

Statement

to the

New York City Council

Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice Services

Elizabeth Crowley, Chairperson

and

Committee on Finance

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., Chairperson

by

Dora Schriro, Commissioner

NYC Department of Correction

June 1, 2012

Good afternoon, Chairpersons Crowley and Recchia and members of the Committees on Fire and Criminal Justice Services and Finance. I'm glad to be here and to have this opportunity to brief you on our progress and the positive impact of the budget on our work and our workforce.

The DOC Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget is \$1.05 billion, with an authorized headcount of 8,854 uniformed and 1,716 civilian staff which includes an additional \$41 million for correction officer salaries that was added in the November plan, enabling us to hire 332 additional full-time correction officers this year. As you know, DOC spends the majority of its operating budget—\$929 million (88 percent of the total) – on personnel, and the majority of those funds are dedicated to uniformed personnel who staff security posts (\$817 million). The workforce is the key means by which we keep the jails safe. Our staff is the most critical component of our operation and we are here today to describe how their time and talent are deployed and to seek your continued assistance to fully realize the resources we still need: To have sufficient uniformed staff to fill every fixed post on straight time, and to limit the use of overtime for its intended purpose—short term, emergent and unforeseen needs only.

I am very pleased to report that over the past two years, and with your support, the agency's total authorized headcount has *increased* from 10,288 to 10,453 FTE. To make the highest and best use of this opportunity, we refined our selection process and then streamlined and accelerated the hiring of officer recruits ensuring we fill all of our authorized uniform headcount – both the 332 new positions and re-occurring vacant positions – this July.

In addition to the annual operating budget, the Mayor's executive budget includes the FY 2012-2016 five-year capital program of \$1.05 billion, funding critical to maintain existing facilities and complete important capital projects this fiscal year and next (\$445 million). It includes monies to complete longstanding fire safety projects – installing fully operational fire alarm systems in every jail department-wide – as well as to complete the projects addressing sanitation, ventilation and lighting, the other areas remaining in the Benjamin litigation. It also enables us to continuously upgrade security equipment which includes most recently, acquiring full-body imaging scanners for every jail to better intercept dangerous contraband on – and in – inmates that cannot be detected by other means.

The DOC Workforce

As of the May 25 payroll, DOC employed 8,603 uniformed staff and 1,447 civilian personnel.¹ About 88 percent of our uniformed staff is assigned to posts within the jails and courts and are directly involved in the custody of the population; another seven percent are allocated to transportation and central security posts; and the remaining five percent to other important support services.

As I mentioned above, we are ahead of attrition *and* will fill the 332 newly authorized posts by July. And, in FY 2013 we will continue our aggressive hiring schedule (3 classes of 300-400 recruits each) to ensure that we keep pace with attrition *and* fill the 208 additional uniformed positions to reopen the Queens Detention Center on time early next year.

The inclusion of 332 newly authorized uniform positions in this year's budget (as well as additional funding for overtime) and 208 more members of service to reopen QDC next year is significant, but we are still left with an appreciable shortfall in our headcount to man many of the critical security posts. DOC's actual operating level – that is, the number of uniformed staff needed to operate every established post on straight time is much higher than our FY 2013 authorized headcount of 8,854. During the Executive Plan review, we requested funding for 822 additional uniform positions to fully staff our current operating level which includes the expansion of restrictive housing for infracted Brad H inmates, additional coverage in adolescent housing units and meal relief. Unfortunately, the Executive Budget does not provide any new uniform resources to resolve this ongoing shortfall. Until we secure both the funding and authorization to hire additional officers, we have no choice but to continue to cover these critical posts on overtime. We can't wait for additional resources to do what's necessary to provide for everyone's safety and security right now.

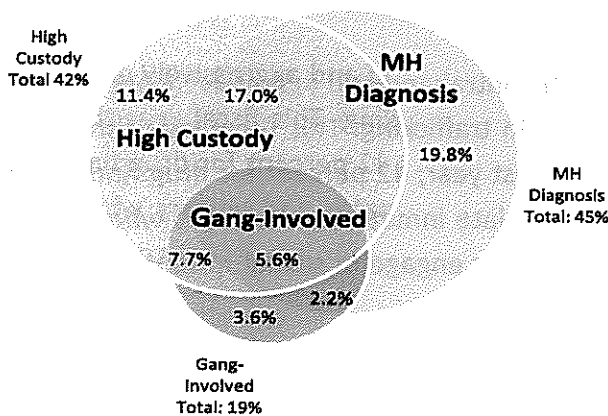
¹ Our civilian staff also performs a number of important functions in support of the agency. Nearly half of the civilian staff is devoted to three broad functions – facility maintenance (25 percent), food/nutritional services (16 percent), and occupational health and safety (5 percent). The remaining 54 percent perform necessary administrative, legal, financial, investigative, information technology, and social service functions.

Having said this, I want to assure you that where it's possible to be more efficient, and cutting costs will not affect security, we continue to do just that. We have carefully civilianized select non-security posts such as secretaries, inmate account and property managers and data analysts. We've also taken steps to increase energy efficiency. During the first three quarters of FY 2012, we have cut electricity consumption (kWh) by 11.8 percent and costs (\$) by 7.2 percent, a savings of \$895,000 thus far this fiscal year.

Critical Safety and Security Initiatives

Most housing units, on most days, are incident-free and the vast majority of inmates is never involved in a rule violation and never sustains an injury. The same can be said for our staff; the vast majority leaves work as they arrived, safe and sound. Nevertheless, the risk of harm is ever present in every correctional system including ours. Our primary focus has been and continues to be those inmates who present the most risk and evidence more need than the majority of inmates notably, high-custody inmates, SRG (security risk group) members, the mentally-ill, and adolescents. These four groups of inmates account for the vast majority of incidents in jail and the highest rates of failure in the street. These groups frequently overlap and when inmates in any one of the four groups is also a member of one or more of the others – for example, an inmate who is a high custody, mentally ill adolescent – their risk to self and others and need for intervention jumps. Our initiatives are focused on these populations, to reduce risk in jail and in the community after release.

Special Populations of Inmates Involved in Incidents



Maximum Custody Inmates

Historically and currently, maximum custody inmates (15 percent of the ADP) are disproportionately involved in incidents, either as the perpetrator or the victim (42 percent of all incidents). Although high custody inmates are assigned to housing units with individual cells,

they must be afforded the same opportunity to lock-out of their assigned cells at least 14 hours every day, the same as inmates whose propensity for violence is far lower². Attention both to prevention and enforcement are essential to managing this population.

