assistance.

3. **Coordinate City policy around industrial implementation.** Align procurement, workforce, land use, infrastructure, and agency outreach so industrial businesses and IBSPs can help deliver the Green Economy Action Plan effectively.
4. **Request that the City restore funding for comprehensive industrial support infrastructure.** The City (NYC SBS) is considering cutting funding to IBSPs – who are best positioned to help deliver the Green Economy Action Plan effectively. Work with the Industrial Jobs Coalition, IBSP organizations, and the businesses they serve to design a modernized program that maintains the geographic reach, sector specialization, and place-based relationships the current network provides.

New York City's industrial businesses have operated through recessions, superstorms, pandemics, and waves of displacement. They have kept New York fed, supplied, built, repaired, and moving—often without adequate recognition. The community-based organizations that support them have earned the trust of government agencies, private employers, and working-class communities in ways that take decades to build. SBIDC and the IBSP network are ready to help these same businesses deliver the next chapter of the Green Economy Action Plan. The City should use this existing infrastructure to meet the climate challenge, create quality jobs, and ensure that the green economy is built by and for New Yorkers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miquela Craytor
Senior Advisor
Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation
4223 1st Ave 2nd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11232

SOLARone | 9-03 44th Road, Suite 201, Long Island City, NY 11101
T: 212- 505-6050 www.solar1.org

Testimony of Stephen Levin, CEO, Solar One
NYC Council Committees on Economic Development and Workforce Development
June 26, 2026

Good Afternoon, Chairs Maloney and Won.

My name is Stephen Levin-I am the CEO of Solar One, a nonprofit organization which focuses on addressing the climate crisis through K-12 environmental education, green workforce development, renewable energy technical assistance for affordable housing, and the stewardship of Stuyvesant Cove Park in Manhattan where we just opened our new Environmental Education Center.

I have been honored to serve on the Green Economy Advisory Council for the past two years which has helped to guide the beginning phase of the implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan. The members of the Advisory Council came to the process with a goal of increasing our understanding of the challenges and opportunities that the clean energy transition provides. As you can imagine, having first met in late 2024, the landscape for clean energy has been ever shifting nationally since then, and not in a good way. The Trump Administration's singular focus on thwarting renewable energy has been tragically self defeating for our country, and it continues to set us back in our fight to save our future every day.

That said, I commend EDC for continuing to focus on what we can do here in NYC, with projects like BATworks, the Blue Highways Action Plan, and advancing the plan for the Brooklyn Marine Terminal. In addition, the Advisory Council focused on an issue that is a core part of Solar One's mission-readying the green workforce of tomorrow with the skills they need today.

Along with our partner organizations who are represented here today like NYCETC, Solar One has made great strides in the field of green workforce development. At our Long Island City Green Workforce Training Center, we have 4 classrooms where we are teaching adults who are facing barriers to employment in green building operation and maintenance, green construction, plumbing, electrical, solar installation, building decarbonization, and HVAC installation and maintenance. Each year, we graduate around 800 individuals from our program and each of those individuals carries with them approximately 3 professional certifications.

There are many initiatives underway that you have heard about from EDC and NYC Talent, and we are grateful and supportive of all of those efforts, including focusing on the city's Workforce1 Centers, BATworks, and the Brooklyn Navy Yard. That said, if I were to choose one area to see the city focus on, it would be engaging with the universe of building management firms to engage in a robust and sustained way with green workforce development providers to both ensure that the skills we are teaching in an ever evolving environment are meeting the needs of employers, including with building automation technologies, and that there be ongoing partnerships with green workforce providers and unions like SEIU 32BJ and Local 3 Electricians to ensure that there is a pipeline of candidates for the tens of thousands of jobs in NYC in the green economy over the next decades. What is clear is that every job we train our students for can be a green job, and the skills they are learning both benefit the students, future employers and our city as a whole.

I look forward to working with the Council, EDC and the Mayor's Office of Talent, and all of our partners as well invest in the green economy of New York City for many years to come.

TESTIMONY OF EMERGE CAREER

Before the New York City Council Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development

Oversight Hearing: Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan

June 26, 2026 • City Hall, Committee Room

Chair Won, Chair Maloney, and members of the Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development, thank you for holding this oversight hearing and for the opportunity to testify on the implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan. My name is Jason Barefoot, and I serve as Head of Government Accounts at Emerge Career.

Emerge Career is a technology-enabled workforce development provider that trains justice-impacted New Yorkers for skilled, family-sustaining careers in the trades. In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, we operate Next Mile NYC, the City's commercial driver's license (CDL) training and employment program for justice-involved New Yorkers. Our program is now also available to the justice-involved New Yorkers currently in custody at Rikers Island, on probation with DOP, and moving through some of the city's ATI programs.

<u>What sets us apart:</u> our graduates end the program with a job offer over 90% of the time. The training portfolio is already mapped directly onto the Green Economy Action Plan's named sectors.

The Green Economy Action Plan's Promise Depends on Its Workforce

At Emerge, we believe that economic justice and economic growth go hand in hand. We see the Green Economy Action Plan as one that sets the right ambition and also demands the appropriate justice frameworks: nearly 400,000 green-collar jobs by 2040, an $89 billion contribution to the city's economy, and a commitment to economic justice that will connect more than 12,000 New Yorkers to green economy occupations through pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training.[1]

The plan makes explicit its equity promise saying that New Yorkers from environmentally disadvantaged communities will be positioned to benefit from the climate transition.[2]

Two years into implementation, the question before these Committees is whether that promise is reaching the New Yorkers furthest from opportunity. Justice-impacted New Yorkers, who live disproportionately in the same environmental justice communities the plan names, face unemployment at more than 13 times the national rate.

If the green economy is built without them, the plan will have failed its own equity test. If it is built *with* them, the City gains a highly motivated workforce, safer communities, and a measurable, incredible return on every public dollar.[3]

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[1]New York City Economic Development Corporation, Green Economy Action Plan (2024), https://edc.nyc/green-economy-action-plan.
[2]NYC Office of the Mayor, "Mayor Adams Unveils Ambitious Plan to Make New York City Leader in 'Green-Collar' Jobs" (2024), https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/147-24/.
[3]U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "Data Deep Dive: The Workforce Impact of Second Chance Hiring," cited in NYC Office of the Mayor press release, March 30, 2026.

The Model That Already Works: Next Mile NYC

Our examples are not hypothetical. The City has already proven this model works. Since moving from a 20-person pilot to a 200 person program in 2025, Next Mile NYC has delivered:[4]

- **192 participants** earned earned full CDLs – 96% of participants who completed driving training obtained a CDL, and 90% had a job offer within six months
- **113 job offers and full-time placements** at an average salary of almost **$80,000,** 71 active job seekers as of June 15th;
- **Zero participants reported rearrested**;
- An estimated **700% return on investment** — $7.74 returned to the City for every $1 invested,[5] against the roughly $556,539 it costs to incarcerate one person for one year.[6]

In March 2026, the City expanded the program to Rikers Island, with training that begins in custody and ends in employment. Three participants who began training in custody have already received conditional job offers.[7]

Clean Transportation Is Green-Collar Work

The Action Plan commits the City to activating EV charging infrastructure and decarbonizing its transportation sector. Someone must drive, maintain, and service that transition: the electric trucks and buses, the municipal fleets converting from diesel, the last-mile delivery networks, the charging depots. CDL drivers and diesel technicians retrained for electric drivetrains are green-collar workers, and New York faces shortages and workforce development challenges in those fields across the board.

The workforce pipeline for the clean transportation transition can and should run through the City's reentry population. The infrastructure to do it, the training providers, employer networks, agency partnerships, and referral systems, already exists and is already producing results. What is needed now is for green economy implementation to deliberately connect to it, a gap NYCETC's recent report on the climate workforce also identifies.[8]

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[4] NYC Office of the Mayor / Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, "Mayor Mamdani Announces Expansion of 'Next Mile NYC' to Rikers Island," March 30, 2026, https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/press-release/mayor-mamdani-announces-expansion-of-next-mile-nyc-to-rikers-island/.

[5] NYC Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, "From Reentry to Rewarding Careers: How a CDL Program is Driving Second Chances," April 2025, https://criminaljustice.cityofnewyork.us/newsletter/nyc-reentry-job-training-cdl-second-chance-emerge/.

[6] New York City Comptroller / MOCJ analysis: New York City spends approximately $556,539 per year ($1,525 per day) to incarcerate one person. Cited in MOCJ, April 2025.

[7] NYC Office of the Mayor / Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, March 30, 2026 (see note 4).

[8] New York City Employment and Training Coalition, An Affordable Climate Economy: Developing the Workforce that Can Deliver a Greener, More Sustainable City (May 2026), https://nycetc.org/nycetc_on-the-ground_05282026/.

Recommendations

We respectfully urge the Committees to advance three actions:

1. **Name justice-impacted New Yorkers as a priority population in Green Economy Action Plan implementation:** The 12,000-person apprenticeship commitment should include explicit enrollment and placement targets for justice-impacted New Yorkers, and implementing agencies should report those outcomes to the Council annually.
2. **Fund clean transportation career pathways as green workforce infrastructure:** Invest in CDL-to-EV-fleet and diesel-to-electric technician training aligned with the plan's EV charging and fleet decarbonization commitments, so the workers who power the transition are trained ahead of demand.
3. **Direct agencies to scale using outcomes-based partnerships, ensuring public investments deliver real results, not just activities:** city agencies should expand programming with proven, outcomes-accountable training providers — paying for placements and retention, not seat time or events held— and replicate the Next Mile NYC public-private model across green economy occupations.

New York City has already shown that when it invests in justice-impacted New Yorkers, they repay that investment many times over, in wages earned, taxes paid, families stabilized, and incarceration costs avoided. **The green economy is the City's next great jobs engine**. We urge you to make sure it runs through every community, including and especially the ones touched by the criminal justice system.

Thank you for your time and your leadership. I welcome your questions and would be glad to serve as a resource to the Committees as implementation continues.

Jason Barefoot
Head of Government Accounts, Emerge Career
jason@emergecareer.com • emergecareer.com

Oral Testimony — Delivery Script (approx. 2½ minutes)

Chair Won, Chair Maloney, and members of the Committees — thank you for holding today's hearing. My name is Jason Barefoot, Head of Government Accounts at Emerge Career.

