

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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September 4, 2014
Start: 1:25 p.m.
Recess: 4:16 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Donovan J. Richards
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Stephen T. Levin
Costa G. Constantinides
Rory I. Lancman
Eric A. Ulrich
Ydanis Rodriguez
Carlos Menchacca

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

Raul Vera Lopez
Archbishop of Mexico

Albert Appleton
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Regina Cornwell
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Rebecca Smith
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Ruth Hardinger
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

Eddie Bautista
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

Beryl Thurman
North Shore Waterfront Conservancy Staten Island

Paul Gallay
River Keeper

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

Lisa Dicaprio
350 NYC

Robert Friedman
Natural Resources Defense Council

Catherine Skopic
UN Representative for Anglican Community Office

Erica Etmund
Masters of Public Health Candidates at Columbia
University Mailman School of Public Health.

Evesta Williams
Masters of Public Health Candidates at Columbia
University Mailman School of Public Health.

Raymond Figueroa
NYC Community Garden Coalition

Jeremy Sanders
DC 37 Local 1501

Kevin Murungi
Global Kids

Telia Smith
Bronx Climate Justice

Kristina Andreotta
Citizens Action of New York

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

Buck Moorhead
New York Passive House

Alexia Ilpo
Hunter College

Mannie Wilson
New York Environmental Law and Justice Project

Leah Barber
350 NYC

Barbara Harris
Alliance for a Green Economy, Granny Peace
Brigade

Marge Schab
Damascus Citizens for Sustainability

CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty, good afternoon. Welcome to the people's house, City Hall. I am Chairman Donovan Richards, Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, and today, the Environmental Protection Committee will hold an Oversight Hearing on the People's Climate March and the United Nations Climate Summit, both scheduled to take place in September. The Committee will also consider Resolution Number 356 recognizing the dangers of climate change to human health and the environment and endorsing the People's Climate March. When the Environmental Protection Agency ranked environmental to Americans in its 1987 groundbreaking study, *Unfinished Business*, a comparative assessment of environmental problems, national polling data assigned a low-rate ranking to public concern about global warming, while EPA found that global warming represented a relatively high risk to Americans. However, by April of 2014, a study by Yale University found that a majority of Americans now think that global warming is happening and over half of Americans are very worried about global warming. The burning of fossil fuels including gas, oil and coal to meet basic human needs for cooking, heating,

2 cooling, lighting and communication is the primarily
3 cause of elevated greenhouse gas emissions.
4 According the Energy Information Center, the United
5 States is the second largest emitter of greenhouse
6 gases in the world on an annual basis with China
7 having the largest greenhouse gas emissions annually.
8 Prior efforts including international treaties meant
9 to limit emissions have not been as successful as
10 intended because large industrial countries like the
11 United States either refuse to ratify or later
12 withdraw and because exemptions follow--allow
13 developing countries to delay taking strong action to
14 curb emissions. However, it was reported in the
15 August 27, 2014 issue of the New York Times that the
16 Obama Administration is working to forge a sweeping
17 international climate change agreement to compel
18 nations to cut their planet-warming fossil fuel
19 emission without ratification from Congress. UN
20 Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has invited world
21 leaders from government, finance, business and civil
22 society to Climate Summit 2014 this September 23rd,
23 to motivate my mother's birthday, to motivate,
24 galvanize and catalyze climate action. The UN
25 Secretary has asked these leaders to bring bold

2 announcements and actions to the Summit that will
3 reduce emissions, strengthen climate resilience and
4 mobilize political will for a meaningfully legal
5 agreement in 2015. Climate Summit 2014 provides a
6 unique opportunity for leaders to champion an
7 ambitious vision anchored in action that will enable
8 a meaningful global agreement in 2015. According to
9 the United Nations, only an intensive push over the
10 next 15 years will be able to bring emissions under
11 control. The People's Climate March, which will take
12 place on September 21st, 2014 will be a mass climate
13 mobilization of a coalition of diverse organizations
14 just before the United Nations Climate Summit and is
15 intended to urge our world leaders to take serious
16 and immediate step towards addressing the climate
17 crisis. Expected to be the largest march in support
18 of the global environment in history, the People's
19 Climate March will unite advocates from all over the
20 world in a show of strength that clearly calls for
21 protecting the earth, all its inhabitants and
22 subsequent generations. This City Council is looking
23 at a number of measures to address reduction of
24 greenhouse gases including installing solar energy
25 systems on city buildings, wider implementations of