Contraband Interdiction and Enforcement

DOC continues to step up its identification and interdiction of contraband weapons, drugs, and other dangerous articles, with more searches and arrests, by removing weapons-grade materials from the jails and by acquiring and utilizing the latest detection technology. The number of searches for contraband has increased another seven percent this fiscal year to date, from 175,152 to 187,822 with 76 percent more special search team (SST) shakedowns, from 107 to 188.

In March I told you about state-of-the-art full body scanning machines that can detect foreign objects concealed on – or inside – a person’s body, including hard-to-detect titanium blades. These scanners are now in place in six jails – AMKC, GMDC, GRVC, OBCC, RNDC and MDC – that house the inmates that have the highest propensity for violence. Prior to acquiring these machines, we relied primarily on manual and magnetometer searches, neither of which detects every dangerous item, and one scalpel or weapon in the wrong hands can cause immeasurable harm. These scanners have improved our search capability for items that might otherwise evade discovery, aid in enforcement – approximately 40 percent of all inmate arrests are for contraband – and also serve as a powerful deterrent. We have performed over 5,400 searches since their installation and have recovered a variety of contraband including scalpels, razors, money and drugs. We have set aside capital funding to procure additional scanners for each of the remaining jails.

We continue to arrest visitors who are found with contraband and aggressively pursue criminal charges against them as well as inmates involved in trafficking. This fiscal year through April, arrests of visitors are up 14 percent compared to last year; 42 percent for drug finds. Current BOC visit regulations limiting our discretion to regulate inmates and visitors who attempt to introduce dangerous contraband, assault an officer, or engage in sexual misconduct on a visit impacts achieving even better results³.

Additional Enforcement Strategies

Our Intelligence Unit continues to arrest more inmates for other criminal acts committed in jail. Overall, inmate arrests are up 8 percent compared to last year; for criminal acts against staff, inmate arrests are up 18 percent. It is our belief that more inmates could and should be arrested *and* prosecuted more quickly. I’m pleased to report that the office of the Bronx

² 40 RCNY 1-05

³ 40 RCNY 1-09

District Attorney has agreed to DOC making more summary arrests particularly when the crime is captured on video or there are staff witnesses and to an expedited process for indicting inmates who assault staff or other inmates.

In addition to infracting offending inmates and seeking their arrest and prosecution, city-sentenced inmates are subject to the taking of their good time through the disciplinary process.

The DOC also reached out to the Department of Probation to develop a mechanism to inform the court through the pre-sentence investigation (PSI) of an inmate's unlawful conduct in jail prior to approving a plea agreement or imposing a sentence.

Expansion and Management of Punitive Segregation

Over the past two years, we have effectively addressed the chronic shortage of punitive segregation capacity. Today, capacity is increased 44 percent and the 1,000-plus backlog of inmates awaiting placement in CPSU has been abated. Bed utilization has been strengthened through centralized management under the supervision of a dedicated Deputy Warden. More recently, we modified the operation of MHAUII increasing inmates' accountability for their institutional conduct *and* mental health care. Currently, we are expanding capacity for restricted housing; see Mental Health Initiatives, below.

Expanded Pre-Release Preparation and Discharge Planning for Inmates at Risk of Re-Arrest

Fewer than 15 percent of all inmates are sentenced to DOCS. Given that the majority of inmates and especially, high custody inmates, go home directly from jail, DOC wants to reach as many high risk individuals as possible to mitigate future harm to the community. RIDE (Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement), our first generation effort at discharge planning for city-sentenced inmates only, will be replaced with I-CAN (Individual Correction Action Network), which targets both pretrial and city-sentenced high risk and high need inmates for services before and after release. In response to the RFP that was released in April, ten proposals were submitted. We expect the program will start this fall.

Security Threat Groups (SRG)

SRG members (11 percent of the ADP) are disproportionately involved in incidents, particularly violent infractions, either as the perpetrator or the victim (19 percent of all incidents). Obtaining accurate information is essential to making sound housing assignments (we disperse members of the eight security risk groups and ten watch groups across each of the city's 12 jails) and monitoring their activities closely is critical to safety and security. The recent recalibration of the department's custody classification system and adoption of an objective

validation instrument ensures accurate assessments upon which we can rely.⁴ Approximately 1,100 currently incarcerated inmates are active, validated SRG members of whom the majority is part of four well known and highly organized gangs and their factions – the Bloods, Latin Kings, Crips, and Trinitarians. There are other groups, with smaller contingents and less organizational capacity that we monitor as well.

Mental Health Strategies

Today, fully one third of the jails' average daily population has a diagnosed mental illness, and several groups have more significant concentrations – nearly one half of all adolescents and almost two thirds of female offenders are members of the Brad H class. A subset of the mentally ill (6 percent) is acutely mentally ill⁵. Historically, mentally ill inmates in general (34 percent of the ADP and 45 percent of all incidents) and MO inmates in particular (6 percent of the ADP and 19 percent of all incidents) are disproportionately involved in incidents, either as the perpetrator or the victim. To reduce the number and nature of incidents involving MO inmates, correction officers and clinicians at AMKC came together to develop and deliver jointly-managed housing units in which they set expectations and hold inmates accountable for both institutional conduct and participation in clinical services. Over time more inmates have participated in treatment and fewer incidents, cutting violations by more than 25 percent. Since then, this initiative has been expanded to RMSC, similar programming was adapted for adolescents at RNDC, and modifications will be afforded to all inmates assigned to MO units in the next several months. This summer we will also complete the consolidation of mental observation housing areas, from seven to four jails, enabling us to reach acutely mentally ill inmates awaiting transfer into MO housing within existing clinical resources.

Mentally ill inmates also remain in custody appreciably longer and return to jail more frequently than do inmates who are not members of the Brad H class⁶. To lower time in detention and improve long-term results, DOC has been leading a citywide effort that focuses on justice-involved mentally ill defendants. This summer, the recommendations of the Mayor's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative Steering Committee will be released, the result of a multi-agency re-evaluation of the City's response to incarcerated people with mental health issues, including adolescents. The implementation of these recommendations is expected to divert more people with mental health needs to community-based alternatives where they can be safely managed and better served.

⁴ A validated SRG status heightens an inmate's custody score, reducing the likelihood of a gang member being assigned to a low custody housing unit.

⁵ They are assigned to mental observation (MO) housing units and generally referred to as MO inmates.

⁶ The average length of stay for M inmates is 112 days whereas the average length of stay for non-M inmates is 61 days.