Emerge is a technology-enabled workforce provider and minority owned business that trains justice-impacted New Yorkers for skilled, family-sustaining careers in the trades. In partnership with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, we run Next Mile NYC — the City's workforce development and employment program for justice-involved New Yorkers in the logistics industry. Today, our programs are available at Rikers Island, through the Department of Probation, and across multiple ATI programs.

Importantly, over 90% of our graduates leave with a job offer, many of whom are making 6-figures.

The Green Economy Action Plan sets the right ambition. Nearly 400,000 green-collar jobs by 2040. An $89 billion contribution to the City's economy. An explicit commitment to connect New Yorkers from environmentally disadvantaged communities to the climate transition.

Two years in, the question before these Committees is whether that promise is reaching the New Yorkers furthest from opportunity. Justice-impacted New Yorkers live disproportionately in the same environmental justice communities this plan names — and face unemployment at more than 13 times the national rate.

If the green economy is built without them, the plan fails its own equity test. If it's built with them, the City gains a highly motivated workforce, safer communities, and a measurable, dramatic return on *every public dollar*.

-

Since scaling from a small pilot to serve hundreds of participants in 2025, Next Mile NYC has delivered: 192 CDLs, 113 job offers at an average salary of nearly $80,000, with zero participants rearrested, and an estimated 700% return on investment for the city.

The green transportation transition needs a workforce pipeline that can and should run through the City's reentry population. The training providers, employer networks, and agency partnerships already exist and are already producing results.

We urge three actions: First, name justice-impacted New Yorkers as a priority population in implementation, with explicit enrollment targets and annual Council reporting. Second, fund CDL-to-EV and diesel-to-electric technician pathways as green workforce infrastructure. Third, direct agencies to scale through outcome-based partnerships: paying for credentials, placements, and retention, not seat time and check-the-box activities.

Together we have proven this investment already works. The green economy is the City's next great jobs engine. Let's make sure it runs through every community.

Thank you.

EVERGREEN
Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange

Testimony of Leah Archibald

Executive Director, Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange

NYC Council Committee on Economic Development May 29, 2026

Thank you to the Chair and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify.

New York City is proposing to dismantle the only program dedicated to supporting small manufacturers and industrial businesses, many of which keep this city functioning. Eliminating funding for the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program would end more than forty years of partnership between the City and the organizations that help industrial firms survive and grow in New York.

Evergreen has partnered with the City of New York for more than 40 years to support industrial businesses in North Brooklyn—manufacturers, fabricators, food producers, and logistics firms that anchor the city's working economy. For more than 40 years, Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange has worked directly with these businesses that anchor the working economy of North Brooklyn. **I have included letters and testimonials from a sample of them highlighting the many ways Evergreen has assisted their businesses, allowing them to grow working class jobs in our community.**

What We Do

Since our founding in 1982, Evergreen has evolved alongside the City. We began by improving public safety in industrial areas, then became experts in incentive programs, helping hundreds of businesses grow. When the City created the IBZ program, we were selected to serve North Brooklyn. During the 2008 recession, we partnered with the City to acquire industrial property, and today we operate five buildings—32,000 square feet—leased below market to small manufacturers to preserve jobs.

In 2025 Evergreen staff served 192 individual businesses. Business clients looked to Evergreen for a wide variety of services; the most frequently requested services by far and away was assistance navigating government. Evergreen assisted 42 businesses with government navigation on 64 different issues. Evergreen was able to help eight local firms apply for 19 different incentives. One hundred thirteen firms received one-on-one assistance from Evergreen staff on more than 203 issues. Seventy-six firms sent 87 attendees to our informational workshops and multi-week seminars.

The businesses we assist are not small in their impact. A recent economic analysis found that **the businesses Evergreen served in 2025 support approximately 5,300 jobs across New York City and generate roughly $1.5 billion in economic activity annually.**

IBSP organizations also serve as the City's most effective pipeline connecting industrial businesses to critical public programs. Because we maintain long-term relationships with hundreds of firms in Industrial Business Zones, IBSPs are often the primary source of referrals for companies accessing city incentives such as the Commercial Expansion Program (CEP) and the Relocation and Employment Assistance Program (REAP). Without IBSP organizations actively identifying and assisting eligible businesses, many small manufacturers simply do not know these programs exist or lack the capacity to apply successfully.

At the same time, Evergreen is actively helping industrial businesses participate in the emerging green economy. Through our Growing Green initiative, we are working with partners to connect Brooklyn's small manufacturers and industrial service firms to opportunities in clean energy, infrastructure resilience, and environmental restoration. These programs are designed to ensure that the transition to a green economy creates opportunities for local businesses and working-class New Yorkers rather than leaving them behind.

This is a true public-private partnership. **City funding enables us to leverage philanthropy, private capital, and earned revenue to deliver far greater impact.** The City's investment allows organizations like ours to mobilize far greater resources on behalf of small industrial businesses, providing better bang for the buck with taxpayer dollars. Just as importantly, we are a trusted messenger—able to reach businesses and connect them to City programs more effectively than the government alone.

Why This Matters

In North Brooklyn alone, industrial businesses support nearly 48,000 jobs and generate approximately $15 billion in economic activity annually across New York City. These jobs pay average wages of approximately $107,000, significantly higher than the Brooklyn average. These are accessible, living-wage jobs—often held by immigrants, workers of color, and workers without college degrees—and they remain one of the most reliable pathways to economic mobility in this city, where cost of living continues to rise in many neighborhoods.

The IBSP program is not optional—it is core infrastructure that allows this sector to function. Organizations like Evergreen are a critical part of the infrastructure that allows this sector to survive in one of the most expensive cities in the world.

The work IBSP organizations do already aligns directly with many of the Mamdani administration's priorities: expanding access to good jobs, ensuring that growth is equitably distributed throughout all communities in NYC, and ensuring that the benefits of the green economy reach historically underinvested communities.

What's At Stake

Eliminating the IBSP program and its funding weakens the entire ecosystem of nonprofit economic development organizations that extend and amplify the City's investment in working-class job creation. The replacement model currently proposed in the Business Solutions Center RFP would assign a single rotating staff member to serve industrial businesses across multiple neighborhoods in each borough.

Industrial firms require help navigating zoning and permitting, securing industrial space, accessing specialized financing, complying with environmental regulations, and building workforce pipelines. This work requires deep sector knowledge and sustained relationships built over years. A rotating generalist cannot replace the trusted expertise that IBSP organizations provide, and a single employee cannot possibly serve the hundreds of businesses that IBSPs serve each year throughout NYC.

Further, this proposal is also inconsistent with the City's own industrial policy. The recently released Industrial Plan recognizes the need to strengthen the industrial sector and support businesses located in Industrial Business Zones. Eliminating the organizations that actually deliver those services and replacing them with a single employee in each borough undermines that strategy.

If IBSP is eliminated, the City loses that infrastructure. **If this program is eliminated, the City will lose more than a contract line. It will lose an entire ecosystem. This will undermine the effectiveness of NYC's own programming.**

You lose the front door to industrial businesses—and decades of trust and sector expertise built over time.

You lose the pipeline to your own programs. IBSPs are the primary way industrial businesses access City incentives like CEP and REAP. Without us, businesses don't know these programs exist—and even when they do, they lack the capacity to apply successfully.

You lose your emergency response network. After Hurricane Sandy, when SBS needed to meet impacted businesses, we brought the Mayor directly to flooded firms. During COVID, we connected manufacturers to produce hospital gowns for NYC Health + Hospitals, distributed PPE to essential businesses, and served as a real-time conduit between government and industry.

You lose capacity when the City needs it most. During COVID, SBS sent us hundreds of businesses from across the city seeking help accessing disaster funding. We worked around the clock to assist them. When DCP needed 300 surveys completed over the holidays, we delivered—because we have the relationships. When DOT asked us to collect feedback from our industrial businesses about the BQE and Grand Street Bridge redesign we were able to say yes because we had the relationships and at present, we still have the capacity.

You lose deep, sector-specific expertise that cannot be replicated by a rotating generalist and cannot be replaced by a rotating generalist.

If we lose this funding, we are not going to have the capacity–the staffing–to do these things for the city in the future.

And you'll lose decades of expertise—for what? A model that replaces trusted, sector-specific support from multiple staffers and organizations with a single rotating BSC staff member in each borough? Doing office hours once a week in a library? It is not humanly possible for a single BSC staffer in each borough to serve the 400+ businesses our IBSPs serve in each borough each year. How will businesses even know how to find them?

Let me be blunt: this is not efficiency. It feels more like **DOGE-style cuts or private equity stripping a company for short-term gains** while undermining its long-term viability.

The IBSP program costs the City roughly $1.2 million annually—a negligible investment relative to the billions of dollars in economic activity and tens of thousands of jobs supported by the industrial sector. For approximately $1.2 million annually—a rounding error—the City sustains a system that supports thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity.

Eliminating it does not save money. It dismantles infrastructure the City relies on.

What We Recommend

We are not asking the City to preserve the status quo. We are asking the City not to dismantle the industrial support ecosystem and to partner with us to create a system that works better and helps your administration achieve its goal of a more equitable city.

Specifically, we urge the City to:

- **Remove industrial business support from the Business Solutions Center RFP**
- **Use the one year extension for existing IBSP contracts to ensure continuity of services and as runway to work with industrial organizations to design a modernized program that addresses industrial real estate pressures, business education needs, and emerging opportunities in the green economy**

Industrial businesses make New York a city where working people can still build a future. The IBSP network helps keep those businesses here. The Industrial Service Providers are the infrastructure that supports them. **Don't squander it. Strengthen it.**

Eric Ottaway
CEO

Mayor Zohran Mamdani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

My name is Eric Ottaway, and I am the CEO and owner of The Brooklyn Brewery, an industrial business located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Brooklyn Brewery has been operating in Brooklyn since 1988, and was the first company to bring brewing back to Brooklyn when we opened our doors in Williamsburg in 1996. We currently employ over 40 people in Williamsburg and are putting the finishing touches on our new brewery which will require us to expand to over 60 employees.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like **Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange** provide critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses like mine. Evergreen has helped our company with zoning issues, grant applications, building and operating permits, available properties for lease, community relations, and much more. Evergreen regularly connects us with resources that allow us to operate and grow in New York City.

