

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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2 SERGEANT BRADLEY: PC recording is up.

3 SERGEANT HOPE: Cloud recording is
4 running. Thank you.

5 At this time, will all panelists please
6 turn on your videos? I repeat, all panelists please
7 turn on your videos for verification purposes. Thank
8 you.

9 Good morning, and welcome to the New York
10 City Council Preliminary Budget Hearing on the
11 Committee on Economic Development for the fiscal year
12 2023.

13 In order to minimize disruption of this
14 hearing, please place all electronic devices to
15 silent or vibrate mode. Thank you.

16 If you wish to submit testimony, you may
17 do via email to testimony@council.nyc.gov. I repeat,
18 testimony@council.nyc.gov.

19 Thank you for your kind cooperation.
20 Chair, we are ready to begin.

21 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: [GAVEL] Good morning,
22 everyone, and welcome to today's budget hearing. My
23 name is Amanda Farias, and I am the Chair of the
24 Council's Committee on Economic Development. We are
25 also joined by today by Council Member Kevin Riley.

The COVID-19 pandemic ravaged our economy. New York City Economic Development Corporation has been supporting the citywide response to COVID-19 in numerous ways, including most recently distributing vaccine incentives for boosters and first doses. The continuation of this critical work is now an integral part of the NYCEDC's framework and overall mission. Today, in particular, we want to review NYCEDC's budget and spending breakdown of the COVID-19-related procurement contracts and how that budget will be adjusted in the coming years. I want to know what alterations the agency has made to the strategy incorporating the lessons learned from the pandemic and its impact on capital spending.

Today, we will be hearing from NYCEDC on their fiscal 2023 preliminary commitment plan, capital budget, and the fiscal 2021 Investment Projects Report. Each one of these programs should support and be well-integrated with one another to properly execute the City's capital projects as well as meet its infrastructure goals. We will examine to what extent this is occurring, where improvements need to be made, and the overall feasibility of NYCEDC's capital program.

During the pandemic, there was a halt on capital projects which impacted the year's commitment rate. Does NYCEDC have any stated plans on how they're going to address last year's ongoing projects and balance them with this year's projects? What indicators does NYCEDC use internally to measure its impact on the City's broader economy? How might that look different in periods of strong versus weak growth?

Additionally, we will look into the assistance NYCEDC provides to projects throughout the City on a discretionary basis to support economic growth and private investment. Projects may be firms or non-profits, and it may take advisory, financial, and other forms. Most NYCEDC financial aid is administered by the NYC Industrial Development Agency or Build NYC with energy assistance co-administered by NYCEDC and Con Edison.

NYCEDC is the City's primary agent for economic development, and their principal mandate is to encourage investment and to attract, retain, and create jobs in New York City. As such, this Committee is interested in having a robust conversation about how NYCEDC's budget as laid out in this preliminary

plan connects to the larger job creation and economic development strategies of the City.

In this budget hearing, we will review NYCEDC's capital plan for fiscal 2022 to 2026. In addition to the 491 NYCEDC projects, NYCEDC is also managing 526 capital projects for other agencies. The Council would like to learn more about how NYCEDC decides which agencies and which projects to work on and how capacity and communication directly impacts success.

NYCEDC has several funds in its capital plan that total over 849 million for fiscal 2022 to 2031. These funds will be used in the future for various projects based on city priorities for neighborhood revitalization, commercial development, infrastructure upgrade, industrial development, waterfront development, and port development. As the recipients of these funds are decided later, the City Council is not always aware of all the projects when the budget is adopted. We want NYCEDC to update the Council on recent projects that came out of these funds and any other projects that are on the horizon.

To support economic growth and private investment, NYCEDC provides assistance to projects

throughout the City on a discretionary basis. Direct discretionary financial assistance from NYCEDC totaled 247.2 million across 456 new and ongoing investment projects. Of these 456 active projects, 15 were new in fiscal 2021. Of the 15 new projects beginning in fiscal 2021, 10 were administered by Build NYC, 2 of which were NYC IDA FRESH projects, another 2 of which were industrial incentive projects, and 1 of which was an NYC IDA commercial project. The Council would like to know from NYCEDC how these projects were selected and how involved the City Council was in that process. I would also like to know if any of these projects have penalties or have been subject to cancellation of aid or callbacks.

Finally, I want the agency to go over both revenue contributed by New York City Economic Development Corporation to the general fund and net revenue generated post contributions to the general fund. Since fiscal 2019, net revenue has been negative for NYCEDC. What is the reason for this and how does it impact the agency?

It is essential that the budget we adopt this year is transparent, accountable, and reflective

of the priorities and interests of the Council and the people we represent. This hearing is a vital part of this process, and I expect that NYCEDC will be responsive to the questions and concerns of Council Members. I look forward to an active engagement with the Administration over the next few months to ensure the fiscal 2023 adopted budget meets the goals the Council has set out.

I would like to thank Andrew Kimball for coming here today and testifying. I would like to thank NYCEDC's staff who have been consistently responsive to our many requests. We would not be able to analyze the City's budget at such a detailed level without your cooperation so thank you.

I would also like to thank both my staff and the staff of the Finance and Legislative Division for their help in preparing for this hearing. Thank you.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. Just for the record, we've been joined by Council Member Riley and Council Member Kagan.

My name is Stephanie Ruiz, and for today I'll be serving as the Counsel to the New York City Council's Committee on Economic Development.

Before we begin, I want to remind everyone that you be on mute until you are recognized to speak at which time you will be unmuted by the Zoom host. If you mute yourself after you've been unmuted, you will need to be unmuted again by the host. Please be aware that there could be a delay in muting and unmuting so please be patient.

Here today to give testimony will be President and CEO of EDC Andrew Kimball. President Kimball is joined by EDC's Chief Operating Officer Carl Rodrigues followed by Executive Vice President of Project Implementation Josh Kraus, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Liz Verostek, and Executive Vice President of Initiatives Faye Penn who will all be available for questioning. I will call on you shortly one at a time to begin your testimony.

During the hearing, if Council Members would like to ask a question of the Administration or of a specific panelist, please use the Zoom raise hand function and I will call on you to speak. We will be limiting the first round of Council Member questions to 3 minutes, which includes the time it takes to answer those questions.

Before we begin testimony, I will administer the oath to all members of the Administration who will be offering testimony or will be available for questions. Please raise your right hands now. I will call on you individually for a response.

Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth before this Committee and to respond honestly to Council Member questions? President Kimball.

ANDREW KIMBALL: I do.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. Chief Operating Officer Rodrigues.

CARL RODRIGUES: I do.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. Executive Vice President Kraus.

JOSH KRAUS: I do.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. Deputy Chief Financial Officer Verostek.

LIZ VEROSTEK: I do.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. Executive Vice President Penn.

FAYE PENN: I do.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you.

President Kimball, you may begin when ready.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Good morning, Chair

Farias and Members of the Economic Development

Committee. I'm Andrew Kimball, the new President and

CEO of the New York City Economic Development

Corporation, the EDC. It's great to connect with all

of you in this new role, and I look forward to

working in partnership to grow resilient, inclusive,

and competitive economy in every corner of the city.

Today, I'm joined by my Colleagues,

Joshua Kraus, our Director of Project Implementation,

Carl Rodrigues, our Chief Operating Officer,

Elizabeth Verostek, our Deputy Chief Financial

Officer, and Faye Penn, our Executive Vice President

for Initiatives.

For decades, EDC has been responsible for

driving economic development across all 5 boroughs.

Its impact is realized through a number of pathways

including real estate management, disposition, and

land use. EDC controls 64 million square feet of

assets ranging from the Brooklyn Army Terminal Mid

New York Campus, in Brooklyn, we're investing 600

million dollars to bring new garment and light

manufacturing to the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center in the Bronx which you'll hear more about in a moment.

Over the last 8 years, EDC has led hundreds of real estate transactions as well as key land dispositions and rezonings to drive smart growth in key business districts. All of this has led to nearly 6,000 new units of housing built or planned, all affordable, a million square feet of new commercial space, and 7 billion dollars in economic activity. Examples include the Inwood New York City Action Plan. We invested 200 million dollars to create affordable housing, a new library, community space, and more. 200 million through the Downtown Far Rockaway rezoning, which includes the development of affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, commercial spaces, and open spaces. The Deerfield's Cure Innovation Campus is bringing new life sciences to Manhattan while the tech training center at Union Square will help launch tech startups and offer career training. Our new office anchor in East New York which will bring new commercial office space and tenants to an underdeveloped area. In Queens, Archer Green, the new 100 percent affordable housing

complex, just opened its doors to tenants in 387 apartments. The transformational project born out of Jamaica Now Action Plan includes community space, commercial spaces, square footage, and a new supermarket. We've reactivated the Staten Island Baseball Stadium through a new public/private partnership which is bringing a new team and excitement to the Northshore along with other development, and we hope you'll join us on May 3rd for the FerryHawks' first pitch on opening day.

Sector growth. From life sciences to advanced manufacturing to green tech, EDC's mission includes diversifying the economy and the tax base while creating equitable pathways to good-paying jobs.

Small business and entrepreneurship. Over the last 2 years through the Small Business Resource Network we supported 27,700 small businesses as they navigate the challenges of the pandemic. In addition, we are piloting 2 new programs for underrepresented early-stage tech founders through our partnership with Newlab and Company Venturers to give them to access to government, corporate, and tech resources to help them thrive. We're also partnering with the

Small Business Services Department on entrepreneurial bootcamps specifically for women over 50.