Finally, the last time we met, and as I referenced above, I announced that DOC in collaboration with DOHMH, would open several Restricted Housing Units (RHU) specifically designed for mentally ill inmates with infractions. The first of three 30-bed units opened at RNDC for adolescents and is specifically tailored to address both their security and clinical requirements, including suicidal gestures. The two remaining 30-bed units, their operation to be tailored to the adult population, will open at AMKC this summer. These units hold inmates accountable for both their institutional misconduct and their active involvement in mental health treatment. The joint management by DOC and DOHMH decision-makers incorporates the field's best practices preventing decompensation while helping to resolve the backlog of infractions M inmates.

Adolescent Inmates

Adolescents make up seven percent of the average daily population. Most of them (82.5 percent) are pre-trial male detainees housed at the RNDC. Adolescents have always been a challenging population – impetuous and energetic, subject to peer pressure and tend to fight both in jail and the community. Currently, and historically, adolescents are disproportionately involved in incidents in general either as the perpetrator or the victim (28 percent), and fights in particular (20 percent) department-wide. They are among the least likely high risk groups however to engage in slashings and stabbings.

The majority of adolescents are detained on person-to-person crimes, often involving weapons. Twice as many adolescents (four-fifths or 79 percent) as adults (two-fifths or 41 percent) are accused of committing violent felonies. And due to the serious nature of their charges, high bail amounts imposed and their age, they tend to remain in detention appreciably longer (71 versus 53 days, 34 percent). Additionally, as mentioned above, many are mentally ill; 48 percent of the adolescent population has been diagnosed with a mental illness. And despite these factors, relatively few adolescents (10 percent) are sentenced to the state's department of corrections; most (87 percent) are released by the court to return home.

DOC recognizes the special risks and needs that the adolescent population presents and manages them accordingly with 1) enhanced staffing and staff training; 2) customized inmate management; and 3) enriched programming.

Enhanced staffing and staff training

Recapping previous testimony, a Deputy Warden dedicated exclusively to the adolescent population as well as a second tour commander, one Assistant Deputy Warden each to cover the first and second shifts, are in place and two additional correction officers have been assigned to each adolescent housing unit and a third Captain per house is being added. A Training Captain and two Training Academy Officers were also reassigned to RNDC to provide

ongoing, on-the-job training to probationary and tenured staff alike. To attract and retain seasoned officers, steady officers assigned to adolescent housing unit posts are also eligible for specialty pay. Most recently, an Integrity Control Officer (ICO) was also assigned to RNDC; an Assistant Deputy Warden who reports directly to headquarters and is responsible for reviewing incidents and logbooks, and ensuring that staff performs its duties appropriately and with integrity. We also reached out to the National Institute of Corrections and beginning last month and continuing through the summer, a team of correctional experts from around the country is providing peer-to-peer technical assistance to supervisory and managerial staff heading the three jails housing adolescents.

Enhanced Custody Management

The majority of incidents involving adolescents occur in the housing units during the 14-hour lock-out, especially during the midday school break and in the evening. More than half of the adolescents have been assigned to dormitories for years; many of these housing units are in sprungs and modular facilities. To further reduce fights among adolescents, we are reassigning most adolescents⁷ in RNDC to housing units with cell beds in the facility to improve separation of inmates during lock-in. We have also presented a proposal to the Board of Correction to modify its 14-hour lock-out requirement so as to be able to exercise the discretion – and the control – necessary to maintain order.

To augment the supervision provided by uniformed personnel, additional cameras have been installed in all of the housing units in which adolescents are assigned. Today RNDC has 481 surveillance cameras – 230 of which were installed in the last two years – substantially more than other DOC jails. Another 71 cameras will be installed this fiscal year to further expand coverage. Cameras run 24/7, and they are monitored daily by ranking managers in the jail and headquarters to identify and discipline inmate assailants, expedite investigations, provide documentation to aid in the prosecution of the perpetrators, and identify and address staff training opportunities. Cameras can also function as a deterrent to crime, as aggressors realize there will be consequences to their actions.

To ensure that rule violations, especially, serious violations, are addressed with swiftness and certainty, 32 punitive segregation beds were added at RNDC for adolescents, resolving the backlog of adolescents in general population awaiting placement for current violations. And as I just mentioned above, we opened a 30-bed restricted housing unit (RHU) last month for adolescents with mental illness. The RHU now enables us to also respond with the same swiftness and certainty to these adolescents in a therapeutic setting and to eliminate the backlog of adolescents with mental illness who have been cleared by DOHMH.

⁷ Primarily, only low custody and M inmates in MO housing units will remain in dormitory housing units.

We put in place a strict anti-bullying policy and officers are trained at the Academy to identify and respond immediately. A free, confidential phone line was established for inmates to report incidents or concerns and visitors and family members are encouraged to report any bullying through the DOC Office of Constituent Services, 311, or by email. In addition, the facility's inmate council was restructured, creating a separate forum for adolescents to voice their concerns.

We are keeping the adolescents safe. Tactical searches in adolescent areas are up 37 percent this year to rid the jail of drugs (drug recoveries are up 75 percent) and make it more difficult for anyone to have or use a weapon by removing weapons-grade materials from the facility. When we have to use force, we do our best to make sure nobody gets seriously hurt and almost half of the time (49 percent) there is no injury at all to either the inmate or staff. Incidents involving inmate assault on staff and serious injury to inmates have remained flat and although adolescents do not engage in slashings and stabbings as often as adults, these incidents are also down 40 percent this year, from 5 to 3.

Enriched programming

We are making considerable progress towards providing adolescents with the skills they need while they are in jail to prepare for the street. The DOE East River Academy (ERA) now offers adolescents opportunity to pursue a Regents diploma, GED or both. All inmates of public school age (ages 16 – 17) participate as do greater than 25 percent of older eligible youth (18 to 21). In January 2012, the ERA administered 111 Regents exams with a pass rate of 31 percent, an 82 percent improvement from last year when in January 2011, ERA administered 70 Regents exams with a pass rate of 17 percent. So far this fiscal year, 83 GED exams have been administered, an 18 percent increase compared to last year, and the average total scores are higher by 74 points (the average total score of 2627 this year versus 2553 last year)⁸. This July, summer school will be offered as it was last year.

We also have a plan and private funds in place for counselors and recreation coordinators to work in each of the three adolescent facilities beginning this summer.

And we recently adopted a system of incentives to encourage inmates to make more good choices, more frequently, by earning privileges, including additional outdoor recreation opportunities, the ability to play approved video games and to visit the barber shop more frequently.