We love Brooklyn and NYC, and have staked our name (literally) to our beloved Borough. However, as you well know, doing business in NYC is challenging on a good day. Without the assistance of Evergreen, it would be far more difficult for small businesses like ours to thrive in NYC.

Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies like mine have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that helps industrial businesses survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of my business and that of my employees depends on it.

Sincerely,

Brooklyn Brewery 79 N 11th St, Brooklyn, NY 11249 tel.718 486 7422 fax 718 486 7440 BrooklynBrewery.com
eottaway@brooklynbrewery.com

St.Nicks Alliance

Karen Nieves <knieves@evergreenexchange.org>

Oppose eliminating the IBSP program

Arthur Wei <arthur@brooklyncampervans.com> Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 3:18 PM
To: Leah Archibald <larchibald@evergreenexchange.org>, "knieves@evergreenexchange.org" <knieves@evergreenexchange.org>, district34@council.nyc.gov

Dear Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez,

My name is **Arthur Wei**, and I am the owner of **Brooklyn Campervans**, an industrial business located in **East Williamsburg**. Our company **builds mobile homes and mobile offices from cargo vans and employs 5 New Yorkers.**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like **Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange** provide critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses like mine. Evergreen has helped our company with workshops, consulting, advice, and the right connections. Evergreen regularly connects us with resources that allow us to operate and grow in New York City. Without their assistance, it would be far more difficult for small businesses like ours to thrive in NYC.

Industrial businesses like mine provide stable, good-paying jobs and produce essential goods and services for New York City. Industrial businesses provide accessible, well-paying jobs to New Yorkers who are too often left out of the city’s prosperity—immigrants, people of color, and workers without college degrees. Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies like mine have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that helps industrial businesses survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of my business and that of my employees depends on it.

Sincerely,

Arthur Wei

Co-Founder of Brooklyn Campervans

344A Maujer St. Brooklyn, NY 11206

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BROOKLYN CAMPERVANS

Arthur Wei
Co-Founder at Brooklyn Campervans

https://www.brooklyncampervans.com/

arthur@brooklyncampervans.com

St.Nicks Alliance

Karen Nieves <knieves@evergreenexchange.org>

Fwd: Preserve Funding for IBSP Program

1 message

Caroline Bell <caroline@cafegrumpy.com> Sun, Mar 29, 2026 at 8:56 PM
To: Karen Nieves <knieves@evergreenexchange.org>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Caroline Bell** <caroline@cafegrumpy.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 29, 2026 at 8:56 PM
Subject: Preserve Funding for IBSP Program
To: <District33@council.nyc.gov>

Dear Council Member Restler,

My name is Caroline, and I am the owner of Cafe Grumpy. Our coffee roastery is an industrial business based in Greenpoint, where we roast coffee for our retail locations as well as for grocery and wholesale partners.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange, provide essential support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses like ours. Throughout our growth, Evergreen has helped us navigate challenges by connecting us with critical resources that make it possible to operate in New York City. Without this kind of support, it would be significantly more difficult for small businesses like ours to survive and grow.

Industrial businesses play a vital role in New York City's economy. We create stable, good-paying jobs and produce essential goods and services. Just as importantly, we offer accessible employment opportunities to New Yorkers who are often excluded from the city's economic prosperity. Programs like IBSP ensure that companies like ours have the support needed to remain in the city and continue employing local residents.

Eliminating the IBSP program would remove one of the few systems specifically designed to help industrial businesses endure in an increasingly challenging economic environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide critical services to the industrial business community.

Sincerely,
Caroline

Caroline Bell (*she/her*)
Owner, Café Grumpy
199 Diamond St. Brooklyn NY 11222 US
(718) 383-0748

EMPIRE METAL TRADING LLC.

SCRAP METAL RECYCLING
1301 GRAND STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211
TELEPHONE (718) 497-1950 FAX (718) 456-7274

ESTABLISHED 2015

March 18, 2026

Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez
244 Union Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211
District34@council.nyc.gov

Dear Council Member Gutierrez:

My name is Wayne King, and I am a managing member of Empire Metal Trading LLC, an industrial business located in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Our company receives, processes and ships scrap metal for recycling into new finished metal products. It is the oldest form of recycling. We currently employ 25 New Yorkers.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like **Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange** provide critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses such as ours. Evergreen has helped our company with a great number of resources and guidance pertaining to our operations, from networking with other local businesses, hiring, real estate advice, and assisting us in enhancing our operations in the borough.

Evergreen regularly connects us with resources that allow us to operate and grow in New York City. Without their assistance, it would be far more difficult for small businesses like ours to thrive in NYC.

Industrial businesses like ours provide stable, good-paying jobs and provide essential services for New York City. Industrial businesses provide accessible, well-paying jobs to New Yorkers who are too often left out of the city's prosperity—immigrants, people of color, and workers without college degrees. Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies like ours have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that assist industrial businesses to survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of my business and that of my employees depends on it.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. King

Empire Metal Trading, LLC

Email: wayne@empiremetaltrading.com

Written Testimony: City Council Small Business Committee Hearing Re: Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) Program Submitted by: Daniel Sklaar, CEO, Fine & Raw Chocolate LLC & The Chocolate Factory 70 Scott Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11237 March 23, 2026

My name is Daniel Sklaar. I am the founder and CEO of Fine & Raw Chocolate, a Brooklyn-based bean-to-bar chocolate company, and The Chocolate Factory, a 1,000-person event and production venue at 70 Scott Ave in Bushwick. I am writing to urge the Council to oppose the elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider program and to restore funding to organizations like Evergreen that are essential to the survival of industrial businesses in New York City.

Fine & Raw has been making chocolate in Brooklyn for over fifteen years. We source cacao directly from cooperatives in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, manufacture in-house, and sell across the country and internationally. The Chocolate Factory employs local workers and serves as an anchor in our neighborhood. We are exactly the kind of business the IBSP program was designed to support—and we have relied on it.

Through Evergreen, we have navigated regulatory processes with city agencies that would have been extraordinarily difficult and costly to handle on our own. We have accessed financing and incentive programs that helped us invest in equipment and grow our workforce. When regulatory issues arose—whether related to building compliance, fire safety, or manufacturing permits—Evergreen helped us understand our obligations and resolve them without losing momentum. And when we needed to find and secure industrial space appropriate for food production, Evergreen's knowledge of the local industrial real estate market was invaluable.

These are not abstract services. They are the difference between a business surviving and thriving in New York City, or relocating—or closing. The cost and complexity of operating as an industrial business in this city is immense. The IBSP program exists precisely because the city recognizes that small manufacturers and industrial employers cannot navigate it alone.

Dismantling the IBSP program under the guise of reform, after 40 years of investment, would be a serious mistake. It would weaken the support infrastructure that allows businesses like mine to stay and grow here. It would ultimately accelerate the displacement of industrial businesses from the five boroughs—businesses that employ working New Yorkers, anchor neighborhoods, and generate economic activity that cannot simply be replaced by retail or office use.

I urge this Council to protect the IBSP program and ensure that organizations like Evergreen continue to have the stable funding they need to serve our community.

Thank you.

Daniel Sklaar CEO, Fine & Raw Chocolate LLC / The Chocolate Factory
chocolate@fineandraw.com 70 Scott Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11237

H A N G M A N

FINE ART STORAGE AND SERVICES

106 Gardner Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11237
(212) 974-7669
hangmannyc.com

April 8, 2026

Dear Mayor,

I am writing as the CEO of Hangman NYC LLC, a fine art logistics and storage company based in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn. We employ approximately 73 people and serve major institutional art galleries across New York, Los Angeles, and Miami.

I urge you to restore funding for the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program and reverse the proposed cuts that would cripple organizations like Evergreen Exchange.

Evergreen has directly supported my company's growth and continued investment in New York City. They have helped us navigate complex regulatory issues, identify energy incentive programs, and connect with resources that made it possible for us to commit to a major new facility buildout in Brooklyn — a significant capital investment that keeps jobs and economic activity in the five boroughs.

Industrial businesses like mine face unique challenges operating in New York City. The cost of space, the complexity of city agencies, and the regulatory environment make it difficult to compete with markets in other states. Evergreen bridges that gap. Without them, many small and mid-sized industrial companies will lose the only lifeline they have to navigate city government and access the programs designed to keep us here.

Cutting IBSP funding would undermine 40 years of investment in New York's industrial economy and send a clear signal that the city does not value the businesses and workers who build, make, and move things.

I urge you to reconsider.

Respectfully,

David Hurwitz
Founder & CEO
Hangman NYC LLC
106 Gardner Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11237
(212) 974-7669
david@hangmannyc.com

LEERFORM

Dear,

I am writing to express my strong support for Evergreen and to urge you to reconsider any proposed cuts to the IBSP program administered through the Department of Small Business Services.

As a New York City small business owner, I can say without hesitation that Evergreen has been instrumental to the growth and sustainability of our company, Leerform. Their support has allowed us to manage cash flow, take on larger and more complex projects, and operate with a level of stability that would not have otherwise been possible.

Quite simply, we would not be in a position to grow or create jobs without Evergreen.

The proposed cuts to the IBSP program are deeply concerning. This program is not abstract policy—it is a direct pipeline of support that enables organizations like Evergreen to provide critical financial tools to small businesses that are often underserved by traditional lenders. Removing or reducing this funding would have immediate, real-world consequences: fewer businesses able to grow, fewer jobs created, and more companies forced to operate at the edge of instability.

In our case, Evergreen's support has translated directly into job creation. We have been able to hire, train, and retain employees because we had access to resources that allowed us to plan beyond the short term. Without that support, our trajectory—and our ability to contribute to New York City's economy—would look very different.

At a time when small businesses are still navigating economic uncertainty, this is precisely the kind of program that should be strengthened, not reduced. Investing in Evergreen and the IBSP program is an investment in job creation, economic resilience, and the long-term health of the city's small business ecosystem.

I strongly urge you to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that are proven to deliver real impact for New York City businesses.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to supporting the small business community.