2 geothermal energy use, reduction of fossil fuel
3 exploration in New York, improving air quality and
4 enforcement. The council supports the People's
5 Climate March, the UN Climate Summit, and the
6 initiatives by President Obama to achieve a climate
7 accord which include participation by the United
8 States while there still is time to reduce our
9 emissions and transition our energy use to renewable
10 and sustainable sources, resources. With that being
11 said, I want to acknowledge that the Administration,
12 I note for the record, that they have submitted
13 testimony in regards to this hearing, and we will try
14 to get copies out to the public. I also want to
15 acknowledge my colleagues who are here. First,
16 Council Member Costa Constantinides and also Council
17 Member Steve Levin and Council Member Ydanis
18 Rodriguez who is here as well. So, we're going to
19 now start calling panels up. You will have three
20 minutes each. We ask that you respect the time. We
21 have a lot of people who want to testify today and we
22 want to try to get everybody in. So with that being
23 said, we will call the first panel. The Archbishop
24 of Mexico, Rivera Lopez, did I say it right? I might
25 mess it up. Raul Vera Lopez, Raul Lopes, Vera Lopez.

2 ARCHBISHOP LOPEZ: Thank you very much. I
3 am Bishop in Sattillo in all--in Mex---

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: [interposing] You
5 can hold one second, sir?

6 ARCHBISHOP LOPEZ: Yes.

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: We're going to
8 swear everybody in if you can just hold one second.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Could you please raise
10 your right hand? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
11 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
12 today?

13 ARCHBISHOP LOPEZ: Yes, I will tell only
14 the truth today. Yeah. I'm going to talk--well, I
15 think this is important if you are this
16 responsibility in the problem that climatic change,
17 we need to understand that it's better to say the
18 warming of the earth, because when we call about of
19 climatic change, we are in the danger that to put in
20 one side of the line of this phenomenon. Many
21 persons are explaining this change of the climatic
22 change as a natural cycle in the earth. Each number
23 of years, it is a change of the cli--of the weather
24 in the air, but it's a natural change, no. To speak
25 of the warming of the earth is to speak about of the

2 induction of this phenomenon from the activity of the
3 human being. This is different, because the activity
4 of the human being, we can do change. And the
5 process, natural process, we cannot true to change.
6 And it is a very, very si--it's a very, very good
7 explanation of the scientist, the scientific persons,
8 that speak of the phenomenon of the combustion [sic],
9 the combustion of the court [sic], many of the cut of
10 the oil. We can speak of the fossil combustilia
11 [sic] in the Spanish. The oil come from the earth
12 and there are--it is the [Speaking Spanish] New York
13 City. We call New York [Speaking Spanish] Chemical
14 Engineer, but I don't remember now. The product of
15 the combustion of this kind of combust--of
16 combustibilous [sic], that's the oil and also the
17 natural gas, they produce these phenomenon that are
18 covering the earth with a very strong, strong
19 frontier around the earth that don't permit [sic]
20 that 70 percent of the hot radiation of the sun over
21 the earth don't go away to the atmosphere, remain
22 inside that cop--kind of big--how do say? Big of
23 stucco [sic] in the air become each year more warm.
24 And now the sea of the air--the sea is vaporizing
25 more and we have the big phenomenon of the hurricanes

2 of the storms that are producing hungry [sic] in the
3 countries, destruction. It's a very disruptive
4 effect of this phenomenon, very bigger. It's more
5 bigger. The Hurricanes are bigger each year, and the
6 phenomenon is because it's burning the sea, the water
7 and the sea and it's going away and it's conforming
8 [sic] a better humidity, big, a mound of humidity
9 around. But another problem is that these, the warm
10 of the water in the sea are killing, are killing the
11 animals in the water. They also--the plankton, the
12 plankton in the earth, that that is the meal of
13 billions of fishes in the earth, and we are having
14 less, less possibilities to get food from the earth,
15 because are going to be killed. And also, another
16 problem is that the solution of the polar cascading
17 [sic], the north pole cascade, cascade the polar we
18 say. The ice in the poles, in the poles of the earth
19 and this water is because it is not solid [sic]
20 water, it's remaining in the surface in the water of
21 the sea and the hot currents who comes from the gulf
22 of Mexico to the north are going under that water
23 without salt, because it's less--the density of the
24 water who come from the [Spanish speaking] ice is
25 melting in the north because the warm, and the water,