⁸ To earn a New York State High School Equivalency diploma, an individual must score a minimum of 410 points on each of the 5 sections (or subtest) and a minimum total score of 2250. The maximum score on each subtest is 800 points, and the maximum total test score is 4000 points.

Additional Critical Safety and Security Performance Indicators

Force is often necessary to defend staff, protect an inmate, or prevent escape and the destruction of property. We have taken exceptional steps to increase the use of OC spray when force is warranted (OC spray was used in 46 percent of all use of force incidents this fiscal year compared to 32 percent just two years ago) to avoid physical contact thereby minimizing the risk of injury to officers and inmates alike. As a result of these concerted efforts, this fiscal year to date, 44 percent of all uses of force resulted in *no* injury to *either* party, 49 percent resulted in only a minor injury and seven percent resulted in a serious injury. Likewise, occasions where staff was assaulted by an inmate and suffered a serious injury has decreased an additional five percent, with 35 incidents this fiscal year compared to 37 in the last. We still strive for none. There continue to be incidents that result in staff hospital runs; fortunately the majority resulting from an incident was for assessment only; no treatment was needed. Fully one-half was the result of general illness or an accident which is why staff health and wellbeing is a priority.

We continue to focus on inmate-on-inmate slashing and stabbing incidents as well. There have been 47 incidents this fiscal year to date, compared to 40 last year, of which, nine required no medical care. We count them all because any of them could have turned out badly. The majority of the inmates who engage in this activity are high custody adult males with gang affiliation. Only three incidents involved adolescents.

The Capital Budget

We continue making substantial progress on our facilities plan.

During the first week of February, we re-opened the Brooklyn Detention Complex, a 759-bed facility—on schedule. Since then, we've transferred 599 inmates from Rikers Island facilities to BKDC, mostly detainees awaiting trial in Brooklyn and Staten Island. The full loading of the jail will be completed this month.

Re-opening BKDC has provided much needed swing space that will enable DOC to meet court-ordered deadlines for the completion of critical capital projects including fire safety, the renovation of ventilation systems and shower areas and bathrooms and installation of air conditioning for heat-sensitive inmates.

We also completed the construction of the 800-bed annex to the Rose M. Singer Complex, which was fully occupied in March.

And next year, in January 2013, we will reopen the Queens Detention Complex, capacity 456 beds. OMB has acknowledged the critical need for this additional swing space through the allocation of \$9.6 million in FY 2013 and \$19.2 million in FY 2014 to employ 208 additional

uniformed staff and 26 civilians (tradesmen, cooks, counselors and clericals) to staff the facility. OMB also added \$1.2 million for critical capital upgrades to this facility.

Our 5-year capital budget (FY 2012 – FY 2016) totals \$1.05 billion. Over half of the capital budget (\$603 million) is devoted to the construction of a new central admissions facility on Riker's Island. Design of the new jail has begun and we expect construction to begin in FY 2014.

We are also making terrific strides to address critical infrastructure needs and investments including \$104 million to replace fire safety systems and to address other critical fire safety conditions; \$172 million for critical infrastructure projects including heating, ventilation, plumbing, and other structural upgrades; \$66 million for projects supported by PlaNYC, specifically building a Co-Generation power plant which is part of the Mayor's plan for a greener, greater New York; and \$18 million for critical contraband detection security equipment and state-of-art radios and personal body alarms that will enhance communications.

Staff safety is paramount and for that reason it's important to specifically address fire safety. As you know, there wasn't one fully operating fire alarm system in any of the jails for years. In the past two years we secured the funds and installed fully operational fire alarm systems in three facilities (BKDC, GRVC and NIC) and are close to completing installation of a fully operational system in a fourth facility (AMKC). And since the last hearing in March, work has also begun in OBCC and QDC. We remain committed to installing a working fire alarm system in every jail by the end of calendar year 2013.

Also critical to the health and well-being of staff and inmates is sanitation. To help improve sanitation conditions in the jails, the department has voluntarily undertaken an aggressive schedule to rehabilitate shower areas; we have completed renovations in 92 out of 181 housing areas. Renovations in the remaining areas will also be completed by the end of calendar year 2013.

In Closing

Thanks again for your time, attention, and support. The work that all of us at DOC has undertaken can be daunting, even difficult and occasionally, dangerous. It is always important. We welcome your input and are ready to answer your questions.

Testimony of The Legal Aid Society

on

**THE MAYOR'S FISCAL YEAR 2013
EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

Presented before

The New York City Council

Presented by:

Steven Banks, Attorney-in-Chief

The Legal Aid Society

Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Practice

Seymour James, Attorney-in-Charge, Criminal Practice

June 1, 2012

The Legal Aid Society welcomes this opportunity to testify before the New York City Council concerning the Fiscal Year 2013 Executive Budget and its impact on The Legal Aid Society's client services.

City funding supports the Society's legal assistance in the areas of civil legal services, criminal defense, and parole revocation defense. Special annual allocations from the Council for criminal defense and civil legal services have provided crucial funding for the Society's legal assistance for New Yorkers who have nowhere else to turn for legal help. This testimony describes the impact of the FY13 Executive Budget funding levels for criminal defense and civil legal services for low-income New Yorkers in all five boroughs of the City.

We are mindful of the financial difficulties that the City is facing. At the same time, the current economic conditions are having an especially harsh impact on low-income New Yorkers and the need for the legal help that the Society provides to these struggling families and individuals has increased substantially.

Against this backdrop, the proposed City budget cuts for civil legal services in the FY13 Executive Budget will hurt families and individuals who need legal help in the midst of the continuing economic downturn. Data presented in this testimony documents that the numbers of vulnerable New Yorkers who seek our civil legal assistance have increased dramatically during this downturn even as our City funding has decreased, and we are forced to turn away eight out of every nine New Yorkers who seek our help. With the new proposed City cuts, we will have to turn away more families and individuals who need legal aid to obtain unemployment and disability benefits, flee from domestic violence, and prevent evictions, foreclosures, and homelessness – which is at record levels in New York City.

We greatly appreciate the support that the Council has historically provided in the budget process. In this testimony, we will focus on the proposed funding levels in the FY13 Executive Budget for the Society's criminal defense representation and civil legal services.

The Legal Aid Society: The Legal Aid Society, the nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit legal services organization, is more than a law firm for clients who cannot afford to pay for counsel. It is an indispensable component of the legal, social, and economic fabric of New York City – passionately advocating for low-income individuals and families across a variety of civil, criminal and juvenile rights matters, while also fighting for legal reform.