Waterfront revitalization. In 2017, EDC brought to life a citywide ferry system, executing a long-sought public transportation expansion on our waterways. It has now served 22.3 million riders in its first 4 years. Other waterfront initiatives include 1.3 billion in resiliency and green infrastructure projects and the development of the country's largest offshore wind service support.

Community infrastructure improvements. EDC is actively managing over 290 capital projects ranging from hospitals like our newest investment, the Ruth Bader Ginsberg Hospital in Coney Island. This new 900 million dollar state-of-the-art facility is expected to open this fall, and libraries like the Charleston Library in Staten Island which we're excited to be opening today, right now, and is the city's first net zero energy library.

EDC is also helping to close the digital divide by investing 161 million to bring broadband up to 1.6 million New Yorkers, many of whom are NYCHA residents.

When the city faces a crisis, whether it's the tragic September 11th attacks, the 2008 market collapse, superstorm Sandy, or the global pandemic of the last 2 years, EDC steps up. At that height of the COVID-19 crisis, we pivoted our resources and collaborated with city partners and the private sector to help the city in its time of need. We partnered with more than 70 local businesses to manufacture or deliver up to 4.2 million gowns and 8.4 million face shields. We sat up a local supply chain that created and delivered 1 million test kits to hospitals, clinics, and community testing sites, and we facilitated the City's 110 million dollar vaccine incentive program. In partnership with SBS, we also dispersed 49 million dollars in financial support to help over 1,500 small businesses and 7 safety net hospitals weather the pandemic. Now as the city begins to recover, we have a once in a generation opportunity to reimagine the economy of New York City. The pandemic showed us clearly the disparities caused by systemic inequities and injustices, things that have always been there, but now we have a unique opportunity on the economic

development front to build a stronger, more resilient, and equitable economy.

Today, EDC manages hundreds of projects, nearly 9 billion dollars, in its 10-year capital fund. For FY-22, we have approximately 2.2 billion in our capital budget. Our board-approved budget for FY-22 is 799 million comprised of EDC's own funds, city capital, and expense.

Last Thursday, I was excited to stand with Mayor Adams and Deputy Mayor Torres-Springer at the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center to announce the Rebuild, Renew, Reinvent: A Blueprint for New York City's Economic Recovery. This blueprint is bold, comprehensive, and 5 borough in its nature with over 70 initiatives that aim to accelerate the return to pre-pandemic employment levels while simultaneously laying the foundation for the city's economic future. So much of this will work as EDC's bread and butter, from our work increasing opportunities for M/WBEs to strengthening business districts and expanding life sciences, green economy, and other growing industries and much more.

The 5 key pillars of the Mayor's plan.
One, restart the city's economic engines and reactive

the public realm. To restart the city's economic engines and reactive the public realm, the EDC's work around quality of life in business districts across the city will continue to grow from street-by-street cleaning and public space revitalization through a clean-up corps plus supporting outdoor dining through development of a kit of parks, which will both boost local manufacturing and help small restaurants implement permanent outdoor dining.

Two, support small businesses, entrepreneurship, and a more equitable economy. To support small businesses, entrepreneurship, and a more equitable economy, EDC is continuing to expand the Small Business Resource Network, a public/private partnership among EDC, the Partnership Fund for New York City, and the City's Chamber of Commerce. Already, the Network has supported over 27,700 businesses since its launch in October 2020. EDC is supporting and expanding our initiatives focused on BIPOC and immigrant entrepreneurs as well as M/WBEs. We've awarded nearly 200 million dollars in M/WBE contracts in FY-21, over 45 percent of the contract dollars, our highest ever and well above most other agencies. So far in FY-22, we've exceeded FY-21 and

accomplished nearly 300 million dollars of awards through the second quarter. As I mentioned earlier, we're in partnership with Newlab to help underrepresented founders and funders access the resources they need to succeed in New York City's tech ecosystem. To further innovation life sciences by BIPOC and women-led startups, we partnered with Deerfield's Cure which awards 100,000 dollars to 5 researchers annually and gives them access to a network of other services and support.

Three, drive inclusive sector growth and build a future-focused economy. To drive inclusive sector growth and build a future-focused economy, we look to innovation and new industry opportunities. One key example is our 1 billion dollar, 10-year commitment in life sciences. It will create over 2,000 companies and 40,000 jobs while generating 82 billion dollars in overall economic impact.

Four, connect New Yorkers to quality jobs and in-demand skills. To do this, EDC is investing in shaping the offshore wind and building efficiencies industries. We have an unprecedented opportunity to deliver on the green jobs of the future while meeting the City's ambitious carbon and energy reduction

goals. The City's nearly 200 million dollar commitment to offshore wind will generate at least 13,000 jobs and generate an expected 1.1 billion in annual economic activity.

Five, plan and build for inclusive growth now and in the future. To plan and build this inclusive growth, the Mayor has initiated it with 100 million dollar investment in the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center in the Bronx. It will save and grow 2,500 good-paying jobs and give us the opportunity to address environmental injustice suffered by this community. The EDC team was thrilled that the Mayor also committed 40 million towards the Hunts Point Forward Plan Development to be shared in more detail in April in partnership with the local community for open space and other public realm improvements.

To implement the Blueprint and drive a fair, equitable, and resoundingly successful recover, it is going to take leadership at every level, community, government, and business coming together. EDC is committed to working with all of you and all stakeholders to do our part to make this vision a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
My Colleagues and I welcome any questions you may
have.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you,
President Kimball. I will now turn over to the Chair
for her questions and to introduce additional Council
Members that have joined the webinar. Chair Farias,
whenever you're ready.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you so much for
your testimony, Andrew Kimball. I also would like to
acknowledge my Colleagues that have entered into the
hearing, Council Members Salamanca, Williams, Brewer,
and Aviles.

Again, thank you so much for your
testimony. I don't know who's throwing that first
pitch, but it can't be me so I'm happy to come and
join and watch.

As you mentioned, NYCEDC absolutely
stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic so let's
start with the response there. How does NYCEDC's
capital and investment plan incorporate projects that
strengthen the City's COVID-19 response and long-term
recovery effort?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Sure. Thank you for the question, Chair Farias. I appreciate that. Once again, EDC historically has played this role, not only of driving the City's economy but being the point really on addressing crises and economic recovery around that. Certainly, we all at a personal level and a city level have faced crisis in the last few years. It's been a very tough stretch.

267 million dollars has flowed through EDC over the last 2 years to address the COVID response. Of that, let me just break it down. About 110 million went for PPE, face shields, gowns, etc., where we quickly mobilized across our assets that we manage, manufacturers and others, to generate 4.2 million gowns that went again to community health centers, hospitals, other locations that needed them, 8.4 face shields, 1 million test kits. We partnered with over 70 local businesses on this effort. Then about 110 million went to vaccine incentives, 95 percent adults with one dose, nearly 1 million people have gotten the 100 dollar incentive, and we're continuing to work with the vendor there to address the very, very small number that it didn't reach or had complaints with the process, but we're overall

very proud of that program and how fast we moved on it and critical in terms of the overall success. I think now we're about 77 percent of New Yorkers vaccinated, a real success story overall for the City. On top of that, critically important was the 49 million dollars of small business loans and grants and hospital loan funds that we were able to facilitate working with our partners in government, particularly SBS, supporting 1,500 businesses and 7 safety net hospitals.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you for that. I know we've spoken about some of the incentives in the past so thank you for your responses on that as well.

Just staying on the capital investment line, to support economic growth and private investment, NYCEDC provides assistance to projects throughout the city, as you mentioned, on a discretionary basis. How are the 15 new investment projects in fiscal year '21 selected and then how do they fit into the City's larger economic development plan and COVID-19 recovery efforts?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Chair Farias. The capital generally for EDC is a collaborative effort. It involves extensive

conversations at the community level, often through long-term planning processes. A great example there is the very positive work that's been done in Sunset Park, both with (INAUDIBLE) and now with the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. Another great example is Hunts Point. Part are initiatives driven out of City Hall that have citywide impact so obviously life sciences is a great example there. In terms of the specific 15 projects in our budget this year, I'm going to ask my Colleague, Joshua Kraus, Director of Capital Implementation to respond.

JOSHUA KRAUS: We always work with the Administration and with the Council to identify the best projects that will have the deepest and widest impact to help drive the recovery of New York City. Beyond that, I'm happy to pass to my Colleagues either in the Initiatives or the Budget Department.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Sure. As you folks are unmuting, I just want to acknowledge my Colleague, Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez, who has also joined us.

FAYE PENN: If I may speak to one of those projects, I'd love to talk a bit about offshore wind which is an example of a ground-up effort in New York

City where we are incubating an industry from the very start, where we are leveraging federal investment, state investment, and 191 million dollars in New York City investment in a project that will create 13,000 jobs, create 1.1 billion dollars in economic activity, and ensure that 40 percent of the job and investment benefits are directed toward women, minorities, and environmental justice communities on top of the environmental benefits that our President mentioned.

I just want to highlight this because this is really an example where we are arm in arm with the community every step of the way in terms of our Advisory Board, in terms of workforce planning efforts, and in terms of making sure that the jobs that are created by this growing, important industry are equitably distributed to the communities that need it most, and I feel like that is a really great example of where we've learned how to use our toolkit of workforce development, of seeding innovation, of place-based initiatives, and wrapping it together in an effort that will bring an equity driven solution to our communities.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you for adding that in about the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. I think I got that acronym right. I would agree. I'm looking forward to seeing it and I'm hoping that a lot of the projects that then get implemented, the other 14, are in similar efforts and veins with working directly with communities and local workforce to hire and all of that good stuff so I'm looking forward to hearing about all the other projects.