2 the big amount of water without salt remain over in
3 the warm water, the currents of warm water to become
4 more warm at the weather in the north part of the
5 American continent cannot receive that warm. We are
6 going to receive more--time, time is longer, the time
7 for the time for the weather as the winter. You are
8 going to--the age of ice here. You have not--and
9 also, these cities in the sea as New York are going
10 to receive a bigger, bigger level in the sea. The
11 level of the sea are going to become more, more
12 strong. What is the problem now that the people have
13 produced the warming of the earth are the people
14 using the transformation, industrial information.
15 The information must to change his attitudes to
16 produce, because they don't produce more warm around
17 the earth with this phenomenon that we call the
18 warming of the earth. They cannot--they don't want
19 to change the instruments for the industrial
20 transformation because they must invest money. They
21 don't want to invest money in the industry. They
22 don't want change. They are--they don't, cannot--
23 they don't want. You must incite in the people who
24 are using the production of the transformation,
25 chemical because--chemical transformation in the

2 earth, because the produce of the dioxide of carbon,
3 of carbon in the air is more, more, and this dioxide
4 of carbon are producing an obstacle because the air,
5 the warm that receive from the sun, the earth, don't
6 go away, remain inside this. And this is the
7 problem, you must incite in the people don't want
8 change industry [sic] and don't want to change the
9 productivity, doesn't want the benefits that they
10 receive. It's important that you go to the front, to
11 the base. This is--and don't accept that they call
12 only of climatic change. It's the warming of the
13 earth.

14 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alright, I'm going
15 to ask you wrap up. Thank you so much for your
16 testimony and coming all the way from Mexico.

17 ARCHBISHOP LOPEZ: Not [sic] Mexico.
18 Thank you, Saltillo.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Wow, great. Thank
20 you so much.

21 ARCHBISHOP LOPEZ: Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: For your
23 testimony. Alright, we'll call the next panel.

24 [applause]

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: We will have Al
3 Appleton from the Damascus Citizens for
4 Sustainability, Damascus. Yes, okay, got that.
5 Regina Cornwell [sp?] from the Damascus Citizens for
6 Sustainability, Ruth Hardinett [sp?], Damascus
7 Citizens Stability and Rebecca Smith from Damascus
8 Citizens for Sustainability. Tamara will swear you
9 guys in.

10 [off mic]

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Can you please raise your
12 right hands? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
13 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
14 today?

15 UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you, okay.
18 You may begin.

19 ALBERT APPLETON: Mr. Chairman, Members
20 of the Council, Ms. Swanson [sic], ladies and
21 gentleman. I'm Albert Appleton, I'm the former
22 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
23 Environmental Protection. I teach sustainability at
24 the Cooper Union. I am an international consultant
25 on sustainability landscape management and free

2 market solutions to environmental problems and I'm a
3 technical advisor to many anti-fracking groups,
4 including the Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.
5 We're here today to present a panel to the Council. I
6 will do a brief introduction, then my three
7 colleagues are going to talk about specific areas in
8 which we believe the Council should fulfill as the
9 Chairman was saying in his introduction, the goal of
10 ambitious leadership and aggressive attacks and the
11 problem of global warming. The overview, I think, is
12 a very simple one. As the Chairman summed it up, we
13 know we have a major problem with global warming. It
14 could be called, if we were writing a movie script,
15 Death of the Earth. We lived through it in Sandy. We
16 are living through it in things like West Nile
17 disease. We're living through it in an elevated food
18 prices from drought stricken areas. We're living it
19 through wild and crazy weather changes. This is not
20 going to be pleasant stuff. We're looking a very
21 ugly future. Now, we're looking at this, one of the
22 critical things to understand about global warming,
23 we tend to talk about this as a failure. Human
24 beings have not done x, y and z. The truth is,
25 global warming is a problem of success. We created

2 the world of fossil fuel so we could have this
3 wonderful industrialized world we live in, and we're
4 being asked as human beings now to do the hardest
5 thing human beings can do, which is to turn your back
6 on success. Turning on our back on success with the
7 fossil fuel industry means two things. First of all,
8 it means turning our back on an industry that we
9 elevated to make 600 billion dollars a year. And
10 secondly, it means turning our back on a way of life
11 that we've all become accustomed to, but the
12 alternative to doing that enormous and complicated
13 and difficult and messy task is to live through an
14 even more complicated, difficult and messy period of
15 climate chaos. My best advice to you is if you have
16 friends in Florida, is don't buy real estate in
17 Florida, because in about 2035, as things are going,
18 we're going to see the biggest immigration out of
19 south Florida since the Okies and Arkies fled the
20 dust bowl. The--this is the kind, these are the
21 kinds of dimensions of things we're talking about.
22 Now, when my colleagues present their
23 recommendations, I hope you will focus on the fact
24 that one of the great roles New York City has always
25 played in American life is to be a leader, an

2 innovator and a laboratory of things. Our
3 complexity, our energy, or innovation makes us
4 ideally suited to be that. When I was DEP
5 Commissioner we did three things that are still kind
6 of the gold standard for water management in the
7 United States, the Catskill Water Shed Protection
8 Program, the Water Conservation Program, and the
9 Green Infrastructure Programs like the Staten Island
10 Blue Belt. The billions of dollars those programs
11 saved the city we're living off of today. There is
12 no reason why in sustainability in energy, New York
13 City cannot find, identify and carry out similar
14 positions of leadership. That, I believe, is the
15 challenge before us. That, I believe, is the
16 catalytic effect I hope this hearing will have Mr.
17 Chairman. And with that, I'd like to turn this over
18 to my colleagues beginning with Regina Cornwall.