Sincerely,
Doug Young

Managing Partner
Leerform Fabrication | Design

182 Stewart Ave Brooklyn NY 11237 347 300-9946

Martin Greenfield Clothiers, Ltd.
HAND TAILORED CLOTHING
239 Varet Street · Brooklyn · NY 11206 · Telephone: (718) 497-5480 · Fax: (718) 456-3365

Testimony of Tod Greenfield of Martin Greenfield Clothiers LTD
NYC Council Small Business Committee Hearing
March 23, 2026

My name is Tod Greenfield, and I am an owner of Martin Greenfield Clothiers LTD, an industrial business located in East Williamsburg. Our company manufactures hand tailored custom suits, and we currently employ 50 New Yorkers.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like **Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange** provide critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses like mine. Evergreen has helped our company Apply for our PPP loan, provided us with HR classes, and advocated on our behalf when we were issued unjust violations because of conflicting requirements of different city agencies. Evergreen regularly connects us with resources that allow us to operate and grow in New York City. Without their assistance, it would be far more difficult for small businesses like ours to thrive in NYC.

Our business provides stable, good-paying Union jobs to a mostly immigrant workforce. During Covid we produced desperately needed masks and hospital gowns for City Agencies, Hospitals, and front-line workers. My father Martin Greenfield got his first job in NYC at what is now our factory. He worked for the predecessor company for 30 years, starting as a non-English speaking refugee with only grade school education. His factory job enabled him to put down roots here and provided our family with the means to educate my brother and I. Today our employees can do the same for their families.

After the blackout of 1977 our neighborhood was decimated and business that survived the fires and looting were fleeing. Martin Greenfield worked with St. Nicks Alliance to establish Evergreen in 1982. This helped to stabilize and improve our neighborhood. Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies like mine have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that help industrial businesses survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of my business and that of my employees depends on it.

Sincerely,
Tod Greenfield, VP
Martin Greenfield Clothiers LTD
239 Varet Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206
(718) 497 5480 tod@greenfieldclothiers.com

Email: suit@greenfieldclothiers.com

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN | P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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T: 212-808-0700
F: 212-808-0844

Engoodman@norris-law.com

April 6, 2026

Mayor Zohran Mamdani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

My name is Ezra N. Goodman, and I am a member of Norris McLaughlin, a law firm in Manhattan. We are proud to work with Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange, a non-profit organization which provides essential support and resources to small businesses in New York City.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like Evergreen provide critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses. Evergreen regularly connects those businesses with resources that allow them to operate and grow in New York City. Without Evergreen's assistance, it would be far more difficult for small businesses to survive and thrive in NYC.

Industrial businesses of the kind supported by Evergreen provide stable, good-paying jobs and produce essential goods and services for New York City. Industrial businesses provide accessible, well-paying jobs to New Yorkers who are too often left out of the city's prosperity—immigrants, people of color, and workers without college degrees. Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that helps industrial businesses survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of their businesses and that of their employees depends on it.

Sincerely,

Norris McLaughlin, P.A.

Ezra N. Goodman

Ezra N. Goodman, Esq.

MECHANISM

March 18, 2026
Nepal Asatthawasi
Co-Executive Director, Mechanism
1216 Broadway
New York, NY 10001

Attention: City Council Small Business Committee Hearing, March 23 2026

We have watched with hope as the Mamdani administration has taken the question of who NYC's economy is actually working for seriously. We write now because the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program would move that project in exactly the wrong direction. Eliminating IBSPs would be a mistake that would deepen NYC's inequality, undermine its economic resilience, and abandon the workers and small businesses that need the City's support most. We urge the administration and SBS to reverse this decision.

For our first decade, we operated as the Urban Manufacturing Alliance, founded in NYC, where we helped launch the Made in NYC initiative and built the national case for urban manufacturing as a core economic development strategy. Now as Mechanism, we partner with communities, municipalities, and economic development agencies to plan and develop production ecosystems that increase local resilience and well-being. We work to fix the systems that have allowed manufacturing to erode, and with it, the economic security and stability of working-class communities. NYC is where this work began. What happens here still matters to us, and matters nationally too.

NYC is one of the most unequal cities in the world, and that did not happen by accident. It is the direct outcome of decades of shortsighted policy choices that prioritized the knowledge economy, finance, and tech industries while allowing the industrial sector to erode. The businesses and jobs that have sustained immigrants, New Yorkers of color, and workers without college degrees - the very people systematically excluded from the high-wage economy - have been allowed to shrink, squeezed by rising rents, speculative real estate, and the absence of dedicated policy. The IBSP program is one of the few remaining mechanisms the City has left to counteract this trajectory. Eliminating it tells the immigrant business owner in Maspeth, the garment worker in Sunset Park, and the food manufacturer in the South Bronx that the city has decided their economy is not worth saving or even having.

The numbers demonstrate the stakes:

- The **industrial sector provides over 500,000 jobs** (nearly 15% of the city's workforce) and generates over **$1.7 billion annually in tax revenue**.
- **32% of NYC jobs that pay over $50,000 and don't require a college degree are industrial jobs**, more than any other sector.
- Industrial businesses offer real mobility to a **workforce that is 67% people of color and 70% of whom do not possess a degree.**

These jobs are the primary remaining pathway to the middle class for New Yorkers most often left behind. Without doubt, they depend on the specialized support that only IBSPs provide.

We are entering an era of what many recognize as a polycrisis: accelerating climate shocks, geopolitical instability, fractured global supply chains, and economic volatility that no single policy can predict or prevent. When global supply chains collapsed during the pandemic, the city's remaining industrial sector - composed of its garment workers, food manufacturers, medical supply producers - became an emergency resource. As NYC pursues a Green New Deal transition, it will depend on its industrial sector to design, manufacture, install, and maintain green technologies. IBZs contain freight logistics, cold storage, waste processing, electricity distribution, energy storage, advanced manufacturing capacity, and other capabilities that the city cannot afford to lose. The businesses that can flex to meet changing needs are small manufacturers, who also are the most agile, community-rooted producers in the ecosystem. IBSPs keep them viable and connected.

There is one more disruption that demands attention: AI is already transforming the knowledge economy that New York has spent decades building. No one knows exactly how this will unfold, but manufacturing jobs — that require physical skill, spatial judgment, and craft — have proven far more resistant to automation than the office economy New York has bet everything on. Protecting and growing the industrial sector now is a hedge against the workforce displacement that is coming. A city that preserves its manufacturing base will be far better positioned to absorb shock than one that lets it disappear.

We understand the city is facing a serious budget deficit. We do not dismiss this difficult reality. But the IBSP program costs just $1.2 million citywide, a figure so modest it amounts to a rounding error in municipal finance. For that investment, the city sustains the backbone organizations that keep hundreds of industrial businesses alive, growing, and employing marginalized New Yorkers. These are businesses that generate tax revenue, anchor neighborhoods, and provide the kind of stable employment that reduces long-term demand on city social services.

The proposed alternative of a single rotating generalist staffer per borough through the Business Solutions Center is an insufficient substitute for what currently exists. Industrial firms require specialized support from organizations embedded in their sector and communities. That is what IBSPs provide, built over decades of institutional knowledge and relationships based on trust and it cannot be replicated by drop-in services.

We ask the City to take three steps:

1. Remove industrial businesses from the Business Solutions Center RFP;
2. Extend existing IBSP contracts by at least one year to ensure continuity; and
3. Work *with* the industrial community to co-design a modernized program that addresses rising real estate pressures, connects manufacturers to green economy opportunities, strengthens workforce pipelines, and reinvests in the Industrial Developer Fund.

A more equitable NYC is not possible without a strong industrial sector. The IBSP program is one of the most important tools the city has for building the economy this administration claims it wants. We urge you to protect it.

Sincerely,

Nepal Asatthawasi
Co-Executive Director
Mechanism

SIGHTLINEFABRICATION

810 Humboldt St, Ste 1D
Brooklyn, NY 11222
Phone: 718-383-8333
www.sightlinemade.com

Mayor Zohran Mamdani
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

May 11th, 2026

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

My name is Jessica Kaplan, and I am the co-owner of Sightline Fabrication LLC, an industrial business located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Our company manufactures custom scenery for off-Broadway theater. We mainly work with not-for-profit theaters and currently have a list of about 10 employees who freelance for us on different projects based on their availability.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program as they provide vital funding for organizations like Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange. In turn, Evergreen provides critical support to small manufacturers and industrial businesses like mine.

Evergreen was instrumental in our ability for our business to survive through the pandemic. We had no work for over 10 months because all of the theaters in NYC were closed, but we still had to pay $12,000 a month in rent for our 5,000 sqft shop space. Without their help we would not have received a PPP loan which along with other guidance allowed us to find a way to keep our business open.

In 2024, after the building where we had been renting a space for 13 years was sold, the new landlord used a buyout clause we were forced to accept by our old landlord to end our lease in order to rent the space. We had to find a new space in about 3 months. We found it very difficult to find a manufacturing space that was the size we needed at a price we could afford, and also near public transportation. Without Evergreen's help we never would have found a new space manufacturing space with GMDC and we would have been forced to close our business.

In addition, Evergreen regularly connects us with resources that allow us to operate in New York City. They also provide in person meeting about different topics that are very helpful for small business such as bookkeeping, marketing, accounting, utility savings, real estate, and financing info. They help connect us with other businesses in our area. And they provide information about our area that might affect us, like subway changes, road closures, or hazards like superfund clean ups.

Owning a small business has become more unaffordable as we are also struggling with the rising costs of living in NYC as well. It feels like a losing battle against increasing utilities, rent, fees, taxes, and insurance. We had been in business for over 18 years and we have never felt like we have been able to get far enough ahead of the rising costs of doing business in NYC to feel comfortable. But in the past few years it has begun to feel unsustainable and we worry that we may not have help navigating any future challenges.

Industrial businesses like mine provide stable, good-paying jobs and produce essential goods and services for New York City. We work in an industry that is part of the fabric of NYC and the jobs we provided pay almost double the minimum. Programs like IBSP ensure that small companies like mine have the support they need to remain in the city and continue employing local residents. Eliminating this program would remove one of the few systems that helps industrial businesses survive in an increasingly difficult business environment.

I strongly urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen that provide essential services to the industrial business community. The livelihood of my business and that of my employees depends on it.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kaplan
Sightline Fabrication LLC
810 Humboldt St, Ste 1D
Brooklyn, NY 11222
718-383-8333
bids@ sightlinenyc.com

Skopos Collective.