COVID-19 really damaged our healthcare system and our economy as we all have seen over the last 2-1/2-so years in our communities. NYCEDC has been supporting the citywide response to COVID-19 in numerous ways as we've mentioned. What areas has the agency's response recently been focused on, either you can say the last couple of months into the new year or from the fall onto now?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Chair Farias. I'll highlight 2 key areas for us now and into future years because these are long-term investments. I'll actually mention three.

One is rebuilding our hospital system. I think there's been a broad recognition of the importance of having a strong hospital network. Once

again, we saw how first responders heroically stepped to the floor in hospitals across the city and the capital investment needs to continue to flow into those facilities to modernize them, make sure they have the latest equipment, and premises that are worthy of the important work they're doing so a huge portion of our capital budget is going into hospital upgrades. There are ongoing conversations mostly driven at the community level with EDC about better access to community clinics and care.

The third I would say is really long-term, which is once again driving our life sciences industry. New York City in a pandemic is always going to get hit very, very hard, perhaps hardest, because of our density, because of our connectedness, and therefore we need to be on the cutting edge of developing responses to that and, in fact, we are currently in development for a pandemic crisis response unit in partnership with Health and Hospitals.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Great. Thank you. In terms of being cutting edge and responding as a city as you mentioned, I have a question around revenue. What are the different sources of revenue for NYCEDC,

how has the pandemic impacted revenue collection by NYCEDC and consequently the agency's contribution to the general fund?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question. The overwhelming amount of funds that EDC operates on year to year come from the assets that we manage, the 64 million square feet of space, some which we actively manage, some which we have land leases on. In addition, there's a smaller amount that comes through real estate transactions that we lead, but the bulk of it is from real estate we control. That is what drives our annual budgeting. There's a much smaller amount typically that comes through the general fund, through tax levy for specific programming. Like all organizations public and private in the last couple of years, it's been a tough go, and it required us to significantly reduce overall headcount by about 50 positions, mostly through attrition, and on top of that for the city tax levy funds we receive we also had a 3 percent PEG like city agencies, and that was about a million and a half dollars on top of that. Typically, you want to be running a positive cash balance at the end of the year. We ran a small negative cash balance, small in

the total scheme of our budget, about 4 million dollars, last year. That is not ideal. It's also not the first time it's happened, but it is not ideal, and we look forward as the economy rebounds, as the tenancies that we have in our many assets rebound and are able to fulfill their rent obligations that we will dig ourselves out of that hole quickly. We're very proud in addition to the work we did with many of our tenants and other businesses around PPE manufacture and development and supporting the healthcare system. We're proud of how we worked with them in many cases to bridge them over some very painful months. I saw this in the private sector very, very clearly in my last job, but the team at EDC here in the last couple of years really worked hard to help bridge our tenants through the pandemic crisis, but for us that meant some lower revenue over the last few years.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Generally, I'm just going to ask, from what I'm hearing is you're saying one of the contributors to the losses has been because of accommodating (INAUDIBLE). I know there's been a loss in net revenue generated post

contributions to the general fund. Is that the only reason or is that like the main contributing reason?

ANDREW KIMBALL: That's the primary reason.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Primary reason? Okay. Thank you so much for that response. Switching gears a little bit. The pandemic has obviously deeply impacted the City's economy and left the tourism and hotel industry on the verge of collapse. How is NYCEDC continuing to make sure that tourism, arts and culture, live entertainment, and performance venues are a part of the long-term recovery and strategy? I think it's something at the top of everyone's brain as New York City is coming back and we're seeing a lot of people outside, we're not necessarily seeing all of that coming back into (INAUDIBLE) venues.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you, Chair Farias. A few points there, and you're absolutely right. Tourism is fundamental to our economy in New York City in driving the revenues that support the general fund and all of the other good things that New York City government supports in partnership with the City Council. Thank you for recognizing that. It is critical. It is a key part of the Mayor's Blueprint.

In terms of cranking up our economic engines, we're going to be working very closely with NYC and Company that takes the lead primarily on tourism outreach, but we are a close collaborator with them. In terms of marketing campaign, in terms of support for Broadway through unique ticketing programs to get people back in theaters on a low-cost basis. Another key element of our efforts there are in cleaning up our core business districts, and that's not just those core business districts in Manhattan where the bulk of the tourism is but across the city, and we do that through Clean NYC, a program at EDC where since 2016 we've collected over 300,000 pounds of trash, covering 1,500 miles of city blocks with 21 distinct community groups across the 5 boroughs. For all of us coming back to work physically, and I look forward to working with all of you in person in the coming months. Hopefully, this is the last time we have to do this on Zoom. When you're out and about, you expect a certain level of cleanliness. That's going to help get our folks back to the office. It's also going to make New York City a much more attractive place for people to come. On the cultural front, we're very proud of a lot of the capital investments

that come through EDC that are culture specific in terms of community facility and reopening it, whether it's Coney Island activities that are going to be reopening soon or the new Charleston Library on Staten Island. I spent 9 years early in my career working for the New York Public Library, mostly in branch library renovations, and I know how critically important those can be as community downtown anchors so we're thrilled to be doing projects like that. All of those pieces fit together to have New York come roaring back from a tourism point of view.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you. I'm particularly, obviously, in tourism and seeing our city come back but also focusing on job growth and that aspect of revitalizing or bringing back our economy. How does the NYCEDC see its role in generating stronger job growth as the city comes out of the pandemic and what indicators does NYCEDC use internally to measure its impact on the city's broader economy?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Chair Farias. That goes to our bread and butter and the core of what we do and have done here for years and want to be continuing to do in a smart,

targeted, and equitable way working with you and the Committee Members over the next few years. A few of the things that are top of mind there. One is the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center. It is maybe little known how critical that facility is to our city's wellbeing. 25 percent of all the food that gets onto our plates comes through there, whether it's through a restaurant or groceries or wholesale. There are 2,500 jobs there today. There's a 700,000 square foot facility that was built in 1967 and has been outdated for a very, very long time. There is a very serious environmental problem around the idling of trucks there using fossil fuel generation, which has had a very negative impact locally and more broadly. These are all things that the Mayor feels very strongly about addressing. People have been talking about it for a long time. I was thrilled that just in my first week here he dropped on my plate the challenge of getting that facility rebuilt, and I mean that seriously because for the last 20 years of my career that's been sort of fundamental to what I have been focused on in terms of bringing modernizing industrial commercial centers and so I'm thrilled to have that challenge. It's going to take more than 100

million. It's going to take partnership. It's going to take investment from the private sector. It's going to take partnership at the state and federal level, but we're thrilled to be diving into that project, and we will be coming back to this Committee for regular reports.

Secondly, I just want to emphasize again, I don't think you can say it enough, about the offshore wind energy really is something that in some ways came out of nowhere and kudos for so many people on this Committee and others in elected office who've been advocating for very aggressive reductions to our fossil fuel reliance over many years, and that led to this industry appearing almost overnight in terms of the state government putting out power purchase agreements to buy offshore wind generating immediately a multibillion dollar market, mostly for international offshore wind developers to come in. That positioned the EDC very smartly to look to sites like the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal where you could stage and assemble the various component parts before they are floated 15 to 30 miles offshore and put into the water. That industry along, as my Colleague, Faye Penn, said, is going to generate

13,000 jobs and over 80 billion dollars of economic impact. We need to stay focused on that.

Life sciences has been a generational focus really, going back a long way. Over the last 8 years, that commitment continued and it continues again with Mayor Adams with our billion dollar life sciences initiative. Like everything that the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor have focused on and that we are committed to here at EDC, this is going to be done with an eye towards equity in terms of access to venture capital, startup capital to allow a more diverse set of entrepreneurs and ownership to get into that space. This is something that's just starting, but we're deeply committed to in the coming years and hope you will hold us accountable as it is just so important to the future of our city and building generational wealth in every neighborhood across the city. We are also committed to, while there's obviously a heavy density of life sciences in Manhattan due to the location of so many of our hospitals and research centers, this is something that we want to spread to every borough and have already begun through strategic investments and partnerships in places like South Brooklyn and Long

Island City and Montefiore in the Bronx. Those are a few key examples that we're really focused on.

I would also add just one other area where there is work to do and hope to work with you on it as well. That is the broader clean tech, green tech industry, and those businesses that will evolve are going to have to evolve very, very quickly around how to meet important requirements like Local Law 97 with building retrofits. There is so much more we can do on things like solar. It's almost anemic, the number of solar panels in New York City today. We need to do more there, working together in the future.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Equity, access, accountability. Those are like my government love languages so I appreciate you saying all of that, and I look forward to working on really expanding some of the things you latter said like solar in our communities through a lot of initiatives hopefully in the city. As you mentioned, NYCEDC manages a lot of projects, but it's also managing capital projects for other agencies. How many capital projects is NYCEDC managing for other agencies in this plan, and how do

we decide which agencies and what projects to work on?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question. In FY-22, just zooming out a little bit, our total capital budget is 2.2 billion dollars. That's 290 active projects. That's not just the new ones we talked about earlier, and we'll get back to you in more detail on those 15 projects, but 290 ongoing active projects, and there's nearly 9 billion in the 10-year capital plan. Of that, about 66 percent we're doing on behalf of other city agencies, 33 percent are more directly EDC or City Hall driven so a very significant number. This is really something that's evolved over the last 20 years, and I think it is really a testament to the quality of the team that we've built here and our ability to expeditiously, relatively speaking, get capital projects done. That means that elected officials often come to us because they want their library built faster or better or cultural institutions, the same, and I would also say, just going back to my earlier testimony about our M/WBE contracting process, really excelled there, now with about 45 percent of the dollar value going to M/WBEs. That is

a very impressive number. I'd say also we developed a program called Construct NYC that really hones in on supporting small M/WBES to grow in capacity. Of the 239 million that we awarded M/WBES, 89 of those awards, or about 50 million, come from that smaller group, and we're really trying to scale up these companies.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Great. Thank you. I'd like to acknowledge Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez has joined us. I know I have Colleagues that are eager to ask questions so I just have a few more and then we can get to those.