19 REGINA CORNWELL: Yes, good afternoon,
20 Council Members, Council and ladies and gentleman.
21 My name is Regina Cornwall. I am a New York City
22 resident, I'm writer, editor, climate impact
23 researcher and a curator of a project on climate
24 change underway now. I'm speaking for Barbara
25 Arrindell, who is the Director of the Damascus

1 Citizens for Sustainability, and she sent--this is
2 the statement that she sent. It gets a little bit
3 complicated, so it might slightly go over three
4 minutes, but I'll do my best to keep it down. First
5 of all, in Barabara's words, "I fully endorse the
6 Council's Resolution 356 endorsing the People's
7 March, People's Climate March and recognizing "the
8 dangers of climate change to human health and the
9 environment." In the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the gas
10 and oil industry was given a significant expansion of
11 exemptions from major provisions of protective
12 environmental laws, the Clean Air Act, the Clean
13 Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Community
14 Right to Know Act and others. These are the
15 Halliburton loopholes. These exemptions were put in
16 place so the industry could avoid liability for
17 damages they knew they would be causing. Decades of
18 effort by industry went into obtaining
19 externalization of the cost of environmental health
20 and community damage. This translates as they don't
21 pay for the damages they cause, we do. It is the
22 commendable council focus on the dangers of climate
23 change to human health and the environment that
24 brings me to my main comment today. That is, that
25

2 New York City--the New York City Council should act
3 to override all the oil and gas exemptions in the
4 2005 Energy Policy Act within New York City's
5 jurisdiction. That still leaves the wastes as
6 "special" from the passage in 1980 of the Benson
7 [sic] Amendment to the Resource Conservation and
8 Recovery Act. This exemption is being essentially
9 corrected by the Frack Waste Bill introduced by
10 Council Members Stephen Levin and Corey Johnson.
11 They introduced it this past August, and this must be
12 adopted. As the highest court in New York State has
13 again recently verified, local land use decisions
14 trump oil and gas activities in the environmental
15 conservation law. Carrying that further than zoning
16 will be the allow--sorry, try to finish-- allowable
17 side stepping of the federal legislation granting oil
18 and gas exemptions from the 2000 Energy Policy Act.
19 In overriding these exemptions, the Council will be
20 fulfilling its mandate to protect the health and
21 safety of the people of New York City. There are no
22 restrictions preventing the city from doing so, and
23 Damascus urges this action as a fulfillment of the
24 Council's resolution, catalyzing action by
25 government, main namely [sic] that New York City can

2 set a shining example that will be carried into the
3 larger environment and impact global health. Natural
4 gas, a fossil fuel, is not green, nor is it healthy.
5 Why should the people pay for the damage it causes
6 and allow the industry to profit from that damage?
7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

9 ALBERT APPLETON: And Rebecca Smith?

10 REBECCA SMITH: Hello. Thank you. My
11 name is Rebecca Smith. I am an artist and
12 environmentalist living in New York City. I applaud
13 the City Council's acknowledgement of the reality of
14 climate change and its endorsement of the People's
15 Climate March. I wanted to focus on the contribution
16 our city's leaking gas pipelines are making toward
17 heating the planet. Studies of cities throughout the
18 country point to the evidence that natural gas
19 because of methane leaks throughout the system has a
20 higher greenhouse gas footprint than coal or oil.
21 Natural gas is over 90 percent methane. The 2013
22 IPCC report has methane as 86 times more potent than
23 carbon dioxide. This colorless, odorless gas is
24 lighter than air and has enormous potential for
25 leakage throughout the entire gas system. That means