Humanizing Finance for Small Business since 2016

March 26, 2026

To: NYC Committee on Small Business
Via upload to Hearing Testimony Registration

From: Elli Papadopoulos
Founder, Skopos Collective LLC
504 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, NY
elli@skoposcollective.com

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to the Proposed Elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) Program

My name is Elli Papadopoulos and I am the Founder of Skopos Collective LLC. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

I have worked in small business, community, and economic development since 2005. During the 2008 recession, when banks turned their backs on small businesses, organizations like Evergreen and SBIDC showed up. At the time I was working for a Community Development lender — Grow America Fund — and these IBSPs were our eyes and ears on the ground. When an industrial business needed financing and no one else was willing to help, they were the lifeline that made it happen.

I say this not only from memory, but from current experience — I work with these organizations today, providing small business finance education to their members. They engage real businesses on real issues and deliver real answers from real professionals. That is rare and valuable.

Generalist organizations simply do not understand the specific needs of manufacturers. IBSPs do. A manufacturer navigating flood-proofing, industrial leases, or environmental permitting has fundamentally different needs than a restaurant or retailer. Folding them into a one-size-fits-all program with the same budget and a rotating staff member covering an entire borough is not a reform — it is a funding cut in disguise.

Industrial businesses pay better wages, generate significant economic and social value, and are woven into the fabric of our neighborhoods. They deserve more investment, not less. Eliminating the IBSP program would further disenfranchise this community at precisely the moment they need support most.

I urge you to reject this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

EPapadopoulos

Elli Papadopoulos

STITCH NYC INC

March 23, 2026

Dear City Council Small Business Committee:

My name is Kelly Ault. My husband and I have a small custom furnishings business in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Like my husband and me, most small business owners are everyday people with a passion, but without MBAs or knowledge about the ins and outs of starting, running, and growing a business. We don't know what we don't know, so we rely on the expertise of Evergreen to educate us and connect us to the right people and organizations for important aspects of owning and running a business, such as attaining and maintaining compliance, simplifying the complexities of business finance, finding funding sources, and helping with solutions for day-to-day and even long-term challenges.
We count on their assistance to help us navigate aspects of running a business that are often confusing and time-consuming.

Additionally, since many small businesses, including our own, are self-funded, and the owners wear many hats, this leaves little time or financial resources for researching and affording business development classes. We rely on Evergreen to alert us to low- or no-cost classes and events.

All these services are invaluable to small businesses. Without IBSP funding, this vital lifeline will be cut. Evergreen and other similar organizations eliminate a large amount of stress from small business owners. They are a trusted resource that we can lean on.

NYC is nothing without its small businesses. They are the backbone of our city, and we need all the support we can get!!

Please continue to fund the IBSP program so we can continue to rely on Evergreen for years to come!

Thank you for your time.

Kelly Ault

*Please NOTE our new address (same physical space, new address), effective April 1st 2026:

Kelly Ault
Stitch NYC Inc
1 Brooklyn Navy Yard
Bldg 88 / Suite 1003
Brooklyn NY 11205

TWOSEVEN INC.

221 McKIBBIN STREET BROOKLYN NY 11206
TEL 718 389 4876 FAX 718 389 5304
TWOSEVEN.NET INFO@TWOSEVEN.NET

Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez
District 34 — New York City Council
244 Union Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211

23 March 2026

Dear Council Member Gutiérrez,

My name is Franco Götte and I am the CEO of TwoSeven Inc., a design and fabrication studio located at 221 McKibbin Street in East Williamsburg — in your district. Together with my partner Martina Salisbury, I employ over fifty New Yorkers who design and build custom window displays, retail environments, and installations for fashion brands, luxury retailers, museums, and cultural institutions. Everything we make is proudly Made in New York City.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program, and to ask for your support in preserving it.

Organizations like Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange are exactly what this program is meant to create. Evergreen serves over 200 businesses annually in the Greenpoint/Williamsburg and North Brooklyn Industrial Business Zones, offering networking, workshops, and technical assistance; helping businesses navigate grants and financing; and advocating directly for the preservation of industrial space. For businesses like ours, this support is not a luxury — it is a lifeline.

TwoSeven's story is a familiar one in this neighborhood. When rezoning in Williamsburg-Greenpoint allowed residential development to push into our neighborhood, our landlord refused to renew our lease and rents more than doubled. I seriously considered closing the business. It was Evergreen who made us aware of a city grant to help cover our moving expenses — and without that grant, during the depths of the 2008 financial crisis, we would not have survived. Evergreen also helped us become a Qualified Empire Zone Enterprise, and those tax credits allowed us to grow from 15 employees to over 50 in the years that followed — fabricators, artisans, and artists who live and work in this neighborhood.

Industrial businesses like ours provide stable, accessible, good-paying jobs to New Yorkers who are too often left out of the city's prosperity. The IBSP program is one of the few systems that gives small industrial businesses the support they need to stay in New York City and keep employing local residents. Eliminating it would be a serious blow to the businesses, workers, and neighborhoods — like East Williamsburg — that depend on it.

I strongly urge you to support the preservation of funding for the IBSP program. The livelihood of our business and the fifty New Yorkers who work here depends on it.

Respectfully,

Franco Götte, CEO
Martina Salisbury, Creative Director
TwoSeven Inc.
221 McKibbin Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206

WONTON 云吞食品公司 FOOD INC.
220-222 MOORE STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11206
TEL: (718) 628-6868
FAX: (718) 628-1028
WWW.WONTONFOOD.COM

March 17, 2026

Dear Council Member Gutiérrez,

My name is Alice Mok, and I serve as Assistant Vice President of Marketing & Public Affairs at Wonton Food Inc., a family-owned food manufacturing company headquartered in Brooklyn. Founded in 1973 in Chinatown, Wonton Food has been producing noodles, wrappers, and fortune cookies for over 50 years. Today, we employ more than 400 New Yorkers and supply restaurants, grocery stores, and food service providers nationwide.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed elimination of the Industrial Business Service Provider (IBSP) program.

Organizations like Evergreen: Your North Brooklyn Business Exchange have been a vital partner to industrial businesses like ours. Evergreen provides meaningful support by connecting us with city resources, advocating for the needs of manufacturers, and helping ensure that companies like Wonton Food can continue to operate and grow in New York City. Their role as a bridge between government and industry is especially critical as manufacturers navigate rising costs, regulatory complexity, and ongoing space constraints.

Industrial businesses like Wonton Food play an essential role in New York City's economy. We provide stable, well-paying jobs that are accessible to immigrants, working families, and individuals without advanced degrees—jobs that support local communities and create real pathways for upward mobility.

At the same time, operating an industrial business in New York City has become increasingly challenging. Programs like IBSP are among the few dedicated resources that actively support manufacturers and help us remain competitive. Eliminating this program would significantly weaken the support system that small and mid-sized industrial businesses depend on to survive and grow.

I respectfully urge the City of New York to preserve funding for the IBSP program and continue supporting organizations like Evergreen. The long-term sustainability of companies like Wonton Food—and the livelihoods of the hundreds of New Yorkers we employ—depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alice Mok

Alice Mok

Assistant Vice President, Marketing & Public Affairs

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

TRAVIS PROULX
Vice President for External Affairs
tproulx@fordham.edu

"Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan"

Testimony to the NYC Council Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development

Good afternoon, Chairs Won and Maloney, Committee members, Council staff, and community colleagues – on behalf of Fordham University President Tania Tetlow, Fordham's 16,000 students studying at our Bronx and Manhattan campuses, and a vast global community, it is a pleasure to join you today to discuss the importance of – and strategies necessary for – implementing the Green Economy Action Plan.

Environmental justice is a moral imperative, core to our Jesuit values. At Fordham University, this mission is deeply local. Our Rose Hill campus is anchored in a community that has historically faced some of the highest poverty rates in the nation and has long borne the brunt of disproportionate and severe environmental injustice, impacting our water, air, health, and community wellbeing. We do this work because we collectively deserve better.

While New York City's green economy is rapidly expanding, growth is bypassing the Bronx. The disconnect is striking because:

- We are the greenest borough, with 25% of our land dedicated to open space.
- We are the youngest borough, with nearly a third of our residents aged 18 or under.
- We have a legacy of community leaders who have driven city-wide environmental action for decades.

Despite this incredible potential, the Bronx is being left behind in the green transition. The borough lags significantly in solar and electric vehicle infrastructure, and our community gardens remain constrained by a lack of scale and support. The real crisis, however, is a lack of investment in our people: there is virtually no focused support for green entrepreneurship, and inadequate public transit actively cuts our residents off from the job training, placement, and resources necessary to build these careers. We must close persistent gaps.

Flipping the Script: Preparing for the Launch of the Bronx Green Jobs Center

As New York's Jesuit university, Fordham bears a unique responsibility to convene stakeholders around a shared vision and strategy for environmental justice. With the thoughtful guidance of the NYC Economic Development Corps, over the past 1.5 years we have developed a collaborative public-private blueprint known as the Bronx Green Jobs Center. Launching late this year on East Fordham Road, Fordham University intentionally partnered with the institutions and organizations who have been doing this work exceptionally well for years – but who have not been able to scale that work due to a lack of resources, space, or other limitations:

1) CUNY and SUNY training partners with expertise in solar energy, urban agriculture, and more
2) Companies and public agencies seeking career-ready trainees, and
3) Community-based service and support providers who can ensure wraparound services necessary to help individuals enroll, complete their training, and pursue and compete in the job market.

You will receive testimony today from colleagues and partners on policy actions which Fordham University supports. However, three areas we wish to highlight based on our experiences in this process:

1) The value in NYC implementing an investment strategy that requires cross-sector collaboration

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

TRAVIS PROULX
Vice President for External Affairs
tproulx@fordham.edu

2) The importance of workforce and entrepreneurship strategies that prepare the "whole person" for a dramatically shifting job and business landscape
3) Establishing a centralized Workforce Authority with enforcement and investment power in City Hall, responsible for implementation of a coordinated strategy and accountability metrics across all agencies, particularly the Departments of Education, Buildings, Small Business Services, City Administrative Services, and more.

Creating a City-wide Model for Collaboration
We fundamentally believe it is impossible to remedy the structural inequities that exist in New York and operationalize the scale of the City's Green Economy Action Plan if public investment creates new silos or competition.

Fordham University recognizes that we cannot be experts in every field and values our partnership with other institutions and organizations that hold important expertise. We are able to launch Year 1 of the Bronx Green Jobs Center solely because of the inspiring network of partners helping lead this effort. We made the strategic decision early in the process to not reinvent the wheel or create arbitrary competition. Instead, our network will continue to pursue partnerships with the people, places, and organizations who have long led this work to create (1) a cohesive city-wide network, and (2) a centralized physical learning hub in a severely underserved community that will amplify our collective impact.