The Legal Aid Society has performed this role in City, State and federal courts since 1876. It does so by capitalizing on the diverse expertise, experience, and capabilities of nearly 1,000 of the brightest legal minds. These 1,000 Legal Aid Society lawyers work with 600 social workers, investigators, paralegals and support and administrative staff. Through a network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices in 25 locations in New York City, the Society provides comprehensive legal services in all five boroughs of the City for clients who cannot afford to pay for private counsel.

The Society's legal program operates three major practices — Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Rights — and receives volunteer help from law firms, corporate law departments and

expert consultants that is coordinated by the Society's Pro Bono program. With its annual caseload of more than 300,000 legal matters, The Legal Aid Society takes on more cases for more clients than any other legal services organization in the United States. And it brings a depth and breadth of perspective that is unmatched in the legal profession.

The Legal Aid Society's unique value is an ability to go beyond any one case to create more equitable outcomes for individuals and broader, more powerful systemic change for society as a whole. In addition to the annual caseload of 300,000 individual cases and legal matters, the Society's law reform representation for clients benefits some two million low-income families and individuals in New York City and the landmark rulings in many of these cases have a Statewide and national impact.

Criminal Defense Services: Since 1965, The Legal Aid Society has served as the primary defender for persons accused of crimes in New York City who cannot afford counsel. With criminal defense trial offices in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, The Legal Aid Society represents indigent defendants accused of crimes ranging in seriousness from alleged disorderly conduct to first degree murder. The Legal Aid Society's criminal defense program is at the forefront of efforts to address new issues in the criminal justice system, including assisting in the design and staffing of specialized court parts that deal with drug abuse, domestic violence, mental illness and juvenile offenders, consulting regularly with State and City officials on policy issues of importance to our clients, and securing system-wide reform through our Special Litigation Unit. The Society's Special Litigation Unit, for example, litigated the landmark case that established the 24-hour standard for arrest-to-arraignment in New York State.

As you know, in 2011 the City completed a RFP process for indigent defense and parole defense services. The Legal Aid Society has again been awarded the largest number of primary criminal defense trial-level cases so that the Society continues to be the primary indigent criminal defense provider in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. In addition, the Society has been restored to its role as the primary indigent criminal defense provider in Staten Island. The prior City Administration had prevented the Society from providing indigent defense representation in Staten Island beginning in the mid-1990s. Accordingly, as a result of the RFP, the Society is the primary indigent criminal defense provider in each of the five boroughs and citywide. The Society has also been designated to continue to serve as the sole institutional provider of indigent parole revocation defense representation on Rikers Island.

The Society's first 2002 contract with the current Administration assumed that its annual caseload would be 210,000 trial-level cases. As a result of increased arrests, the Society's annual caseload exceeded 225,000 cases for a number of years. To help address this problem, the Council provided supplemental annual funding at the level of \$11.3 million. In the new RFP contract, the City has allocated 213,000 primary cases to the Society and base-lined the \$11.3 million in supplemental Council funding in FY12 along with other funding to cover certain fixed contractual expenses, such as health care. We are currently working with the City to finalize a contract renewal to address our criminal defense and parole revocation defense funding needs for FY13. As a result of a prior RFP for appellate and post-conviction cases, the Society has continued to serve as the largest provider of indigent appellate and post-conviction criminal

representation with funding for FY13 projected to be \$8.1 million – the same as it has been in FY12.

In addition to 213,000 primary trial-level non-conflict cases, the City planned to allocate to the Society a substantial number of conflict cases to maintain the Society's annual caseload in excess of 225,000 cases and thereby provide the Society with additional funding associated with this caseload. The City was blocked from doing so as a result of litigation claiming that the City cannot assign conflict cases to institutional providers like Legal Aid. Therefore, the Society intervened in the litigation in support of the City. In December 2010, the trial court agreed with the City and Legal Aid that State law provides the City with the authority to assign any cases – whether non-conflict or conflict cases – to institutional providers like Legal Aid. On March 15, 2012, the Appellate Division, First Department affirmed that trial court ruling. However, the First Department's ruling is now being appealed to the Court of Appeals and there is a continued stay of the favorable trial court and appellate rulings pending the appeal that will be heard in September. As a result, the City has not been able to assign the additional cases with the associated additional funding to Legal Aid. Currently, 18-B attorneys handle in excess of 40,000 indigent criminal cases annually. The number of cases that would be assigned to Legal Aid is a relatively small portion of that.

Unless the litigation challenging the City's right to award these additional cases to the Society is expeditiously resolved in favor of the City and Legal Aid, Legal Aid's ability to maintain the following client services and staffing will continue to be affected: paralegal assistance based on Rikers Island; systemic client representation such as the monitoring and enforcement of the 24-hour arrest-to-arraignment rule that was established through Legal Aid's litigation; and a number investigator, paralegal, social worker, staff attorney and supervisory positions. The paralegal and social worker positions involve 1199 SEIU staffing and the staff attorney positions involve staffing for the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, UAW.

These funding and staffing uncertainties resulting from the pending litigation are also affecting Legal Aid's ability to implement the Chief Administrative Judge's case cap limitation that the Society is required to phase in over the four-year implementation period set in State law. At this point in the implementation process, with support from the Judiciary's budget, we have been able to reduce our average annual weighted attorney caseload from 682 cases prior to the new case cap law to 533 cases as of December 31, 2011. However, effective April 1, 2014, the Chief Administrative Judge's annual caseload limitation is a weighted average of 400 cases. The funding and staffing uncertainties due to the pending litigation are also compounded by the uncertainty as to the level of funds that the State Division of Criminal Justice Services can continue to allocate to the Society's program for clients with Mental Illness and Chemical Addiction because of reductions in federal Byrne pass through funding for this program. Previously, this program had received an allocation of \$660,000. This potential funding cut is especially troubling because our MICA program has a proven track record of enabling clients to avert repeat offenses.

Notwithstanding these current problems presented by the pending litigation and the State funding uncertainty, we are extremely grateful for the supplemental criminal defense funding the Council provided from 2004 through FY11 that the City base-lined for FY12. We are also grateful that the City has determined to include this supplemental funding in our base-line budget

and is addressing our FY13 funding needs in our renewal contract. Accordingly, we did not need to seek a restoration of the prior Council funding for FY12, and we do not need to do so for FY13.

Civil Legal Services: The Society provides civil legal services through our neighborhood-based offices in all five boroughs of New York City and citywide units that serve families and individuals with special needs. Our Civil program provides legal assistance in literally every community in New York City.