2 production, transmission, distribution and
3 utilization. The National Oceanic and Air
4 Administration reported that methane levels have been
5 climbing since 2009 and cites natural gas as a prime
6 cause. Aging urban infrastructures are subject to
7 leaks. How much does our gas system leak and what
8 effect does it have on warming planet? What if we
9 take Con-Ed's own number for fugitive methane
10 emissions and calculate how much global warming
11 potential they produce. Con-Ed states that in 2012
12 the lost and unaccounted for gas in New York City was
13 2.8 percent. So you take 300 billion cubic feet per
14 year in total, Manhattan uses 30 percent. We have 90
15 billion cubic feet of gas that was delivered. This
16 means 2.5 billion cubic feet lost, the equivalent of
17 the annual greenhouse gas emissions from 300,000
18 cars. And independent environmental organization,
19 Damascus Citizens for Sustainability commissioned Gas
20 Safety Inc. to study methane emissions in Manhattan
21 in 2012. The report finds Manhattan bathing in a fog
22 of elevated methane levels of on average over 2.079
23 parts per million higher than the normal worldwide
24 baseline of about 1.8 parts per million. Elevated
25 methane levels in an enclosed space can cause an

2 explosion as we saw in the Harlem tragedy. In city
3 neighborhoods methane combines with oxygen to produce
4 ozone, a public health burden, but we must see the
5 biggest picture of all, methane is a significant
6 driver of the climate crisis. Studies in other
7 cities show comparable results, Boston, San
8 Francisco, Washington D.C., etcetera. Distribution is
9 only part of the natural gas life cycle. DOE
10 estimates a 1.8 percent loss in production and
11 transmission through those big cross country
12 pipelines. Add to this, Con-Ed's estimate of 2.8
13 percent loss in distribution and we have an emissions
14 total of 4.6 percent or the equivalent to 480,000
15 cars per year. That's a lot of global warming coming
16 from natural gas, the so-called bridge fuel. In
17 fact, eve this conservative estimate produces a
18 carbon footprint one and half time higher than the
19 cutoff point after which gas energy becomes a greater
20 source of greenhouse gas pollution than oil or coal.
21 Sadly, these calculations don't even take into
22 account migration from wealth and other sources. New
23 York City needs to recognize the true climate cost of
24 natural gas and invest instead in renewables now.
25 Thank you.

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ALBERT APPLETON: Ms. Hardinger?

RUTH HARDINGER: I'm Ruth Hardinger, an artist and a member of the Board of Damascus Citizens for Sustainability and a real estate broker. I applaud your resolution and this hearing. Thank you for doing this. The Co-op building where I live met the plan 2030, New York City's requirement to convert to number two oil or natural gas. The decision was made only on money, which is what they saw as a less expensive direction than number two oil or biodiesel, plus what Con-Ed described as benefits. Con-Ed, as do other gas industry companies promotes gas as abundant, self-contained, no import or export, burns cleaner than coal and helps environment by reducing emissions. Well, look closer. Substantial information contradicts these statements. US gas is being exported and imported now and most large corporations are multinational. The DCS report on Manhattan fugitive emissions shows how infrastructure leaks boldly cross out any benefit of burning gas. As a short lived climate forcing gas, methane must be dealt with immediately, not in 2050. The 2030 plan brought unintentioned [sic] consequences. The more gas pipelines and infrastructure the more emissions.

2 The more money spent, the deeper the commitment to
3 the energy source. The current plan locks us into
4 natural gas used potentially for decades. Using
5 NYSERTA [sic] funds for gas has reduced funds
6 intended for renewable development. With gas wells
7 high depletion rates, it's possible that
8 Pennsylvania's current shale gas play will be gone in
9 six years. When gas is burned it has half the carbon
10 dioxide emissions of oil. Instead, there are
11 unaccounted for micron particulates from burning
12 producing ultra-fine highly bioactive particles which
13 can be quite damaging. Policy encourages gas--policy
14 encouraging gas is built on overlooked health and
15 climate impacts. The plan 2030 and Con-Ed should be
16 require do update with current information albeit, it
17 is negative, before they offer choices on energy
18 sources. The State Energy Services Company
19 Environmental Disclosures shows that renewable energy
20 averages around the state is about five percent. The
21 rest of the 95 percent is mostly coal, gas, hydro-
22 nuclear sources. We have a long way to go. To
23 encourage renewable energy, here are some ideas. Tax
24 breaks to new building developments and existing
25 residential buildings and mechanical deductions for

2 renewable use is one encouraging step. Architects
3 and developers who convert to renewable should be
4 honored. Spread the word. Some have already been
5 done. Four houses on Reed [sp?] were built and
6 powered by geothermal a decade ago. The Empire State
7 Building is using renewable electric. Could the
8 State Energy Plan assist us even though it's riddled
9 with encouragement for gas? The Council energy
10 initiatives could be more publicly presented, perhaps
11 with radio, TV and news. REVNY and the Council for
12 New York Co-ops have given talks about how to convert
13 to gas. They could change to educate about renewable
14 energy installations in buildings. New York City can
15 encourage the state to upgrade and convert for
16 renewables. We have a timed opportunity to live on
17 the planet. Let's use it for all species as life
18 depends on all the interactions of all. Thank you
19 very much.