Let's talk about one of my favorite things, the ferry, citywide ferry service. I'm just going to ask questions and obviously if you need me to double back on them let me know. How did the pandemic impact ridership on the ferry service? What's the plan and timeline for expansion, if so, of the ferry system? How many of those landings are new in fiscal year 2022?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Chair Farias. Having been a lifelong New Yorker, I have to say this is one of the great improvements to the city in my lifetime, and, again,

kudos to the team here in launching this in 2017 and really managing it, I believe, superbly over the last 4 or 5 years through some trying times. As I said earlier in my testimony, we've reached over 22 million riders in the first 4 years. They cover 70 nautical miles, 25 landings in 5 boroughs now. If you look globally, it is one of the biggest urban ferry systems anywhere, and we're proud of that. The pandemic was tough on ferry service no doubt. We went from a peak of about 6 million riders pre-pandemic to 4.5 million. What has been great to see happening in the last couple of months is people quickly coming back to the ferries as they get more comfortable getting out and about, and we're up to north of 90 percent of our previous ridership pre-pandemic so if you look more broadly at other city transportation services, specifically subways and buses, our return customers are coming at a much faster rate. Obviously as a New Yorker, I hope everybody comes back onto the subway and bus system as well because mass transit more broadly is the lifeblood from an economic development point of view for the city, but we're also super happy and mindful of the fact that 80 percent of the folks who used the ferry system today

are New Yorkers. We absolutely have acknowledged in recent years publicly that the system needs to be expanded to communities that haven't been reached so we're really proud in the last year to expanded up in the Bronx to stops like Soundview and also to St. George in Staten Island. A strong case can be made for the importance of this system. It's also been well-documented that it is an expensive system to run, and so we're currently in conversations with our Colleagues in City Hall and in DOT about how to best manage the system going forward. It's something the Mayor has spoken about publicly and committed to coming out with a new approach in the coming weeks and months about how we can manage the system and obviously part of that will be answering questions about issues like expansion so I'm going to defer on that one until we work through the process and look forward to more conversations with you on it offline.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Can you talk a little bit about the city funds being used the project? What is the breakdown between revenue streams from fairs to concessions to city subsidies?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Sure. Part of the nimbleness of EDC has been the revenue that we

generate through our assets. That really helped us get this service up and running quickly. As has been well-documented, the City has kicked in more funding from a tax levy point of view, which has been important in getting us through the COVID time period. What role that plays in the future in terms of tax levy dollars is exactly what we're discussing with our Colleagues and so we're going to defer on any commitments around that because candidly that's a work in progress, but we look forward to coming back to you on it.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Okay. Great. Thank you for that response. According to the Land Sell List published as part of your Investments Projects Report, NYCEDC has sold 50 plots of city land and leased 96 plots over time including 1 in fiscal year 2021. These sales were associated with projects called Civic Center Community Group, Broadway LLC, and Bartlett Dairy Inc. Can you provide us with any additional details regarding these sales?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Let me talk more broadly about sales. I think at its core, particularly in the last 8 years with the prior administration where there was a heavy focus on driving housing

development, particularly affordable housing development, I suspect that a number of those transactions were connected with that, and we're proud of the fact that that work is in the process of resulting in 6,000 new affordable units of housing. In terms of those 3 specifics, I will go back and check with the team and come back to you.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Great. I'd love to discuss that more at a future time. We're in a moment, as we mentioned, there's lots of different industries or different models of workforce, cooperative models that we could be looking at for using city lands so I'd love to keep talking about that.

Lastly, I'd love to touch base on the Economic Blueprint. Last week, as you mentioned, Mayor Adams released the Economic Blueprint for the City. How can we expect to see NYCEDC's budget change to reflect these new priorities?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for that question. The most significant change is the 140 million associated with Hunts Point. Again, they'll be regular reporting back to you and your Committee Members on progress there. There are going to be

dollars with the Clean Downtown Streets Initiative.

There will be some dollars with the kit of parts

around supporting restaurants with streetscape

improvements to facilitate outdoor dining. All of

that is in process so the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor

have laid out a broad and very broad portfolio of

initiatives, and we're currently working with them on

timing and dollars associated with all of them so

they'll be much to report in the coming weeks and

months.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Okay. Great. Are

there currently any new capital investments and

initiatives that the agency will undertake as

outlined in the Blueprint?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Big one being Hunts Point

again by far.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Okay. The Blueprint

specifically aims to accelerate the return to pre-

pandemic employment levels. What role do you see or

will the NYCEDC play in achieving this?

ANDREW KIMBALL: This is again at the core

of what we do. Going back to your question about some

of the land dispositions with a focus on housing, we

are eager to keep working with communities and Hunts

Point Forward being a perfect example, the Inwood Rezoning being a perfect example, the Jamaica Now being a perfect example of where we dive in deep to understand community needs and wants at the local level, but then develop a suite of initiatives off of that whether it's infrastructure or culture or parks or commercial buildings or housing. My particular focus and background, and it's going to be something that I come back to over and over again in terms of where I really want to drive things here and where I believe Mayor Adams is very focused, is on job creation, good paying job creation that provides career pathways, that provides training around it to get people into those industries but that also has avenues for entrepreneurial opportunities that is as broad-based as possible. We're just scratching the surface of what we can do there, and I mentioned in my testimony a core of the initiatives with Newlab and others around BIPOC investment in sectors that matter for the future. I think we can be doing more there, and that's going to be a very, very high priority for me, and I know it's a very high priority for the Mayor.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you for that.

Lastly, can you tell us a little bit more about NYCEDC's Strategy for Equity and Economic Development, also known as SEED, fund which is a new equitable capital planning framework to invest city resources into neighborhood needs?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question. I am just getting up to speed on that so my preference would be to come back to you with a full-blown response as opposed to give it to you piecemeal now.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: That's perfectly fine. Thank you for that, and I look forward to your response. With that, I will turn it back over to my Moderator as my line of questioning is over
(INAUDIBLE)

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. If any Council Member has questions for the administration, please use the Zoom raise hand function now, and you will be added to the queue.

As a reminder, Council Members have 3 minutes for their questions and this includes

answers. Please wait for the Sergeant-at-Arms to tell you when your time begins. The Sergeant will then let you know when your time is up.

We will now hear from Council Member Salamanca followed by Council Member Kagan and Council Member Aviles.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Good morning. First, I want to congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your first official oversight hearing and preliminary budget. Congratulations.

Second, welcome, it's good seeing you again, President Kimball, and it was great seeing you last week at the announcement with the Mayor.

I have 3 minutes so I'm going to get straight to my questioning. Last week, the Mayor announced a 140 million dollar investment in Hunts Point, 100 million for the Hunts Points Market and 40 million for the Hunts Point Forward Plan. Can you briefly update me? Where are we with providing or building the Hunts Point Produce Market with a brand new state-of-the-art facility?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Council Member Salamanca, and thank you for

your leadership on this point. It was great being with you there, hearing about your family history connected to Hunts Point, specifically your father working there, I think, for 18 years, impressive, and just is a reflection of the importance of facilities like that in terms of local job opportunities. As I said, the 100 million is a very significant down payment on a new facility, but it's not going to be enough. We are in active conversations right now with a potential development partner and with the Members of the Hunts Point Food Co-op, the businesses at the end of the day that have to function out of there, about the scope of that project, about the design of it, about the sustainability around it, things we care about a lot. That will result in a design that will give us a better sense of the total..

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Cost, which will not be 100 million dollars. I can guarantee you that. It's going to be significantly more, and that's the point in which we're going to have figure out, okay, of that total number, how much is being driven by the private sector, how much is the City, how much is the State frankly, and how much is the Federal Government

because I believe that this facility, I know that this facility is not just critical infrastructure from a health and sustainability point of view for the City of New York but also for the State of New York. There's scores of upstate farms that critically rely on the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center, and I would argue it's a national project because there are farms all over the country that supply food to Hunts Point, and New York City really should have a state-of-the-art modern facility there so we're going to be coming back to you regularly with updates. I think you know from our past experience together I believe deeply in transparency and delivering the good news and the bad news at times that has to come.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time's expired.