In addition to contacting us directly, clients are referred to the Society by the constituent services staffs of elected officials as well as the courts, community and social services organizations, government agencies, or by word of mouth. Other legal services groups also refer their clients to us when they cannot provide all necessary services, have limited or no case intake capacity, or do not serve a particular community.

During the past year, our Civil program handled more than 44,000 individual civil matters benefiting some 100,000 children and adults living in poverty in all five boroughs of the City. Our clients are the most vulnerable New Yorkers: survivors of domestic violence, senior citizens, children and adults with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, immigrants fleeing oppression, unemployed and low-wage workers, persons with HIV infection, and children and adults faced with evictions, foreclosures and homelessness. We help clients with legal problems involving: domestic violence and family law; elder law for senior citizens; housing and homelessness; income and economic security assistance such as federal disability benefits, employment and low-wage worker matters, earned income tax credits, federal food stamps, and public assistance; immigration; health care, including Medicare Part D, Medicaid, and access to hospital charity support; HIV and AIDS; housing development and community development opportunities to help clients move out of poverty; and reentry to the community from correctional facilities.

The continuing extraordinary economic conditions are having an especially harsh impact on low-income New Yorkers and the need for the civil legal help for these struggling families and individuals has increased exponentially. Every day, the Society provides a lifeline for basic survival for vulnerable New Yorkers. The situations our clients are facing – loss of jobs, foreclosure, eviction, hunger – are the grim hallmarks of this current fiscal crisis. The work performed by Legal Aid also saves government millions of dollars a year and is a proven, tested and wise investment. Last year, for example:

- millions of public dollars were saved because we are able to preserve homes, avert homelessness for New Yorkers, and keep families together;
- millions of dollars in retroactive federal disability awards were obtained for clients in place of State and City public assistance payments;
- the monthly disability benefits, Earned Income Tax Credit refunds, and Unemployment Insurance benefits we obtain for New Yorkers were reinvested by them and stimulated the economies of their communities; and
- these community investments, in turn, sustained jobs and additional economic activity.

The more than 44,000 civil legal matters which the Society handled last year involved constituents in every zip code in the City. However, we are able to help only one out of every nine New Yorkers who seek our help with civil legal problems because of lack of resources. The situation has become particularly dire since the economic downturn began. The need for our civil legal services is more crucial than ever. Homelessness is at record levels in New York City, and unemployment, hunger, and foreclosures continue to be at high levels.

Since the economic downturn began, we have seen unprecedented increases in requests for help in core areas of need:

- a 29% increase in requests for help with unemployment benefits and employment problems;
- a 40% increase in requests for health law assistance and help obtaining Medicaid, Medicare, and other health care coverage;
- a 12% increase in requests for help to obtain food stamps, federal disability benefits, and public assistance;
- a 16% increase in requests for domestic violence and family law help;
- a 15% increase in requests for help from current or former low-wage workers with earned income tax credit or other low-income taxpayer problems;
- a 21% increase in requests for eviction prevention representation; and
- a stunning 800% increase in requests for foreclosure defense assistance.

Even more troubling, in recent months, we have seen further increases in requests for our civil legal aid above these high levels of increased legal need: an additional 54% increase for low-wage employment and unemployment matters; an additional 18% increase for housing problems; an additional 12% increase for domestic violence and family matters; an additional 23% increase for subsistence income support problems; and an additional 11% increase for access to health care matters.

To make matters worse, the FY13 Executive Budget proposes to eliminate all funding for the civil legal services initiatives that the Council funded in the FY12 budget. The consequences of eliminating this critical Council civil legal services funding will be dire – increases in evictions, foreclosures and homelessness, increases in the number of women and children who cannot escape domestic violence, increases in the numbers of immigrants lawfully in this country who will be wrongfully deported, and increases in the numbers of children and adults who will go without subsistence income, health care, and food because of bureaucratic mistakes that cannot be challenged effectively in the absence of counsel.

Again, although we are mindful of the City's fiscal condition, based on the critical need for civil legal services throughout the City, restored funding for FY13 is essential for these programs which are slated for elimination in the Executive Budget:

The Citywide Low-Income Civil Legal Services Program: Since 1993, the City Council has allocated annual funding to The Legal Aid Society and Legal Services NYC to provide civil legal services in all five boroughs for particularly "at-risk" clients, including senior citizens, survivors of domestic violence, children and adults with disabilities, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Substantial numbers of these New Yorkers are referred to Legal Aid and Legal

Services offices by the constituent services staff of Councilmembers and City agency staff. Funding for this program is evenly divided between Legal Aid and Legal Services. In the adopted FY09 and FY10 budgets, funding for this program was reduced by 59 percent from a pre-FY09 level of \$3.676 million to \$1.5 million currently, which has resulted in at least 1,822 fewer households served this year. If this funding is not restored, we will have to substantially reduce our provision of civil legal services in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island notwithstanding the increasing numbers of New Yorkers who desperately need legal assistance in these difficult economic times.

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advocacy Program: In the FY06 budget process, the Council established a new initiative to allocate \$2.5 million to the Society and Legal Services to provide legal representation to help public assistance recipients with disabilities secure federally-funded Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) benefits and unemployed workers obtain Unemployment Insurance Benefits. This Council initiative generates significant City and State savings in averted public assistance expenditures when constituents receive federal benefits or unemployment benefits. Eliminating this program will eliminate these cost savings.

The Council's SSI advocacy program funds Legal Aid and Legal Services to help low-income children and adults with disabilities obtain Social Security disability benefits and move off public assistance. By securing federal SSI benefits for these individuals, the program shifts the costs of cash benefits and Medicaid to the federal government and secures federal refunds for the City to cover the cost of benefits paid prior to a determination of eligibility for SSI. The Council-funded Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advocacy Program helps public assistance-eligible New Yorkers who were initially denied unemployment benefits on appeal. Unemployment benefits cost the City and State nothing; they are paid from a special fund created through payroll taxes. Each public assistance-eligible person who gets unemployment benefits saves the City not only its portion of cash public assistance but also Medicaid and administrative costs.

Funding for this combined SSI/UI Advocacy Program is evenly divided between Legal Aid and Legal Services. In the adopted FY09, FY10 and FY11 budgets, funding for this program was reduced by 60 percent from a pre-FY09 level of \$2.5 million to \$1 million currently, which has resulted in at least 1,551 fewer clients served this year. If this funding is not restored, we will have to reduce substantially our provision of crucial unemployment and disability legal assistance in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island notwithstanding the increasing numbers of New Yorkers who are seeking these vital services to receive assistance in obtaining unemployment insurance benefits and federal disability benefits.