20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

21 [applause]

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Just want to
23 acknowledge we've been joined by Council Members
24 Carlos Menchacca and also Council Member Rory
25 Lancman. Just, I had a question for former

2 Commissioner Al Appleton. How well do you think the
3 city is doing to mitigate and adapt to climate
4 change?

5 ALBERT APPLETON: Well, I can't say--I
6 can't say, write an article about it [off mic]

7 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Hit your button.

8 ALBERT APPLETON: There would be ver--I
9 think, first of all, the city should not start by
10 trying to adapt climate change, the city should start
11 by trying to do its part in stopping climate change.
12 The city is clearly not doing that very well for
13 reasons I'll talk to in my next three minutes. The
14 other problem of course we have, if we take Sandy as
15 a very, you know, very particular experience, the
16 response to Sandy has basically been to rebuild in
17 place. Now, there is some obviously important
18 reasons for doing that, but at the same time, we
19 should be looking at areas on the coastal zone that
20 are not yet developed. We should be looking at
21 natural barriers to these things and we should
22 essentially be trying to do everything we can to
23 move, you know, without being too disruptive to
24 neighborhoods, to move essentially development out of
25 the way of the future. We basically know that we are

1 looking at three to four of ocean-rise by the end of
2 this century. That is the lifetime of any house we
3 will now build in those areas. We should be looking
4 at how do we armor our subways. We should be looking
5 at moving utility areas out. I'm currently working on
6 a project in Rockland County where they proposed to
7 build a critical water supply facility in the flood
8 plane that was essentially flooded by Sandy. These
9 kinds of decisions have to be stopped. These kinds
10 of--this kind of thinking has to be changed. But the
11 most important thing the city really has to do is as
12 I said earlier, we have to lead. New York, people
13 look to New York City for leadership and this is
14 where we can. Let me speak to that for a minute.
15 The three presentations you heard were talking about
16 the two kind of things that embed fossil fuel in our
17 culture, externalizing costs and government
18 subsidies. The place to start in addressing climate
19 change is not the past standards that say we want to
20 hit 80 percent by 2050, if at the same time we're
21 providing subsidies, as Ruth was point out, to using
22 fossil fuel. So the first thing we have to do as a
23 society is we have to get out of the business of
24 subsidizing fossil fuels and we have to get out of
25

1 the business of dealing with these external costs.
2
3 Allowing these kinds of methane leaks which are paid
4 for the function of consumer charges to Con-Ed, I
5 might add, is a way where we're subsidizing the use
6 of fossil fuel. Now, it is clear the next thing the
7 city needs which it does not have yet is a real
8 energy policy, a real policy to address the options
9 with green buildings with sustainability and with
10 alternate energy. That is, we basically as a society
11 are very reluctant to take on the fossil fuel
12 infrastructure we've created over 50 to 100 years.
13 Change is difficult. Change is scary. Change is--
14 but we're going to get change shoved down our throat,
15 we have two choices with this change. We're going to
16 manage it ourselves or we can sit back and hope to,
17 you know, and hope something comes out at the other
18 end. Now, the city currently has a standard of 30
19 percent emissions reduction by 2030. This is, and
20 I've sworn to tell the truth, aesthetically
21 inadequate. I mean, if you can't make 30 percent by
22 2030, you should essentially go out of business.
23 This is not essentially a standard at all. What I
24 would like to recommend to this council is that once
25 the march is over, and once the mobilization is done,

2 that the place to look for, I would like to see this
3 council help provoke a public debate on how fast the
4 City of New York can get to being carbon neutral.

5 [applause]

6 ALBERT APPLETON: That we know that being
7 car sustainable and being carbon neutral will save
8 the city hundreds of millions if not billions of
9 dollars. The whole argument for sustainability is
10 you quit wasting environmental resources. You can
11 use the wealth of environmental resources to create a
12 new and a greener economy. This would be a great role
13 for this committee and this council to partake in.
14 This would be a great role for New York City to play
15 for the country, because we know that much of much of
16 the resistance to accepting global warming is what
17 Erica Jong [sp?] used to call fear of flying. That
18 is, we need to demonstrate that green energy
19 sustainability not only is better for the
20 environment, it's better for the economy. It's better
21 for our communities. It's better for our public
22 health. New York City is in the position to do this.
23 There are many other details--I think you've heard
24 from many people in the anti-fracking movement, one
25 of the things I hope you will recognize about the