ANDREW KIMBALL: But I'm also going to need your help and the Committee's help, I know the Mayor is as well, at leveraging some of those additional dollars.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Before you move on, the 40 million, I know that past mayors have allocated funding to the Hunts Point Markets. I know Mayor Bloomberg did and I know Mayor de Blasio did. Where are these dollars that they allocated, and how

much do we have in total including the 100 million that the Mayor allocated?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Council Member Salamanca. It's an excellent one. There have been previous commitments. The vast majority of that money has been spent, spent for improvements at the meat markets, spent for improvements like the rail system that runs through there that's important in terms of moving goods. There is some leftover dollars. I don't have an exact number for you right now, but we absolutely will be looking to transfer any dollars that were left over from past projects into the new one because the Food Distribution Center is our top priority right now.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: All right. I had asked questions about the 40 million dollars for the Hunts Point Forward Plan, where is that funding going. I'm just going to throw 2 other things. I know my time is up. I'm just curious La Peninsula, the former Spofford facility, that's an EDC project, La Central, that's also an EDC project. Two massive development projects in my Council District. You started on Phase 1 on both projects. They've almost been completed, at least in La Peninsula. I know

(INAUDIBLE) Phase 1 has been completed, but HPD has not closed on Phase 2 so what is EDC going to do as an agency to lean on HPD so that we can close on these projects? Given the fact that back in 2016 and 2017 we agreed to a certain rent in terms of the AMIs and now we're in 2022 and we know that the AMIs have changed in terms of the rents going up and therefore the rents that we promised the communities to approve these projects back in 2016, 2017 are totally different than the rents when we close now in 2022 or 2023, so how are we going to address these issues?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the question, Council Member. The Spofford project is a fantastic one. Thank you for your leadership pushing that. As you know, significant progress has been made. I love the fact that this is kind of, in my view, smart development. It's got both housing and jobs, training associated with it, neighborhood amenities associated with. This is the first I'm hearing of the HPD situation, but I can guarantee you I'm going to follow up on that issue as quickly as I can and get back to you.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Madam Chair, I'm going to be respectful of the time. I do have

more questions about the 40 million dollars in Hunts Point that I'll come back around to. Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you, Council Member.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: We will now hear from Council Member Kagan followed by Council Member Aviles then Council Member Gutierrez.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time will begin.

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you very much. Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair Farias, for this amazing hearing, very important. In general, economic development especially now is crucial for the recovery of New York City. I have 2 questions for economic development. One question is how are we using the talent and the intelligence and creativity of New Yorkers in moving New York City out of this pandemic and supporting all of these economic development projects? Do we have an option to do it like maybe on a website, maybe outreach? People have a lot of great, absolutely amazing, wonderful ideas how to improve New York City, how to bring more revenues. President, thank you so much for your outreach to my office, and I'm looking forward to

meeting you and to have a site tour on Coney Island.

We have a lot of issues in Coney Island, and I'll

give you just for an example. We have an abandoned

Shore Theater Hotel (INAUDIBLE) Avenue. It's a

landmark building, and before the pandemic there was

an idea to transform it into modern hotel, for

example, but because of the pandemic it didn't work

out. My point is again we have millions of talented,

amazing, smart people who can bring so many good

ideas to move our city forward. I'm ready to share of

the ideas that my constituents shared with me, and I

believe we are not using this potential.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the

question, Council Member Kagan. I'm really looking

forward to working with you. I'm a Brooklyn resident.

I spent a lot of time at Coney Island both as an

adult and with my kids over the years, love the

improvements there, but also want to work with you to

take it to the next level. I'm familiar with the

Shore Hotel. It is a beautiful building. We've got to

work with you to figure out a good outcome.

In terms of your question about really

engaging with all New Yorkers on this recovery, I

couldn't agree with you more. Much of that happens at

the community level. Much of it happens because of leadership by Members of the City Council like yourself so I'm eager to come out to Coney Island and sit with you and any other members of the community and hear your good ideas. I think more globally we're at an important inflection point for the city, not just to build back the economy but to build it back better and stronger. We're at a point where there is broad recognition, recognition that should've been there years ago but clearly is now about past inequities and the importance of reaching communities across the city, of strengthening our healthcare system, diversifying our economy. I think there is a civic spirit right now in terms of this moment of coming back from the pandemic where people really want to serve, whether they're in the private sector, the public sector, or in government, and part of our job at EDC is to bring those groups together to come up with the best ideas.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time's expired.

ANDREW KIMBALL: A couple of examples there. We have a fantastic life sciences advisory council. We have an advisory council on offshore wind. I want to develop one more specifically on

green tech, clean tech, and there are a number of examples that are related to tap into that civic spirit. I think the private sector is eager to invest again and eager to invest here in New York City. Honestly, over the last couple of years, you've seen a real retrenchment in terms of private sector investment, I think that's going to change. One other point I just want to add there that we're very proud of the business development unit we have here that reaches out locally around retention projects so helping companies like Jet Blue and Steinways and Crystal Palace understand the value proposition of staying in New York, but we want to reach out nationally, we want to reach out internationally to tell New York's story and to bring more companies here.

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Meanwhile, please reach out to New Yorkers again. We have so many intelligent, creative people who have a lot of brilliant ideas to help to bring more revenues to New York City and to move our city out of this pandemic.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Agreed.

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Okay, thanks.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: We'll now hear from Council Member Aviles followed by Council Member Gutierrez and Council Member Sanchez.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time will begin.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Hello, everyone. Congratulations, Madam Chair, on your first hearing. It's been really good. Congratulations, Andrew. Good to see you. I'm going to talk to you about (INAUDIBLE) you know nothing about. Teasing. Sunset Park. I guess I have a 2-part question and sadly we don't have enough time, but we'll have more conversation. As you know and everyone knows here, our district (INAUDIBLE) is part of a significant maritime industrial use. We have an abundance of water. We have experienced a proliferation of last mile warehouse facilities, and these are not normal warehouses. These are gargantuan facilities that have been primarily concentrated in Red Hook. We have 5 facilities in a very small geographic area and 1 ginormous facility that is coming up in Sunset which will be the biggest, over 6 million square feet of space dedicated to this usage. Our community has seen, you mentioned the injustice of idling trucks, we are an environmentally justice community and with

these clustering of these facilities that have been built as of right on the water, we have seen no dedication to the development of water freight and using the water rather our community is being inundated with trucks and will be inundated with even more trucks. Some are estimating 3,000 trucks additional a day, and we're talking about monster tractor trailers. That in addition to the small vehicles and the smaller delivery vehicles which we're already kind of choking under. Under that context, I wanted to know if EDC, number 1, has plans for putting any capital investment and really pushing using the power of the agency to invest in marine freight highway given these facilities are all on the water. Secondly, how can we partner, number 1, we are bearing a disproportionate burden of these facilities in a very small geographic community that is an environmental justice community with the highest rates of asthma, how can we move forward to ensure that our community gets the investment and protections that it currently needs?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you, Council Member Aviles, and I am very eager to be working with you and listening capacity and very excited about the

opportunities in your district so I look forward to touring it with you, spending time. Obviously, I was up close and personal watching some of the work that you did in the past as community leader, the task force has gotten done, the community driven task force with EDC, and it is truly impressive, the focus and investment going on at the Made in New York Campus and also at SBMT so kudos to you for your work there. The question of freight transportation is a critical one. I believe that short sea shipping, getting trucks off of I-95 and the highways and onto barges along our coastlines is absolutely critical and that helps on the last mile distribution issue. Also, inter-harbor movement of freight goods absolutely critical.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time is expired.

ANDREW KIMBALL: EDC's freight transportation unit is all over this, and we look forward to sitting down with you, specifically on this topic and getting into detail. I would just say also on the last mile distribution facilities, I have seen as facilities go up we need to be engaged with you and others in the community where there are vacant industrial sites in figuring out how we work

together to generate outcomes other than last mile distribution centers so I look forward to working with you on that.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Yeah. None of the facilities are building with the anticipation of using the water. They're saying the City needs to invest in being able to prepare our waterfront for this kind of usage, and the companies, hand over foot, very wealthy companies, we're playing patsy back and forth so I look forward to more conversations because we cannot take any more of these facilities. Our health here is truly on the line. We are the site of the most disproportionate element, and I'm also concerned about how these facilities impact the industrial manufacturing sector as a whole because we need to support a more robust sector and not have these outsized facilities just gobble up all of our land and resources. I look forward to working with you some more on these issues. I will cede my time because I know there's a lot of other questions.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you.

2 STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We'll
3 now hear from Council Member Gutierrez followed by
4 Council Member Sanchez then Council Member Riley.

5 SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time begins.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Good morning.
7 Thank you, Chair Farias, for doing an awesome job
8 chairing your first hearing. It's an honor to share
9 this space with everyone. I have 2 questions, and I
10 know there's a lot so I will be relatively quick.
11 Mine are district specific so I understand if you
12 can't respond right away. My first one is if you can
13 share the status of the capital investment to Moore
14 Street Market, aka La Marqueta de Williamsburg.
15 Roughly over 2.7 million was allocated from then
16 Borough President Eric Adams and previous Council
17 Member Reynoso back in FY-19 and a pretty significant
18 amount is intended to kind of upgrade the space so
19 I'd love to know what the status is. There are some
20 great, great programming and great initiatives
21 happening at the Market. It was the hub of food
22 distribution throughout the pandemic, and it's still
23 pretty much the center of preservation in
24 Williamsburg, which is experiencing rapid
25 gentrification.

My second question is related to manufacturing. If there is anything that you can share about a longer term manufacturing retention plan, specifically to support our IBCs, even more specifically to support the Williamsburg IBC. Thank you.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you, Council Member Gutierrez. I really look forward to working with you, really eager to come and tour the Moore Street Market with you. What I do know from the past 20 years of my working economy development is the importance that marketplaces like this can play in a local community, a real anchor for other commercial development near it, a real anchor to bring the community together around fresh produce. Food generally is such an important driver of economic development so we're very eager to continue to work with you on Moore Street more broadly.