We encourage the City to ensure that cross-sector collaboration is embedded into all future investments. Organizations on the frontlines of this work – particularly resource-limited organizations who do not have the in-house capacity for grant-writing, etc. – are eager for collaboration and are too often left behind in these processes. The more the City can foster collaborative networks, the greater the impact.

Preparing Trainees to Compete in the Modern Job Market
We all must collectively confront the truth of the current landscape in order to help workers and entrepreneurs succeed. Particularly there are gaps in:

1) Both technical proficiency, and what is known as "soft" skills for green careers. Soft skills may include interpersonal communication abilities, and digital knowledge (particularly with AI impacting hiring practices far faster than predicted). The need for resources is particularly profound in the Bronx where more than 50% of all residents speak a language other than English at home, and nearly 25% are without a high school diploma or G.E.D. These numbers have a direct correlation to the likelihood of an individual having a successful job interview and being able to navigate challenges upon being hired.
    a. **Technical and soft skill training should be required in all future investments.**
2) Industry-level projections on the specific job titles that will be in the highest demand, and when, and what core competencies are required to compete for these jobs. Workforce development initiatives can have a reputation for churning out certificates, helping trainees learn technical skills, but ultimately not ensuring long-term career placement for trainees. This can be especially true for green economic sectors, many of which are growing and evolving in real-time.
    a. **Training organizations must have clarity on what jobs will exist, what qualifications are necessary, and what pathways to apprenticeship with organized labor and others are needed to create career-ready, specialized training that meets employer needs.**
3) Leveraging community-based social service organizations in the enrollment funnel. No one has more direct engagement with – nor knowledge of – the individuals and families who will benefit

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

TRAVIS PROULX
Vice President for External Affairs
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most from the City's investment in a green economy than the community organizations that serve them. These organizations are best suited to help engage and guide individuals to sign up for training, help vet an individual's preparedness, and work closely with training partners to address basic needs ensuring training completion. They are often, however, resource- and staff-limited and not as fully embraced by training leads as they should be.

a. **Community-based social service organizations should be a required partner in future investments.**

Establishing a Centralized Workforce Authority

New York City's commitment to advance the green economy and fight climate change is remarkable. We owe a debt of gratitude to the leaders who have successfully navigated this complex landscape for years – and in some cases, decades – to ensure progress.

But to truly scale our impact, we must build upon their work by establishing a centralized, coordinated City authority — one that convenes every relevant agency around a shared strategy with clear measures for accountability. We urge the City to mirror the spirit of public-private collaboration that drives our Bronx Green Jobs Center.

Specifically, we recommend three immediate actions:

- **Streamline Agency Efforts:** There are 21 relevant agencies operating in this space. We must bring them out of silos to eliminate competing programming. By reducing redundancy, we can shift our focus to what matters: high-quality career outcomes, long-term retention, and growth.
- **Fund Workforce as Infrastructure:** The City should classify workforce delivery costs — like recruitment and screening — as project management costs within capital budgets so that they can be financed through long-term infrastructure bonds. Simply put: workforce and entrepreneurship *is* infrastructure.
- **Create Living Labs:** Our schools and public spaces should serve as living laboratories. We strongly support a retrofit pilot program in partnership with the building trades to install solar arrays and heat pumps on public properties. This would simultaneously upgrade our green infrastructure while providing hands-on technical training for youth and adult learners, including justice-impacted communities.

Testimony of Green City Force

New York City Council Committee Hearing on Green Jobs, Workforce, and Climate Equity

Submitted by: Sindri Manzanares, COO, Green City Force

Date: June 26, 2026

Thank you Chair Won and Chair Maloney for convening this timely hearing. Climate change is not abstract for low-income New Yorkers and frontline communities. It shows up as overheated apartments, flooded streets, poor air quality, higher utility bills, lost wages, and neighborhoods asked to absorb risk without receiving enough of the investment. In NYCHA communities and other high-need neighborhoods, the same residents who are most exposed to extreme heat, flooding, pollution, and disinvestment are too often left outside the career pathways created to address those challenges.

Green City Force submits this testimony because climate policy will only be equitable if the people closest to the crisis are resourced to be part of the solution. The City cannot build a just green economy by funding training slots alone. Young adults from NYCHA, low-income, and frontline communities need paid, holistic, community-rooted pathways that combine trust, stability, mental health and wellness support, professional development, sector exposure, credentials, and employer connections to move from first exposure to long-term careers.

New York City's Green Economy Action Plan projects that the city's green economy will grow to nearly 400,000 jobs by 2040 and states that this growth must support a prosperous, equitable, and just future for New Yorkers. The plan also emphasizes training and positioning New Yorkers, particularly those from environmentally disadvantaged communities, to benefit from this growth. That is the right goal. To make it real, the City must fund the infrastructure that helps young adults move from exposure, to readiness, to credentials, to employment, and to long-term advancement.

The Mamdani administration has already signaled that green jobs can advance both climate infrastructure and economic opportunity. DEP's 2026 GROW pilot with The Doe Fund is a useful example: a $4.5 million, three-year initiative combining classroom instruction, hands-on training, and career development to prepare New Yorkers for stormwater management and green infrastructure careers. We must ensure the jobs that are being created are good jobs that provide family sustaining wages and pathways to real careers.

Green City Force brings nearly two decades of experience demonstrating what this can look like in practice. Nearly 1,000 NYCHA residents ages 18 to 24 have served with GCF, showing that young public housing residents are ready to help build a more sustainable city when given a paid, structured, and supportive pathway. Our model combines paid service, professional development, mental health and wellness support, case management, hands-on sector exposure, technical training, and employer-connected pathways. This is not a wraparound add-on. It is the foundation that makes equitable access to the green economy possible.

For many young NYCHA residents and other young adults from frontline communities, the first barrier to green sector employment is not ability or interest. It is access, exposure, stability, and support. Many are navigating financial pressure, family responsibilities, mental health needs, trauma, transportation barriers, limited professional networks, and limited exposure to the range of careers that exist within the green economy. A young person cannot pursue a career they have never seen, cannot imagine, and have not been invited into.

That is why sector exposure and professional development are essential. Before a young adult can realistically commit to a solar training, HVAC credential, construction pathway, union apprenticeship, civil service exam, or full-time green sector job, they need to understand the field, see themselves in it, build trust with adults and institutions, stabilize immediate life barriers, and practice workplace expectations in a supportive environment. Credentials matter, but credentials alone do not create economic mobility.

A NYC Climate Corps can make the Green Economy Action Plan equitable in practice

GCF has proposed a NYC Climate Corps as a practical vehicle for linking ambitious climate goals with neighborhood-level implementation, frontline community leadership, and clear pathways into the green workforce. A Climate Corps could anchor work in priority communities and institutions, including NYCHA campuses, environmental justice neighborhoods, MOCEJ, CUNY, public schools, City-owned buildings, Governors Island, correctional facilities, and projects driven by EDC, DEP, and NYC Service.

The City should use public climate investments as living learning sites. NYCHA campuses, schools, parks, public buildings, rain gardens, urban farms, compost systems, solar infrastructure, and resilience projects can become places where young people build real skills while delivering visible benefits to their communities. This approach also aligns with the Green Economy Action Plan's focus on youth pathways, community hiring, apprenticeships, training facilities, and industry partnerships.

Just as important, the City should not define green jobs too narrowly. Union construction careers are critical, but so are entry points in maintenance, operations, stormwater management, urban agriculture, zero waste, composting, clean energy, building systems, energy efficiency, solar operations, and resilience. Many of these pathways can serve as bridges into more advanced training, apprenticeships, civil service, union pathways, and good jobs.

Recommendations

- **Fund holistic green workforce pathways, not only technical training.** City investments should include outreach, recruitment, paid service, mental health support, case management, professional development, sector exposure, technical training, placement, and retention support.

- Prioritize NYCHA residents and frontline communities. Community hiring and place-based strategies should intentionally connect public climate investments to residents of communities facing the greatest burdens from heat, flooding, pollution, and disinvestment.
- **Create funded bridge programs into apprenticeships, civil service, and advanced training.** Young adults need supported on ramps that help them move from readiness and exposure into rigorous credentials, union pathways, and full-time employment.
- **Use public sites as workforce learning sites.** Schools, NYCHA campuses, City-owned buildings, public green infrastructure, and resilience projects should include funded roles for community-based workforce partners.
- **Track equity outcomes.** The City should measure NYCHA resident participation, credential attainment, work hours, placement, retention, wages, and advancement, not just program enrollment.

New York City has an opportunity to make its climate agenda a true economic mobility agenda. To do so, it must fund the community-rooted bridge programs that make green careers accessible to young people who have too often been excluded from opportunity. GCF urges the Council and administration to invest in a holistic NYC Climate Corps model that helps young NYCHA residents and young adults from frontline communities move from service and exposure to credentials, employment, and long-term leadership in the green economy.

Testimony of Katelyn Villatoro, New York City Policy Fellow
New York League of Conservation Voters
City Council Committee on Economic Development
Jointly with the Committee on Workforce Development
Oversight Hearing on Implementing the Green Economy Action Plan
June 26, 2026

My name is Katelyn Villatoro and I am the New York City Policy Fellow at the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization representing over 30,000 members in New York City. Thank you, Chairs Maloney and Won, and members of the Economic and Workforce Development Committees for holding this hearing.

A greener New York City involves transformation across multiple areas of policy, such as construction methods, transportation, and even the workforce and economy. In 2023's *PlaNYC: Getting Sustainability Done*, the City committed to creating a "comprehensive green economy industry action plan" that defines the green economy and lays out NYC's path to seizing its opportunity. A year later, the Green Economy Action Plan, was released, jointly developed by New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the Mayor's Office of Talent and Workforce Development (NYCTalent), which outlines the first universal definition of a green economy in NYC and an action plan with 63 commitments to encourage New Yorkers, businesses, and nonprofits to contribute to it. This Action Plan will work towards the city's climate goals and span across 8 sectors targeting decarbonization, transportation, energy, and policy.