2 anti-fracking movement is the reason it has such
3 influence is it's not just against fracking. It is a
4 movement that is for something. It is for green
5 energy. You're going to hear from other people here
6 today who are connected to that movement, people like
7 Buck and Mav [sic] Moorehead [sp?], people like Gling
8 Zab [sic], people like Mart Schabb [sp?], people like
9 Paul Gallay from River Keeper. These people are here
10 to talk about the future. Basically, smart people
11 bet on the future. Green energy is the future.
12 Smart people invest in the future. Smart people do
13 not cling to the past. Fossil fuel has been a great
14 run. Look, like I love to drive. Where I grew up,
15 if you couldn't drive 400 miles a day and then party
16 all night you couldn't look an honest woman in the
17 face, but the truth of the matter is that's world's
18 over. We have to create a new world, and creating
19 new worlds can be exciting and profitable and
20 wonderful. And here's why we want to create this new
21 world, this everybody, is my lovely new
22 granddaughter. She will live to be--in about 82 years
23 or into 2095, which means if you look at all the
24 projections of ocean rise, all the projects of
25 climate change, they will come over her life like a

2 wave if we do not do something about it. That is a
3 challenge for us. I often like to tell my students
4 that in the 1830's, 1840's, and 1850's in the United
5 States, the center of American culture was the south.
6 It was the center of wealth. It was the center of
7 fashion. It was the center of style. We remember
8 nothing of that anymore. All we remember is that was
9 the world founded on an evil, slavery. Fifty years,
10 100 years from now, how will we be remembered? Will
11 they remember any of our accomplishments or will they
12 only remember what side we took on wrecking the
13 planet. The council can take a side here. I urge you
14 to do so. Thank you.

15 [gavel]

16 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much.
17 Thank you. We'll call the next panel now. I've
18 never heard a DEP Commissioner get such a round of
19 applause in the chambers. I guess that's why you're
20 former now, right? Thank you so much for your
21 testimony.

22 ALBERT APPLETON: Former, because it
23 doesn't pay to lose elections.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: We will call the
25 next panel. Eddie Bautista from the New York City

2 Environmental Justice Alliance, Beryl Thurman from
3 the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy Staten Island,
4 Paul Gallay from River Keeper, Joan Forster from
5 Local 375 DC 37--Jon Forster, I'm sorry, Jon Forster.
6 Ann Fawcett Ambia from DC 37 Municipal Employees
7 Legal Services. We can bring one more chair up for
8 this panel.

9 [off mic]

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Can you please raise your
11 right hand? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
12 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
13 today?

14 UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

16 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Alrighty, we will
17 start. I guess from my right.

18 BERYL THURMAN: Good afternoon.

19 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Good afternoon.

20 BERYL THURMAN: Chair Richards and
21 Council.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: If you could just
23 hit the magic button.

24 BERYL THURMAN: Good afternoon Chair
25 Richards and New York City Council Members and the

1 audience. My name is Beryl Thurman. I'm the
2 Executive Director of the North Shore Waterfront
3 Conservancy of Staten Island. I'm here today because
4 we are in total favor of the resolution that you've
5 passed, 356. We're also in favor of the Climate
6 Change March and the climate change initiatives that
7 will be taking place with the summit with the UN. On
8 behalf of the North Shore Waterfront Conservancy of
9 Staten Island and the Environmental Justice and water
10 front communities that we advocate on behalf of NSWC
11 is in support of the People's Climate Change March to
12 be held on September 21st, 2014 as well as the
13 summit. But with that being said, this is a matter
14 of logic and that logic boils down to if every time
15 you go to the grocery store and food is missing from
16 the shelves or is noticeably too expensive to
17 purchase, it is because of a loss of crops, meat or
18 seafood because of droughts, floods or pollution.
19 Then that should be a clear indicator that something
20 is terribly wrong and will continue to be problematic
21 unless we change what it is that we're doing that is
22 causing a lack of food resources. NSWC is based in a
23 waterfront EJ community of Port Richmond, Staten
24 Island, New York and I can tell you first hand about
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the effects of how life-threatening climate change is for low income communities and communities of color that are already being overwhelmed by man-made negative adverse communicative impacts. We are the communities that are an afterthought when it comes to assistance after a disaster and where funding to help us falls short or never appears. We are the communities that regardless of how poor we are with decades of government reports that have attested to the poverty and deprivation, most cannot think of any possible way or means of mitigation to relieve our situation or at least mitigate it so our communities can see tangible improvements to their lives and the quality of their lives. When Irene hit Staten Island, the North Shore homes were flooded due to a lack of proper well-functioning storm drainage system. No one came to our doors to ask if they could assist us in bailing out our basements or cleaning up the residue, debris and mold that was left behind. No one came and offered tree trimming or removal services after root systems of the trees had been weakened and damaged to the point that they were easily toppled. No one came with grant programs for cost-free or affordable repair work. No one came at