In terms of the specific standing of the capital project, let me get back to you with a detailed report on that and come and tour it as well.

In terms of more broadly on manufacturing, obviously that has been a major focus of mine over the last 17 years at the Brooklyn Navy

Yard and Industry City where millions of square feet of manufacturing has expanded over a 15-year period. These new kinds of manufacturers tend to be very small, very nimble, very design heavy, high touch, often linked to advanced manufacturing meaning tech focused manufacturing in a lot of ways. We need to continue to support that industry growth. Oftentimes, the smaller players will create the ecosystem in which a larger business wants to invest so we're thrilled as an example that at the Brooklyn Army Terminal there's a new 80,000 square foot tenant that's going to be moving in that we worked with during the pandemic that was not in one of our buildings on PPE production, and they're going to be taking 80,000 square feet to manufacture that there. I think we all learned a lesson of not having enough local industrial and manufacturing around PPE over the last couple of years, but I'm very eager to work with you and other Council Members on how we can both work with public assets, assets we control, and also with the private sector because I actually think there is a growing recognition that the maker community, the manufacturing community is one that in some cases may pay a little bit less but can really

anchor broader redevelopments and activations because the reality is particularly young people, New Yorkers more broadly but particularly young people, want things made locally. They want them made sustainably. They want to know that the people working at the manufacturing firms are local and are creating career pathways so I really believe in all of that in my core and I've seen it work at both the Navy yard and the public/private sector there and then in the full private sector at Industry City so I'm eager to work with you on that.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Thank you so much.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We will now hear from Council Member Sanchez followed by Council Member Riley and Council Member Salamanca.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time will begin.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Good morning, President Kimball, and congratulations, Chair Farias, for your first hearing. Incredible job. President Kimball, I'm really looking forward to working with you again from RPA times to now. My question, I think you'll expect it. I've given some of my outreach already to your team. I really wanted to first say

how excited I am to hear about investments in Hunts Point and the Bronx, and the Bronx needs a lot of love, needs a lot of attention, and just a little further up north in the Bronx there's the Kingsbridge Armory which has really languished for better terms over the past 25 years having intermittent uses but not really being utilized to its potential in our community. So understanding that there is some pending sort of discussion, litigation, conversation going on, I really wanted to hear about your approach to sites like the Kingsbridge Armory in terms of utilizing valuable incredible city assets to incentivize economic growth, especially in communities like ours, and in the Kingsbridge Armory, looking for a commitment to working together to really realizing a project there because I do think that this is the team that can get it done, this Council, this Administration, this EDC. I think we've got it, and our community is really activated around it so we'd just love to hear your approach and hopefully a commitment to work together on the Armory.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you so much for that question, Council Member Sanchez. Yes, yes, yes,

and yes. Adaptive reuse of beautiful historic structures like the Kingsbridge Armory are so core to economic development in New York City and elsewhere. Obviously bringing the Navy yard back to life with the diversity of buildings there and also at Industry City was core to our development strategy. Show off the asset. That's what attracts businesses. That's what attracts the public. That's really the core of how you bring sites like Kingsbridge Armory back to life. We're proud of the work.

On a smaller scale but with other armories, like the Bedford Armory, it is frustrating to all of us that that project has languished and so we are very eager to deal in with you, understand your vision, understand the vision of the community there for how we can tackle what is a very big but absolutely critical project and can be an anchor as you well know, not just for that neighborhood but more broadly in the Bronx.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Absolutely. Thank you so much. I really look forward to working together, and you have an incredible and you come with incredible experience so really look forward to working together. Thank you, Chair.

2 STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We
3 will now hear from Council Member Riley followed by
4 Council Member Salamanca.

5 SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you
7 (INAUDIBLE) our Bronx representative (INAUDIBLE)
8 Chair Farias for chairing her first committee
9 hearing. How are you doing, President Kimball? I just
10 have a real quick question. Want to piggyback off of
11 my Colleagues from the Bronx. Prior to the pandemic,
12 the Bronx unemployment rate was really, really low.
13 It was about, I believe, under 8 percent. During the
14 pandemic, it rose up to about 24 to 25 percent, and I
15 believe it's down to the 13 or 14 percent right now.
16 I did hear that you spoke about some jobs that the
17 Mayor is trying to bring to New York City and the
18 career paths that he's trying to bring. I'm just
19 curious to understand which career paths and
20 (INAUDIBLE)

21 ANDREW KIMBALL: Council Member Riley, I
22 think we lost you, but I believe the gist of your
23 question is around job creation and the unemployment
24 rate. Yes, we lost close to a million jobs in the
25 city at the nadir of the COVID crisis. We're back now

to being short several hundred thousand. Trendlines are in a good direction. For a while there, it wasn't just that there weren't enough jobs. It was that there weren't enough job seekers. I think that's changing now. Part of that is reactivating our public transit system, making sure it's safe, making sure people feel comfortable getting back into the office and workplace again. Things are moving in the right direction, but it is critical that we lay the groundwork now to supercharge the economic activity that's happening in New York so projects like Hunts Point, projects like Spofford, projects like our government office relocation strategy called Office Anchor where we look to have a city agency be an anchor for a new commercial building resulting in a much bigger project where then there is hopefully several hundred thousand square feet of additional space that can go for local businesses to expand are all part of tackling that unemployment and underemployment challenge that we have. Part of it also...

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time expired.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Workforce development initiatives and there's a broad slew of those that we're working in partnership with SBS on.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you so much for that response, President Kimball. Just a point of clarification because Council Member Kevin Riley is having a little bit of service issues as we can tell. Just to follow up on that response, were there any type of career jobs that the Bronx will be able to see or any technology career pathways created and if you can just pinpoint, I know you listed a bunch of different types of projects that you will be implementing in the Bronx, but if there's any specific project points that involve technology or different career pathways. In your response, if you could highlight that, that would be appreciated.

ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for that clarification. Let me just add to that list. Obviously, Spofford, Hunts Point, our Office Anchor project in the South Bronx. I would add to that the life sciences work we're undertaking with Montefiore to make sure that life sciences and a big part of life sciences is tech, it's laboratory tech, but that we're bringing that to every corner of the City

2 including the Bronx and so we're going to be
3 expanding our partnership with Montefiore and look
4 forward to keeping in regular contact with you all on
5 that.

6 CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Great. Thank you.

7 STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: We will now hear
8 from Council Member Salamanca.

9 SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time will begin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: President
11 Kimball, I just want to go back to some of my line of
12 questioning in terms of the 140 million dollars that
13 was announced last week. In terms of the 40 million
14 dollars for the Hunts Point Forward plan, how will
15 that work? When will the community start seeing that
16 funding trickling down into Hunts Point?

17 ANDREW KIMBALL: Thank you for the
18 question. My understanding on where we are in the
19 process is through the Hunts Point Forward community
20 process, projects were identified, streetscape
21 projects, green space projects, parks projects. Now
22 that the money has been allocated, those projects can
23 move forward in design so what I would like to do is
24 get back to you with a detailed capital construction
25 timeline which includes both design and a projected

construction start so you can know a little bit more specifically when you're going to see the results.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Okay. My final question is just to talk back about past funding from previous mayors. I'm just concerned about that funding being spent already. I understand that rail was necessary and that rail comes into the Hunts Point Produce Market, but if we're building a fund to actually build a new facility for the Hunts Point Produce Market, right, we have many markets, produce, fish, and meat. I'm just concerned that we're putting money in allocating for this project but it's being tapped into. When are really going to have the actual funding? When are we going to raise the actual funding so that we can get this project started and completed?

ANDREW KIMBALL: I appreciate the line of questioning and please, just as a general matter, keep it coming. We're going to be open book, totally transparent about what has been invested, what's left over, what we can reallocate to this project. What's critically important now from my point of view is getting a project that we can build consensus around that is a smart project from the EDC's standpoint, is

embraced by the members of the co-op, is embraced by the union as a key stakeholder there, is embraced by you and other community members. That's going to have a dollar amount associated with it. We're all going to have to lock arms around that dollar amount and then come up with a strategy for how we're going to leverage the rest of it. All I can tell you, Council Member, is that this is one of my top priorities. I'm going to have a team at EDC that's cross-departmental focused on this, and we're going to be in regular communication with you and the community and the co-op on it.