Moreover, this Action Plan states that the city's green economy is projected to employ nearly 400,000 people—7 percent of all jobs in New York City—and contribute $89 billion to the city's GDP, by 2040. Creating jobs that directly support our climate goals is a win-win solution. NYLCV would like to highlight a few components of the Green Economy Action plan that we are excited to see develop. We strongly recommend that these goals are timely funded and implemented.

Enable Low-Carbon Alternatives in the Transportation Sector

We applaud NYCEDC's commitments to various low carbon alternatives in the transportation sector since the transportation sector contributes about a quarter of New York City's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions today. For instance, NYCEDC will expand EV charging infrastructure, such as their commitment to utilizing two acres of land near JFK airport to create the largest EV charging facility in the city, with 65 public EV chargers, including 12 rapid ones.

NYLCV is also strongly supportive of electrifying our school buses and we urge the Administration to prioritize electric school bus (ESB) workforce development opportunities.

Currently, the majority of school buses run on diesel fuel, generating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. Electrifying school buses is important not only to help combat climate change, but to combat toxic air pollution, a longstanding environmental justice issue. Many school bus depots are located in EJ areas, and the exhaust from these buses harms schoolchildren. New York City students that take the school bus, many of whom are children with disabilities, face dangerous diesel exhaust exposure, which can lead to serious health implications such as asthma, which is one of the major causes of chronic absenteeism in NYC public schools.

The Green Economy Action Plan stated that the City will expand workforce opportunities and train school bus operators and maintenance staff to participate in the EV transition, such as vehicle and charger maintenance as well as the complexities of managing charging to meet route needs with minimal costs. We hope the Mamdani Administration will prioritize the ESB transition.

Develop a Renewable Energy System

In the clean energy sector, NYCEDC will prioritize the NYC Industrial Development Agency (IDA) tax incentives to support battery energy storage capacity. NYLCV is strongly supportive of battery energy storage systems (BESS) because they enable energy, especially from renewables, like solar and wind, to be stored and then released when the power is needed most. These systems can help meet grid reliability needs amid growing electricity demand (BESS provides “on-demand” power by storing energy when production is high and deliver it during peak demand), cut costs by mitigating the need for costly traditional fossil-fuel infrastructure upgrades, and dramatically increase the grid’s ability to onboard new renewable energy. By storing clean energy, BESS can reduce reliance on fossil-fuel peaker plants, which are disproportionately located in EJ neighborhoods, that run only during times of high demand. NYLCV strongly encourages the Mamdani Administration to prioritize BESS workforce development since this is a relatively new technology and there are opportunities for project managers and operators, from project development to operations and maintenance.

NYCEDC will also make 112 acres of industrial sites available for clean energy infrastructure to advance NYC’s goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2040. Since this pledge, construction is underway at South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park to transform it into the one of the nation's largest offshore wind ports. NYLCV is in support of this action plan and its progress, and would like to see the beginning of construction in other areas to ensure green jobs are on their way.

Decarbonize Buildings

NYLCV is encouraged by NYCEDC’s issuance of a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) to identify potential partners and innovative approaches for financing, ownership, and long-term operations regarding NYCEDC’s two flagship Thermal Energy Network (TEN) projects: Hunts Point TEN in the Bronx and Sunset Park TEN in Brooklyn. By transitioning to TENs, these energy systems eliminate fossil fuel use while creating many employment opportunities. We recommend expansion into more neighborhoods to drive further job creation for TENs.

Another initiative to improve workforce development and move towards green jobs is the application of Circular Construction Guidelines to all capital projects, a move that will massively reduce carbon emissions. Starting with SPARC Kips Bay, this project alone will reduce 26,400 tons of carbon emissions.

Finally, the Clean Heat for All Challenge, representing a commitment to deploy an initial 30,000 window heat pumps across NYCHA buildings, is a strong initiative supported by NYLCV we also applaud the follow-up on action by Mayor Mamdani in February with a $38.4 million investment to install deliver heat pumps NYCHA houses in Queens.

New York City is on the right path and leading the way towards a nation prioritizing a green economy. This Action Plan outlines innovative and expansive policies to reach these goals, and NYLCV looks forward to working with the Mamdani Administration, City Council, environmental and community stakeholders to ensure the Green Economy Action Plan is funded and implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

THE HOPE PROGRAM
work . grow . sustain

City Council GEAP Oversight Hearing

Friday, June 26 | 1:00pm | City Hall (Committee Room)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Testimony of Tracey Capers
Executive Director, The HOPE Program
New York City Council Joint Oversight Hearing
Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development
Implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan | June 26, 2026

Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairs and Members of the Council. My name is Tracey Capers, and I am the Executive Director of The HOPE Program — Home of Prosperity and Empowerment — a 40-year-old workforce development organization with sites in Hunts Point in the South Bronx and Downtown Brooklyn. We train adults facing significant barriers to employment for careers in green construction, building operations and maintenance, horticulture, and CoolRoofs. We are a member of both NYCETC and JobsFirstNYC's Green Economy Network — coalitions that have each put forward roadmaps for the new administration — and a founding member of the Green Economy Network alongside Nontraditional Employment for Women and Green City Force.

New York City has a jobs problem and a climate problem. The reality that too few people acknowledge is that the solution to one can help solve the other — with a strong, deliberate focus on economic and environmental justice. The Green Economy Action Plan is the most serious attempt this city has made to connect those two challenges. We are here to say: it is working in places, it must go further, and community-based organizations must be at the center of its next phase.

Acknowledging Progress

The plan projects nearly 400,000 green-collar jobs by 2040 and commits to ensuring New Yorkers from environmentally disadvantaged communities are positioned to benefit. That integration of economic and workforce development in a single framework represents real progress. The plan's analysis of 21 focus occupations — most in building and construction — makes clear these are not marginal jobs. HVAC mechanics at $77,800. Stationary engineers at $103,100. Facilities managers at $130,600. Careers with real wage mobility, accessible without a four-year degree. Those are exactly the careers The HOPE Program trains people to enter.

NYCETC and The Green Launchpad's launch of the NYC Energy Efficiency Workforce Coalition — an employer-led initiative bringing together contractors, program implementers, and subject-matter experts — reflects the kind of cross-sector coordination the field has long needed. We applaud it and want to see it scaled.

The Case for Community-Based Organizations as the Delivery Infrastructure

Green economy jobs have something essential in common: they can't be outsourced, they are deeply rooted in local communities, and they offer real wage mobility without demanding years of expensive credentialing. That's not just good climate policy. That's a lifeline for the New Yorkers we serve — especially those from neighborhoods and communities facing compounding environmental harms, where the burdens of pollution, disinvestment, and unemployment converge and where the green economy represents not just a job, but a structural repair.

The formerly incarcerated man in East New York who needs a building operations certificate and a pathway back. The woman exiting a domestic violence shelter in the Bronx who has the drive but lacks a job that pays enough to keep her housed. The long-term unemployed neighbor in Queens who is skilled, ready, and simply needs a system that sees them. These are the New Yorkers at the intersection of environmental harm and economic exclusion — and they are exactly who this plan must center.

The infrastructure for this work already exists in community-based organizations, workforce training providers, and labor partnerships that have spent decades proving it out. The GEAP commits to Community Hiring and Place-Based Workforce Strategies — commitments that are only as strong as the community institutions delivering them. HOPE should not be competing at the margins of large public contracts. We should be contracted as primary partners, with defined responsibilities, adequate funding, and accountability for outcomes.

Social Enterprise as a Self-Sustaining Model for the Green Economy

One underutilized vehicle for scaling this work is social enterprise. Social enterprises generate earned revenue, hire graduates from our own training programs, and meet documented industry demand for green infrastructure services — all simultaneously. This is not a side project. It is proof of concept: a self-reinforcing model in which training, employment, and business development strengthen each other without depending entirely on the next grant cycle.

Social enterprise allows community-based organizations to diversify revenue, reduce dependency on public and philanthropic funding, create direct employment pathways for program completers, and respond dynamically to market signals. The City should be actively investing in and incentivizing this model — through procurement preferences for mission-driven enterprises, support for capacity building, and integration of social enterprise outcomes into workforce development performance frameworks.

Subsidy Recipients Must Be Required to Hire Program Graduates

The city has significant leverage it is not yet fully using. Every developer, property owner, and contractor that benefits from public subsidy — tax incentives, capital funding, IDA benefits, or free services — should be required to partner with and hire from community-based training programs as a condition of that benefit.

Our CoolRoofs program is a concrete example. Property owners receive free roof coating services that reduce energy costs and extend roof life — real, tangible public value. There is no reason those same property owners should not be required to consider hiring graduates of the program that delivered the service. This is not a radical ask. It closes a loop that should never have been left open. The same logic applies to every school building upgrade, every building decarbonization project financed with public dollars, and every contractor receiving City procurement opportunities.

JobsFirstNYC's Green Economy Network has called for establishing hiring priorities for environmental justice ZIP codes and requiring community-based workforce organizations to serve as funded partners responsible for outreach, screening, training, placement, and retention support, with minimum targets for local hires in entry-level and career-track roles and public reporting on hiring geography, wages, and retention outcomes. We endorse this framework entirely and urge the Council to codify it.

Coordination Must Be Formalized

Workforce initiatives in New York City currently span approximately 21 city agencies without a central coordinating entity. The result is fragmentation: duplicative investments, misaligned timelines, and training programs disconnected from actual hiring pipelines. The challenge is not a lack of programs, but a lack of connection and coordination among them.

JobsFirstNYC has called for a centralized Workforce Authority housed in City Hall to align planning and implementation across agencies and embed workforce standards into major public investments. The Council should champion its creation and demand that workforce outcomes — not just training completions — be the measure of success.

Conclusion

Economic development without equity is just development. The green economy is a powerful, ready-made strategy for both affordability and climate resilience — but only if we are clear about whose jobs we mean, who is trusted to deliver them, and which communities have borne the costs of the economy we are trying to transform.

The coalitions are organized. The people we serve are ready. The City has begun to lay the groundwork. Now is the time to go deeper — and build the future New York deserves, one good-paying green job at a time.

Thank you.

Tracey Capers, Executive Director
The HOPE Program
(718) 218-5302
tcapers@thehopeprogram.org

From:	Angela N. Son
To:	NYC Council Hearings
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Written testimony submission for June 26th Hearing on GEAP
Date:	Monday, June 29, 2026 9:08:05 AM

Dear NYC Council team,

My name is Angela and I testified in-person on Friday June 26th to the Workforce Development and Economic Development Committee Councilmembers. Attached is my written testimony. Thank you!