The Anti-Eviction and SRO Legal Services Program: Since the 1980s, the City has funded legal services programs in all five boroughs (including The Legal Aid Society, Legal Services, the Westside SRO Project, MFY Legal Services, and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation) to provide legal assistance to low- and moderate-income tenants faced with illegal evictions from their homes as well as services for tenants in single-room occupancy buildings known as SRO housing. These programs have helped thousands of low-income working families, New Yorkers with disabilities, and senior citizens, who are especially vulnerable to

harassment and illegal eviction. In the adopted FY09, FY10 and FY11 budgets, funding for this program was reduced by 33 percent from a pre-FY09 level of \$3 million to \$2 million currently, which has resulted in at least 2,533 fewer “units” of service (including full case representations, training programs, outreach sessions, and tenant association assistance). If this funding is not restored, The Legal Aid Society will be unable to continue to operate the Society’s anti-eviction program that provides legal assistance to tenants faced with homelessness in the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island, to senior citizens in Brooklyn and community residents in Bushwick, and to tenant associations in East Harlem, Harlem, Inwood, and Washington Heights.

Immigration Initiative Funding For Legal Services For Immigrants: The Society is the preeminent provider of legal assistance for low-income immigrants through our network of neighborhood-based offices and community outreach sites in all five boroughs of the City. The Society provides IOI-funded immigration legal services and legal assistance for low-wage immigrant workers in all five boroughs of the City. The Society’s IOI funding has been awarded at a level that has been reduced from a pre-FY09 level of \$596,000 to a current level of \$241,291, with the result that fewer low-income immigrants will receive legal assistance. Again, the FY13 Executive Budget completely eliminates funding for this program. If IOI funding for the Society at its traditional level is not restored, we will have to substantially reduce our provision of civil legal services for immigrants in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

For all these reasons, we urge that these crucial civil legal services programs be restored in the adopted FY13 budget to at least these FY12 levels. However, the sad truth is that in these dire economic times increased funding is required because the most vulnerable low-income New Yorkers have an even greater need for civil legal assistance to obtain the necessities of life – housing, health care, food, subsistence income or self-sufficiency, and family stability and security.

We thank the Council for your long-standing support for our essential criminal defense and civil legal services programs. We will continue to update you during the FY13 budget process concerning our funding needs so that we can serve clients who depend on The Legal Aid Society to provide access to justice.

Submitted by,

Steven Banks
Attorney-in-Chief
Adriene Holder
Attorney-in-Charge, Civil Practice
Seymour James
Attorney-in-Charge
The Legal Aid Society
199 Water Street
New York, New York 10038
Tel: 212-577-3277
sbanks@legal-aid.org

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
Finance Committee
Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee

Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2013
Testimony of Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano
New York City Fire Department

June 1, 2012

Introduction

Good afternoon Chairpersons Recchia and Crowley and Council Members. I am joined by Edward Kilduff, the FDNY Chief of Department, Don Shacknai our First Deputy Commissioner, and Steve Rush, our Assistant Commissioner for Budget. Also here are Chief of Fire Operations, Robert Sweeney, and Chief of EMS Operations, Abdo Nahmod, along with other members of my senior staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 for the New York City Fire Department.

As you know, over the last several years the Fire Department has endured a series of very significant budget reductions. We have been able to withstand these cuts and manage our operations while maintaining a high standard of service to the public.

For example, the 66 fire-related deaths in 2011 were the second lowest total in recorded history. The lowest total was in 2010, when 62 people died in fires. The decade since 2002 has been the safest 10-year period since record keeping began in 1916, with 37 percent fewer civilian fire fatalities than in the previous 10-year period.

While I am extremely proud of this performance, we are again preparing for the potential closing of 20 fire companies.

Executive Budget Highlights

The proposed Executive Budget contains no new budget reductions for the Fire Department; however, the 20 fire company closures remain scheduled for Fiscal Year 2013. As I have said previously, if these closures take effect, response times and our operations throughout the City will be affected, we will have to make significant adjustments in our operations, and it will be extremely challenging to maintain the same levels of service to the communities we serve.

Beyond the proposed company closings, we have reduced the Department's budgeted civilian headcount by 35 positions for Fiscal Year 2013. This reduction is on top of significant headcount reductions we have made over the last several years. We continue to face constraints on civilian hiring and have very limited opportunities to replace critical staff. Units throughout the Department are affected, but these headcount reductions pose particular challenges in such areas as Fleet, Facilities Maintenance and Support.

We are also scheduled to reduce discretionary or administrative overtime for our uniformed members – for such things as headquarters or other support assignments -- in the amount of \$3 million. This does not affect roster-staffing overtime or overtime that is required to maintain minimum staffing in the fire companies.

Revenue

We have proposed various revenue initiatives to reduce our operating costs. Currently, we are in the final stages of drafting, for Council review, a bill that will institute a new fee for periodic fire safety inspections. These inspections, which assess egress, combustible material storage, electrical hazards and fire protection systems, among other things, are conducted by FDNY field units. These code enforcement inspections that are part of our Building Inspection Safety Program would result in fees of \$400 for buildings at or under six stories, and \$500 for those above six stories. We expect that our field units will perform inspections in approximately 36,000 buildings. This fee initiative is expected to generate approximately \$9.9 million in new revenue annually.

Capital Budget

The Department continues to struggle with funding constraints, but is facing no *new* reductions or major changes to our Capital Budget. We are fortunate that the February 2012 Capital Budget reforecast includes \$1.6 million in funding for the purchase of a building we currently lease at 420 East 83rd Street, Brooklyn for an EMS Station.

We are also able to move forward on two other critical EMS capital projects due to funding reallocations. We are constructing a new EMS station to replace trailers at Queens General Hospital. We are also moving forward on a site on West 172nd Street in

Manhattan for a new ambulance station. Initially, we will install trailers, but eventually we will have a permanent facility at this location. This Manhattan facility will help us improve ambulance availability in this area of northern Manhattan, which is the second busiest area in the City in terms of EMS response.

Firefighter Test

As many of you are aware, the Department has been prevented from hiring firefighters due to a Federal Judge's decision in the lawsuit brought by the Department of Justice and the Vulcan Society. As a result, we worked with experts from all the parties to the litigation -- under the supervision of the Court -- to create a new Firefighter exam. That exam was administered from March 15th through April 20th, 2012. In advance of the new test, starting in January 2010, our Recruitment Unit conducted an extensive grassroots campaign.