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: All right. Then my last question is where are we with Freight NYC?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Freight NYC is a critically important initiative for us. Going back to Council Member Aviles' question, moving goods in a more environmentally sound fashion whether it's by truck or by rail or by water is a critical long-term issue for the City. It's one that we've got a team very focused on here, and what I would like to do since I'm still getting up to speed on all the elements of that is come back to you and Council

2 Member Aviles and others who are interested in this
3 topic with a more detailed response.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Okay. Thank
5 you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We
7 will now hear from Council Member Brewer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
9 much. My quick question, I think it hasn't been asked
10 because I've been in and out, is I just came from the
11 National League of Cities and mostly it was about
12 funding. There's obviously 2,000 people there from
13 small towns and big cities, but this is pretty much
14 of a softball question, but there is so much money
15 available from the Biden administration, some of it
16 obviously categorical, you get it no matter what, but
17 there's just an awful lot to be applied for, much of
18 it is economic development, so my question is either
19 for you and/or collaborating with your sister
20 agencies, is there already a discussion about
21 applying for these billions of dollars. Needless to
22 say, that was my job during the Dinkins
23 administration so I know that if you apply you often
24 get, but is that something that's on your radar and,
25

if not, will it be and what is your approach to this money coming from Washington?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Council Member Brewer, thank you for the question. It is great to be working with you again. It's been maybe 25 years since we worked on branch libraries in your district, and I know that you're a great partner and know how to get things done. 100 percent. It was one of the first questions I asked the team here. It was one of the first questions I asked the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor. Please rest assured we are all over this issue. It is a unique opportunity. I am still learning the intricacies of what is eligible, what's not eligible, and Joshua Kraus here on our senior team, we have one of the savviest capital project people around. He is part of an interagency task force. I also have a set of relationships there that I'll be calling on at the state and federal level. I would hope that there is a whole slew of projects that we can go after with this infrastructure money, and so we'll be coming back to you but please feel free to keep the heat on us on that topic.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Chair, it appears that no other Council Members have raised their hands to ask questions.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: I just have 2 last followup revenue-based questions if you don't mind, President Kimball. Just hearing all of the dialogue that's been going and going back to the reserve conversation, are there reserves that the agency falls on when there's a loss in revenue and in the revenue contributed by NYCEDC to the general fund, ferry net operating losses that are associated with the subsidy calculation is factored in, does the agency see this amount rising in the next few years?

ANDREW KIMBALL: That is part of the evaluation that we're undertaking right now, working with our Colleagues in city government and City Hall, which is how we deal with the expense associated with the system right now, how can we lower those expenses, where will they potentially rise in the future, and how will that get funded and who will manage it directly on an ongoing basis. All of those questions are on the table right now, and we'll be needing to get back to you on that.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Okay. Great, and then in terms of the life science facilities, the life science initiative plans to invest 500 million as you mentioned in the life sciences in New York City over 10 years. What's the funding for this in the fiscal 2023 plans and are there any incentives being provided to attract investment in commercial lab space in New York City?

ANDREW KIMBALL: Yes, for sure on the last question. Actually, the total number is a billion. It's a 10-year commitment. 260 million of that has been committed already, about 100 million to applied research and development for 4 projects including at BAT and PRI, 150 million for commercial wet lab space at CURE and Innolabs, and 10 million, and this is a really important one and impressive to me and something I want to grow, but 10 million for internships in the biolabs wet lab's incubator. Internships in my view being one of the best ways to get the next generation of diverse entrepreneurs into that sector.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: I agree. Internships to full employment sounds great to me across the

board. With that, those are the last questions that I have. I'll pass it back to the Moderator.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. We will now turn to the public testimony. I'd like to remind everyone that unlike our typical Council hearings we'll be calling individuals one by one to testify. We'll be limiting public testimony today to 2 minutes each. You may begin once the Sergeant has started the timer.

Council Members who have questions for a particular panelists should use the Zoom raise hand function, and I will call on you after the panelist has completed their testimony.

For panelists, once your name is called, a member of our staff will unmute you and the Sergeant-at-Arms will set the timer and give you the go ahead to begin. Please wait for the Sergeant to announce that you may begin before delivering your testimony.

We will now hear from Ben Fuller-Googins followed by Francisco Tecaxco and Valerie White. Mr. Fuller-Googins, you may begin when ready.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

BEN FULLER-GOOGINS: Good morning. Thank you so much, Chair Farias and Council Members of the Committee for offering me time to speak this morning. My name is Ben Fuller-Googins. I'm with the Carroll Gardens Association. We're a member of the New York City Coalition for Domestic Work. Our coalition we formed last year with the New York City Domestic Worker Alliance, (INAUDIBLE), Hand in Hand, the Domestic Employers Network. We represent over 30,000 domestic workers and employers across New York City, and I'm here this morning to request your support for our Domestic Worker and Employer Empowerment Initiative. This will be a new City Council initiative for FY-23 that will provide much-needed funding to support outreach, education, enforcement, and trainings to over 5,000 domestic workers in this year alone. There are over 200,000 domestic workers in New York City, largely immigrant women who are taking care of our children, our homes, and elderly. Unfortunately, many of these jobs while they're so essential are often underpaid or workers are experiencing wage theft, harassment, discrimination and so our initiative that we're proposing requesting 300,000 dollars will be able to provide critical

training and outreach to these workers across the city to make sure that they have quality, they are able to enforce their rights, and be able to continue providing care for their children and elderly in our homes across the city. Right now, we have the passage of Intro 339. There's a press conference going on with other Council Members joining, and this is such a critical moment where we have new laws and new legislation being extended for domestic workers, and our initiative is going to be working to make sure that workers know their rights so they're able to feel valued and dignified in their jobs, be able to provide good quality jobs to our families and homes across the city so I look forward to working with this Committee in supporting domestic worker rights, and I hope you support our initiative, the Domestic Worker and Employer Empowerment Initiative. Thank you so much.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We'll now hear from Francisco Tecaxco followed by Valerie White then Angel Yin.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

FRANCISCO TECAXCO: Good morning. My name is Francisco Tecaxco. I am the Worker's Rights

Coordinator at New Immigrant Community Empowerment, or NICE. We are grateful to share our testimony on behalf of our organization of dozens of immigrants, day laborers, and families in New York City. We urge the City Council to invest in the Day Laborer Workforce Initiative, The Low Wages Worker Support, and the Construction Site Safety Training to continue the work that organizations such as NICE provide to over 15,000 immigrant workers per year. Immigrant workers are essential to New York City economic recovery. They build construction sites, deliver food, clean houses, buildings, and hospitals and continue to do so as the city reopens. On day laborers corners known as paradass, day laborers lack access to workforce development training, shelter, water, and bathrooms. The goal of the Day Laborer Initiative is to work together with NICE and address the issues by creating access to good jobs, training on safety and legal rights, and a dignified space for day laborers looking for work. Every year, over 7,500 workers use NICE job centers, and we dispatch over 1,200 dignified jobs per year. With the city (INAUDIBLE) NICE created an apprenticeship program for women workers who harness their skills by

rebuilding the homes of New Yorkers affected by Hurricane Ida. So far, 44 women have been trained and have helped rebuild 23 houses affecting over 100 low-income immigrant community members. The Low-Wage Worker Support funding is key so we can meet the increasing demand for wage theft support. Every month, more than 60 workers come to NICE to report cases of wage theft case. This past year, more than 3,200 workers participated in our construction site safety training. Since the pandemic, NICE has distributed more than 3.3 million in direct...

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time expired.

FRANCISCO TECAXCO: Thank you. Cash relief.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We will now hear from Valerie White followed by Angel Yin and then Roger Thomas.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time begins.

VALERIE WHITE: Good morning. I am Valerie White, the Executive Director of LISC New York City. We are a non-profit intermediary committed to closing the racial wealth gap and creating a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable New York City through capital investment and economic development in

community infrastructure. Thank you to Chair Farias and the rest of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

An equitable and thoughtful approach to economic development is important to driving investment toward our historically underserved neighborhoods. Central to that is ensuring that M/WBEs are at the heart of our economic development strategy. These firms have lacked access to resources, capital networks, and those required to participate in contracting. It is essential that we support these firms, and this support for the development of commercial real estate, affordable housing, community infrastructure in our most vulnerable neighborhoods. They also provide valuable jobs with career paths for BIPOC individuals and immigrant residents of our city. LIISC NYC launched a Developers of Color training program to expand the capacity of M/WBEs in the development industry, and we also provide through other government partnership lines of credit to help qualified M/WBEs successfully bid and execute construction contracts. Mayor Adams' commitment to raising the threshold for the city contracts that M/WBEs can seek from 500,000 to 1.5

million dollars will help those eligible M/WBES compete for more lucrative city contracts. As we wrote in a policy letter to then Mayor-Elect Adams back in November, we also believe that public/private partnerships are essential for creating equitable economic development so we at LISC NYC stand ready to continue our partnership with the new administration at New York City EDC and this Committee to help move about economic development and continue our investment in the economic recovery for New York City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We will now hear from Angel Yin followed by Roger Thomas and Will Spisak.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

ANGEL YIN: Thank you, Chair Farias and other Members of the Committee, for this opportunity to testify. My name is Angel Yin, and I am the Small Business Program Coordinator at the Asian-American Federation. Asian New Yorkers comprise 17 percent of city's population. Over 280,000 Asian workers keep our city functioning. During the pandemic, the unemployment rate of Asian New Yorkers doubled but at the same time our business owners have difficulties

hiring. This gap is due to the fact that the city's existing workforce development programs do not cater to the language needs, are not financially accessible, and have eligibility requirements that bar participation from undocumented, other, and disabled Asian workers. The lack of in-language outreach in assistance effort for LEP business owners continue to hamper economic recovery. We applaud the introduction of programs lack SBS Small Business Resilience Grant or DOF's Fine Reduction Program to support small business. The problem is in-language materials regarding new regulations in how to get fines reduced were offered much later than English materials and outreach efforts were limited to online webinars, barring participation from LEP owners who struggle in the digital divide. Importantly, in light of the Atlanta Spa shooting anniversary today, I would emphasize the continued threat of anti-Asian hate on local economic activity. Hate crime is causing a significant drop in consumer spending in Asian commercial corridors, leaving them relatively empty even now. Hence, AAF requests that the City Council first center economic recovery on the working class in the local neighborhoods, second, strengthen

communication and interaction among city agencies and the community, third, invest in community-based culturally competent programs with a focus on small business support and workforce development and, lastly, provide stable funding to trusted CBOs..