Angela

===

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm Angela Noori Son, Founder and CEO of The Green Launchpad. We co-lead the NYC Energy Efficiency Employer-Led Workforce Coalition with NYCETC, bringing together employers who represent over 2,400 clean energy professionals to design practical, employer-driven workforce solutions.

As the City advances the Green Economy Action Plan, I encourage you to treat workforce not just as a pipeline issue, but as a **business competitiveness issue.**

The challenge isn't that employers don't want to hire. It's that we too often ask them to engage in workforce development as a social obligation — a box to check — rather than offering it as a solution to a problem they already have. **We have to remember - companies engage when it makes their business stronger.**

And it does. Most of our green economy runs on small and mid-sized contractors with no HR department and no recruiters. For them, a coordinated workforce provider isn't charity — it's an extension of their business that finds qualified candidates, prepares them for the actual work, and supports retention after hire. That saves them time, reduces turnover, and lets them focus on growing.

So the Plan should treat workforce providers as part of the City's business support infrastructure, alongside financing and procurement. Specifically, we ask the City to: invest in sustained employer-provider partnerships, not one-off programs; fund the intermediaries that translate employer needs into training; incentivize employers to co-design curricula and work-based learning; and measure success by retention and advancement, not just enrollment.

Strengthen that coordination, and workforce development stops being an ask — it becomes a competitive advantage for NYC businesses. Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

--
Angela N. Son
Founder, The Green Launchpad
[redacted]

Testimony for the joint oversight hearing of the New York City Council Committees on Workforce Development and Economic Development

Presented by: Jon Spooner, Co-Founder, Stacks and Joules
June 26, 2026

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Hon. Majority Leader Shaun Abreu

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Hon. Council Member Alexa Avilés
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Hon. Council Member Amanda Farías
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Committee on Workforce Development
Hon. Chair Julie Won
Hon. Council Member Tiffany Cabán
Hon. Council Member Harvey Epstein
Hon. Council Member Shahana Hanif
Hon. Council Member Phil Wong

Good morning, Council Members, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Jonathan Spooner. I'm a co-founder of Stacks and Joules, and we work at the intersection of building technology and community impact in New York City, in close partnership with Henry Street Settlement, NYCETC, and the Green Economy Network.

Nonprofits across this city are quietly operating a significant portfolio of real estate — shelters, health clinics, community centers, affordable housing. These organizations are mission-driven, but they are also building operators. And that role carries real costs.

Energy is often the second-largest line item in a nonprofit's operating budget, after staffing. For an organization running a domestic violence shelter or a mental health clinic, every dollar lost to a poorly controlled HVAC system is a dollar not reaching the people walking through that door. Add Local Law 97 penalty exposure, and many of these organizations are facing compounding financial pressure that directly competes with their mission.

Building automation — smart controls, sensors, energy management systems — can reduce energy consumption in buildings like these by 20 to 30 percent. But it is out of reach for most nonprofits without targeted public support.

Here is the opportunity this committee is positioned to unlock: a coordinated funding program for building automation across the nonprofit portfolio can accomplish two things at once.

First, it creates a durable workforce pipeline. Installing and maintaining building automation systems is skilled, well-paying work that cannot be offshored. Training New Yorkers - particularly from the communities these nonprofits already serve - in building technology careers connects workforce development directly to neighborhood infrastructure.

Second, the resulting energy savings get redirected back to social services. That is not a rounding error. Across a portfolio of hundreds of buildings, it is a meaningful operating budget restored to mission.

This idea needs three things to become real: a capital funding mechanism, a workforce training partner, and a champion in this chamber.

We are asking this committee to be that champion. Thank you.

STACKS
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To: Committee on Economic Development and Committee on Workforce Development
Subject: Public housing modernization is climate infrastructure, and Section 9 residents should not be treated only as labor supply for private markets.
Date: June 26, 2026

Good afternoon Chair and members of the Committee.

I am testifying on behalf of Save Section 9 (SS9), a tenant-led coalition working to rehabilitate and expand public housing.

Save Section 9 supports investment in climate resilience, workforce development, and creating pathways to stable union employment. We recognize the City's Green Economy Action Plan as an ambitious attempt to align economic development with environmental goals.

However, we are concerned that implementation of the Green Economy Action Plan risks defining "green jobs" too narrowly—prioritizing emerging technologies, private development, and commercialization while overlooking one of New York City's largest existing climate assets: public housing.

The Green Economy Action Plan should not become a pathway to privatization where public dollars create private assets. Public investment should strengthen public housing, create union jobs, and preserve democratic control of housing.

If New York City is serious about environmental justice and equitable economic development, public housing modernization must be recognized as climate infrastructure.

NYCHA residents should not only be viewed as a workforce pipeline feeding private sector growth. We should be beneficiaries, workers, decision-makers, and long-term stewards of public investment.

Section 9 public housing already offers a proven vehicle for creating high-quality union jobs while advancing environmental goals.

Comprehensive modernization of public housing is green work.

Every repaired steam system reduces emissions.

Every restored building envelope improves energy efficiency.

Every upgraded apartment improves indoor air quality.

Every preserved building avoids the environmental costs associated with demolition, reconstruction, and displacement.

Too often, workforce conversations focus on installing new technologies while ignoring the labor required to maintain and preserve existing public assets.

Environmental justice requires investment in foundational building trades.

Plasterers prevent water intrusion and mold growth.

Steamfitters and HVAC workers improve heating performance and reduce energy waste.

Electricians prepare buildings for electrification.

Roofers and masons improve resilience and reduce premature deterioration.

Painters and environmental remediation workers improve indoor environmental quality.

Custodial and maintenance workers support waste reduction, sanitation, and healthier living environments.

These are not outdated jobs. These are climate jobs.

Public housing residents already understand building systems because we live with their failures every day. Residents should not have to leave their communities to participate in the green economy—we should be able to build careers restoring the communities we already call home.

We are also concerned that current workforce pathways emphasize training without guaranteeing sufficient public investment to sustain long-term employment opportunities.

Training alone is not economic justice.

Residents need durable pipelines into prevailing wage and union careers connected to real public investment.

For this reason, Save Section 9 urges the Council and Administration to adopt the following recommendations:

Save Section 9 Recommendations

1. Officially designate Section 9 comprehensive modernization as a Green Economy Action Plan workforce sector.
Recognize public housing rehabilitation, preservation, and decarbonization as eligible climate infrastructure investments.

2. Dedicate Green Economy Action Plan funding for public housing rehabilitation trades.
Create dedicated workforce funding for plastering, electrical work, HVAC, steam systems, roofing, masonry, weatherization, remediation, waste systems, and building envelope restoration.

3. Establish resident-to-union apprenticeship pipelines tied directly to Section 9 modernization projects.

Require funded projects to create apprenticeship and direct-hire opportunities for public housing residents.

4. Require strong labor standards on publicly funded modernization work.
Ensure prevailing wages, project labor agreements, and pathways into union membership.

5. Create resident hiring and retention benchmarks.
Measure success through:

- Residents trained
- Residents hired
- Union placement
- One-year retention
- Three-year retention

6. Expand the definition of environmental justice.
Environmental justice is not only about reducing emissions. It is ensuring that low-income communities live in healthy homes and participate in the economic benefits created through public investment.

New York City cannot build a green economy while allowing public housing to deteriorate.

The Green Economy Action Plan should strengthen public assets—not create conditions where public dollars subsidize private expansion while residents remain excluded from the benefits.

Section 9 residents have already demonstrated that we are ready to lead.

Invest in us. Train us. Hire us. Preserve the housing we already have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ramona Ferreyra
Tenant, Mitchel Houses
Founder, Save Section 9

I am an organizer in East New York, and our community is suffering greatly from a lack of access to fresh and healthy foods. We have a higher than city average rate of Diabetes, and other health issues. Our neighborhood has been disinvested for decades. Many people do their own food distributions and try to survive any way they can. I got a chance to hear the EDC discuss the city owned grocery store initiative, and I would think it would be incredible if the Brooklyn site was in East New York. It would be a pillar of the community and support longevity and the health of the neighborhood for years to come.

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☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sam Jurg
Address:
I represent: EDC
Address: One Liberty Plaza, NY, NY 10006

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Date: Jun 26 26

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Name: Jonathan Spooner
Address: 175 W93rd St NYC
I represent: Stacks + Joules
Address: 175 W93rd St NYC

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Date: 6/26/26

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Name: Keri Faulhaber
Address: 11 Park Place
I represent: JobsFirst NYC
Address: 11 Park Place, Suite 1106

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Name: Christopher Malone, Ph.D

Address: [redacted] JH. NY 11372

I represent: Consortium for Worker Education

Address: 305 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY

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Date: 6/26/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jako Douglas-Borren

Address: 1 Smith Street, 4th Fl Brooklyn NY 11201

I represent: The HOPE Program

Address: 1 Smith Street, 4th Fl. Brooklyn NY 11201

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 6/26/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GREGORY A. MORRIS

Address: 1 [illegible] NYC [illegible] BX, NY 10035

I represent: NYCETC

Address: 121 6th AVE NYC 10013

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ________ Res. No. ________

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: June 26, 2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Angela Son (legal: Noo Ri Son)

Address: [redacted] LIC, NY 11101

I represent: The Green Launchpad Inc.

Address: (same as above)

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ________ Res. No. ________

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: ~~6/3~~ 6/26/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michele C. Lambert

Address: ________

I represent: EDC

Address: One Liberty Plaza, NY, NY 10006

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ________ Res. No. ________

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/26/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sindi Manzanares - GCF

Address: 630 Flushing Ave. 11206

I represent: Green City Force

Address: ________

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 6/26/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Travis Proulx

Address: [redacted] Bronx 10465

I represent: Fordham University

Address: 411 E. Fordham Rd

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 6/26/2026

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sophia Oliveira

Address: 49-12 31st Pl, NY, NY 11101

I represent: Andromeda Community Initiative

Address: Same as above

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 6/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stephen Levin
Address: 19-03 44th Rd LIC
I represent: Solar One
Address:

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 6/26/2020

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Miquela Craytor
Address: 4223 1st Ave, Brooklyn 11232
I represent: Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Dev. Corp
Address:

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