I am pleased to report that the campaign achieved unprecedented success. Of the 42,161 people who took the firefighter exam, a record-breaking 46% were people of color. The 19,260 people of color who took the exam represent a 130 percent increase over the previous exam administered in 2007. In addition, more women took this year's test (1,952) than the total combined number of women (1,788) who took the three previous firefighter tests in 1999, 2002 and 2007. I am enormously proud of the effort and dedication that produced these results.

I hope that we can commence hiring firefighters again in late 2012 or early 2013. By that time, we will have gone nearly five years without a probationary firefighter class entering the Academy. Even before that new class comes on board, we will face significant challenges by the end of this summer when we expect to be down 600 or more firefighters. While we are confident of our ability to meet the challenges posed this year, it remains imperative that a new list be promulgated as soon as possible to avoid critical staffing shortfalls in Fiscal 2014.

We are preparing for the eventuality that many EMS members will pass the promotional test for firefighter, thinning the ranks in EMS fairly substantially. To limit the impact of the anticipated EMS headcount attrition, we instituted in last year's budget an over-quota EMS hiring plan with OMB, and are proposing similar scenarios for the upcoming year.

New Needs

I am happy to report that the Department will receive funding to support a number of new needs that have been identified since our March budget hearing. These include \$5 million to fund computer maintenance contracts, which have been underfunded in the past, and \$2.6 million in technical adjustments for fuel, energy and leases.

Critical new funding – in the amount of \$1.8 million -- is being provided for 25 civilian positions in Human Resources and Recruitment to help us with the stepped-up level of hiring, which I just discussed. Otherwise, the current civilian discretionary hiring freeze remains in effect.

Funded new needs about which we testified in March include:

- \$2.2 million for the 10 ambulance tours we assumed from Montefiore Medical Center in March. The funding supports these added tours and the 41 new EMT and Paramedic positions associated with them.
- \$1.8 million to train our 2,300 fire officers as we fully implement the Risk-Based Inspection System, a new inspection program that will help us identify high-risk buildings, prioritize inspections and expedite code enforcement. It will also help improve our data-sharing using technology to support our mission to advance public safety.
- \$500,000 to purchase updated firefighting equipment including improved seatbelts for fire apparatus and upgraded face pieces that meet NIOSH-approved standards for self-contained breathing apparatus.

Conclusion

Finally, as I have said in the past, no Fire Chief and no Fire Commissioner wants to close fire companies. But here we are again faced with that prospect. If we close 20 fire companies, we will send the Charter-mandated 45-day notices of the closures to every Member of the Council, every Community Board and all of the Borough Presidents. I thank your Committees and the entire City Council for their ongoing support. I would be happy to take your questions at this time.



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

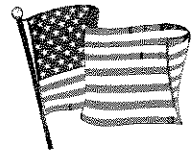
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

3165 East Tremont Avenue • Bronx, New York 10461

Tel: (718) 892-1161 • Fax: (718) 863-6860

E-mail: bx10@cb.nyc.gov • www.bronxmall.com

Website: www.nyc.gov/bronxcb10



John Marano
Chairperson

Kenneth Kearns
District Manager

TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF LADDER COMPANY #53
ON CITY ISLAND IN THE BRONX
BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES
ON
ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FINANCE
JUNE 1, 2012

Honorable members of the of the New York City Council Committee on Fire and Criminal Justice, and the Finance Committee, Good Afternoon, my name is Kenneth Kearns and I am the District Manager of Bronx Community Board #10 the host Community Board for Ladder #53. Each year the Office of Management and Budget and the Fire Department of the City of New York recommends the removal of the overnight ladder service from the City Island fire house. This recommendation is based on the number of calls answered by this particular unit. While the number of calls for this particular ladder company may be smaller than others, we submit that relying solely on the number of service calls is faulty and belies a certain misunderstanding of the Island's unique status. For instance, this ladder company is not permitted to leave City Island

City Island is just that, an island and its only connection to the mainland is the City Island Bridge, which is over a hundred years of age and is structurally compromised. The main street of the community is City Island Avenue, the sole, uninterrupted east to west conduit. If Ladder #53 were to be closed during the nighttime hours, the nearest ladder companies, located in Pelham Bay and Co-op City would have to traverse the New England Thruway, the Pelham Bay Draw Bridge, Bartow Circle and the City Island Bridge. An alternate route exists over the Hutchinson River Parkway, over the Amtrak bridge, which is currently under construction. This is an equally cumbersome route that still requires the crossing of the City Island Bridge. Whichever unit responds, will result in a ladder company arriving on City Island 9-10 minutes after the first alarm, giving City Island the dubious distinction of having one of the longest response times of any community in the City.

Additionally, by removing Ladder #53 from nighttime service, the Department will be removing the one apparatus assigned to the City Island that carries most, if not all of the specialized life saving equipment. This decision also removes from City Island, the protection of the tall ladder, which is used to reach the upper stories of buildings and also utilized in extinguishing fires from above the street level. This ill conceived decision places the residents of City Island in jeopardy.

In closing the Board would like to impart to the Committees its belief that the proposed nighttime closing of Ladder #53 is both fiscally imprudent and dangerous. Additionally, it should be noted that the Administration places Ladder #53 on the chopping block each year for the past three years. For each of those years the community and its elected officials have rallied to save it, and each year the funding is thankfully restored. The Board believes that at this juncture, the Administration should have a complete understanding of the importance Ladder #53 to City Island and should no longer burden the community with threats of its elimination.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Bronx Community Board #10

**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: 6/1/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Salvatore Cassano, Commissioner

Address: _____

I represent: FDNY

Address: _____

**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: 6/1/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Edward Kilduff, Chief of Department

Address: _____

I represent: FDNY

Address: _____

**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: 6/1/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Don Shacknai, First Deputy Commissioner

Address: _____

I represent: FDNY

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: 6/1/12.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steve Rush, Assistant Commissioner for Budget

Address: _____

I represent: FDNY

Address: _____

**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 1, 2012.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Banks - Attorney in Chief

Address: The Legal Aid Society

199 Water Street

I represent: New York, NY 10038

Address: _____

**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 1, 2012.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adriene Holder

Address: Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice

The Legal Aid Society

I represent: 199 Water Street

Address: New York NY 10038

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: 6/11/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chief Michael Houcibane

Address: _____

I represent: Dept. of Correction

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: 6/11/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deputy Chief Carmine Labruzzo

Address: _____

I represent: Dept. of Correction

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: 6/1/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FDC Lewis Finkelman

Address: _____

I represent: Dept. of Correction

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: 6/1/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Commissioner Dora Schirio

Address: _____

I represent: Dept. of Correction

Address: _____

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