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time expired.

ANGLE YIN: To provide reliable services.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you for that.

Moderator, I just have a followup question really quickly. Do you have by any chance the average timing on translated materials getting back to businesses, workers, etc.?

ANGLE YIN: I'm sorry. I don't have that information right now, but based on my past experience at our work, some of the materials are just like delayed by weeks.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Got it. In your experience, and it doesn't obviously have to be everyone's experience, in your experience have the translations actually been suitable in like the most common spoken language?

ANGEL YIN: Well, I would not say every information is being translated in all the languages,

but we do see them being translated in the most used languages such as Chinese or Korean, but we would encourage it being translated to all kinds of Asian languages.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Okay. The quality of translation is good? Because I know sometimes I see stuff in Spanish and it's questionable.

ANGEL YIN: To be honest, because I speak Chinese, I think some of the Chinese needs improvements.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you for that. We can continue on.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. We'll now hear from Roger Thomas followed by Will Spisak and Natalia Guzman Solano.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time begins.

ROGER THOMAS: Chair Farias, Members of the Committee, my name is Roger Thomas. I am the CEO of Mello Tymes, a minority, Latino, Returning Citizen owned social equity brand hoping to partake in the cannabis industry that's supposed to create opportunities in our community. I, too, have been directly impacted by this (INAUDIBLE) prohibition. For the sake of time, I have shortened my testimony

to conform to the rules. I have also submitted my full written testimony. I come before this Committee today confident that our elected leaders in New York City, the undisputed financial capital of the world, will be able to solve the most pressing issue in this white-dominated cannabis industry. A lack of access to capital is the main barrier that industry has created to keep black and brown communities from being entrepreneurs. New York has a very robust and inclusive adult use cannabis law. The law is centered on racial and social justice. The law's goal is to allot 50 percent of all cannabis license to social equity participants like myself. We believe that New York City Council has a chance to create additional resources to ensure participation from New York City residents. Without the support of the City, current cannabis businesses which are all white-owned and operating in the city will expand their footprint and leave those of us who have borne the brunt of the war on drugs at a great disadvantage to compete or even be able to participate because of numerous and bias barriers associated with the industry as a whole. Now that cannabis is legal recreation in New York City, I'm asking this esteemed Committee whether we will be

treated the same as other small businesses including restaurants by being eligible for grants, loans, and technical assistance.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time expired.

ROGER THOMAS: Therefore, I am requesting that this Committee allot 100 million dollars to a cannabis fund. Black and brown communities have always paid their fair share of taxes and deserve the right to have access to grants and loans to open and operate cannabis businesses in New York City. New York City is the financial capital of the world. Grants alone would enable those of us who are still (INAUDIBLE) to get access to technical assistance, help with applications, real estate, security, inventory. In turn, these cannabis businesses will provide jobs for New York City. In conclusion, I truly believe without reservation that New York City is in a position to move the needle and start a path of equity, inclusion, and fairness for those of us harmed by the war on drugs. (INAUDIBLE) the cannabis rush. Thank you, and I'm here for any questions from the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Thank you so much for that testimony. I would like to remind folks to

please stay within the 2 minutes as we have other folks that would like to provide testimony. Thank you.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. I would like to now call on Will Spisak followed by Natalia Guzman Solano and Visnja Vujica.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

WILL SPISAK: Thank you. Hi, Madam Chair and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Will Spisak, Senior Program Associate at New Economy Project, a citywide organization that works with community groups to build a just economy that works for all. New Economy Project and 19 partner organizations are part of a citywide Community Land Trust initiative, or CLT initiative, that seeks 3 million dollars in City Council discretionary funding in fiscal year '23 to develop CLTs and permanently affordable housing, commercial, and community space in all 5 boroughs. CLTs are organizing in black, brown, and immigrant neighborhoods across New York City to combat speculation and ensure a just economic recovery from the pandemic. We urge the Committee to support full funding of 3 million dollars for a citywide CLT

initiative this year. CLTs are a flexible and proven model to protect public investment in a wide range of economic development projects. In addition to ensuring permanent affordable housing, CLTs in New York City are also paving the way for an equitable recovery that includes commercial revitalization, manufacturing, and other infrastructure that improves the economic well-being of our neighborhoods. As community-governed non-profits, CLTs own land and control the terms in which the land is developed to ensure that development meets community needs. CLTs are already providing a new model for economic development. Cooper Square CLT in Lower Manhattan has 22 commercial spaces on their CLT providing primarily BIPOC women entrepreneurs with affordable storefronts. In Queens, we have (INAUDIBLE) in Richmond Hill and Western Queens CLT in Long Island City that are organizing and developing community and commercial space to support immigrant-owned small businesses and worker co-ops. In the South Bronx, Mott Haven-Port Morris Community Land Stewards is making progress on converting an old H&H facility into a center for health, education, and the arts. CLTs are a powerful tool to expand community control

of land and localize economic development in the wake of the pandemic. We urge City Council to redouble its commitment to CLTs at this critical time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am available for any questions.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you. We will now hear from Natalia Guzman Solano followed by Visnja Vujica.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

NATALIA GUZMAN SOLANO: Good morning, Committee Chair Farias and Members of the Committee. I thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Natalia Guzman Solano, and I'm a Steering Committee Member at Western Queens Community Land Trust which Will Spisak just mentioned in his testimony. Western Queens Community Land Trust is a grassroots organization that emerged from the struggle to keep Amazon headquarters from expanding into Long Island City and displacing our immigrant, black, and brown small business owners, our residents in the area. Since then, we have continued to organize to propose turning the underutilized Board of Education building in the area into a space that serves community needs in terms of commercial space

and tenancy, providing services like child and adult care, a food co-op, and more importantly affordable rental space for manufacturing, art studios, and mobile vendor kitchens among other uses. Western Queens Community Land Trust and 19 partner organizations are part of a citywide community land trust initiative that is seeking 3 million in City Council discretionary funding in fiscal year 2023 to develop CLTs and permanently affordable housing, commercial and community spaces in all 5 boroughs. For this reason, we strongly urge the Committee and the Council to support full funding of 3 million dollars for the citywide CLT initiative in the 2023 fiscal year budget. This spring, we are completing our feasibility study for the DOE building in Long Island City, and we have continued to do outreach and organizing in our community, which has resulted in Ravenswood Houses residents initiating their own CLT. Just recently, we were able to hire our first staff person, but this was only possible due to City Council discretionary funding. Renewed discretionary funding will build on this tremendous progress as more groups secure legal and technical assistance,

launch CLT operations, and sustain comprehensive organizing and community planning and acquire...

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Time is expired.

NATALIA GUZMAN SOLANO: Long-term preservation. CLTs are a powerful tool to expand community control of land and stabilize housing in the wake of the pandemic. We urge City Council to redouble its commitment to CLT at this critical time. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. We will now hear from Visnja Vujica.

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Your time will begin.

VISNJA VUJICA: Good morning, Chair Farias and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. We're going to stay on the CLT train for a minute. Somehow we ended up being all in a row. My name is Visnja Vujica. I'm a Staff Attorney with Take Root Justice in the Equitable Neighborhoods Practice, and we are also a member of the CLT initiative. The CLT initiative funds 20 organizations including CLTs, local community-based organization as well as technical assistance providers like ourselves to do the work of CLTs which

is community controlled local development where the local communities are really who decides what their needs are and how those needs should be implemented. As Mr. Kimball discussed, we've realized, it seems EDC has realized that local everything is the right way to do things, and CLTs are about as local as they get. They're composed of a board that includes local residents, residents of the CLTs, and community advisors. At Take Root Justice, we provide legal services to the CLT members including technical assistance like trainings about governance of incorporation but also we provide extensive real estate transactional representation for CLTs who obtain properties. That legal work is something that is incredibly, incredibly expensive and for our partners to get it from us for free, the way we're only we're able to fund it is with the CLT initiative funding. As CLTs grow, as we have more CLTs, as they get land, as they have projects, they're going to need more and more support, and that is why we urge the Council and this Committee to support an expansion of the CLT initiative to 3 million dollars at least. If you want to give us more, that came up in the Housing Committee Monday, we'd happily take

it, but we really need this funding to make sure CLTs are able to do this work in a way that's accountable to the community and that really centers the needs of local communities. I'm also happy to take any questions.

STEPHANIE RUIZ, COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. If there's any panelists I have inadvertently not called on, please use the Zoom raise hand function now and I will call on you to deliver your testimony.

Chair, seeing no hands raised, that concludes the public portion of this hearing.

CHAIRPERSON FARIAS: Great. Thank you so much, Stephanie. I just want to start off with saying thank you to Andrew Kimball for testifying today and his team at NYCEDC. As they've heard from myself and my Colleagues, we are committed to our City's recovery and economic development but also to the accountability and success of the projects within our communities. I want to say thank you again for NYCEDC's work and commitment to our City, and I look forward to coming back together on all of our followup.

I just want to say thank you for everyone's public testimony. We're committed to all of you and to the issues that were brought forward today during the hearing.

Lastly, thank you to all of my Colleagues, Committee Members, and Council Members that showed up today to join the hearing and shout out to the best Committee staff, Economic Development, and to my staff for today.

With that, I will adjourn this meeting.

[GAVEL] Thank you.

1 COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date May 3, 2022