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all. And even though we were told the damages from Irene would be connected to the damages of Sandy in terms of assistance, insurance deductibles and funding that never materialized for North Shore residents either. Everything that has happened even if it was insured carried an out of pocket non-reimbursable cost for some of the poorest people in the community, people who by definition have no money but are always expected to pay and pay top dollar in most instances. It is one of the cruelest jokes that this society has played on the financially disadvantaged. It is well overdue that our government's laws, regulations, policies, procedures and infrastructure along with those industries that provide a service to the people of New York City catches up with realities of what is happening to all of their people and customers. In terms of climate change, there is nothing wrong with our government being and advocate for its people, especially if our government wants to be effective at carrying out its duties and assisting its people and well reasonably addressing environmental issues and aftermath that goes along with it. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: You did that well.
3 Right on the dot. Let's see if Eddie Bautista
4 follows your lead.

5 EDDIE BAUTISTA: Chair Richards, members
6 of the committee, my name's Eddie Bautista. I'm with
7 the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance.
8 It's a citywide coalition of community based
9 organizations from the communities that are most
10 environmental overburdened in the City of New York.
11 We wholeheartedly applaud and support the council's
12 resolution, this committee's resolution to support
13 the People's Climate March. It's totally consistent
14 with the long history of this committee's pioneering,
15 environmental advocacy efforts, everything from, and
16 not just this committee but the council as a whole.
17 This committee had a lot of leadership exercised
18 during the whole PLANYC roll out in a variety of
19 bills and had to be implemented to reach even as
20 former Commissioner said, those pathetic levels, I
21 mean, even those required a lot of legislation and
22 work by this council to the Solid Waste Management
23 Plan. I could go on and on, but this has been
24 visionary body and can't tell you how happy we all
25 were when Councilman Richards took the reins of this

2 committee. So we applaud you and thank you for
3 leadership. I just wanted to say what needs
4 restating is that climate change affects everyone,
5 but the impacts are not felt evenly. If you look just
6 at Sandy we've now in the rearview mirror see how
7 those impacts played out. Over 30 percent of all
8 public housing units were impacted, over 30,000 units
9 in over 400 buildings. If you look at the renters,
10 over 68 percent of New York City renters that were
11 impacted by Sandy made household incomes of under
12 30,000 dollars a year. So clearly, and if you look
13 at the city industrial waterfronts, which are
14 predominantly low income communities and communities
15 of color, clearly in harm's way. If you look at the
16 number of businesses that were impacted by Sandy
17 along the Brooklyn and Queens waterfront, half of
18 them were industrial firms. And again, the
19 Environmental Justice Alliance considers ourselves
20 industrial retention advocates, but we also demand a
21 safe environment. We demand an adaptable and
22 resilient waterfront, and we continue to look to our
23 partnership with the City Council to make that
24 happen. In terms of the march itself, we kick off at
25 11:30 on Sunday the 21st. The rallying point will be

2 at Columbus Circle. The tens of thousands of people
3 that we're expecting will be gathering from 59th
4 Street on Central Park West all the way up to 86th
5 Street, and I already think that's not going to be
6 enough space, but whatever it is we'll make it work.
7 We will kick off at 11:30. We will march east on
8 59th Street to 6th Avenue. We will turn south on 6th
9 Avenue, make our way to 42nd Street, turn west on 42nd
10 Street and pass by Time's Square. As we pass by
11 Time's Square and several jumbo trons that we're all
12 renting, we will see other cities also rallying,
13 marching, a half dozen cities, Jakarta, Delhi, Paris,
14 Berlin; this is going to be a global moment, a global
15 moment of a profile in courage that we're incredibly
16 proud of the City Council to be taking this
17 leadership. We, again, we, in conclusion, I just
18 want to say that the real work, as much work and
19 people here in the audience who've been active in
20 this march, please raise their hands. Right? As
21 important, as heavy as the work has been in getting
22 us to this moment, the real work begins on September
23 22nd, and we fully hope that the City Council will
24 continue to exercise the leadership its always shown
25 to continue to drill--I was going to say drill down

2 deeply. That was environmentally bad, Freudian slip.
3 We expect that the City Council will continue its
4 leadership and will be able to address all the kind
5 of clear and present needs that we have to reduce our
6 carbon footprint and get us to a zero carbon city.
7 Thank you.

8 [applause]

9 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Well said.

10 PAUL GALLAY: Council Members, I'm Paul
11 Gallay. I'm the Hudson River Keeper. I want to thank
12 you for holding this hearing today, and of course,
13 River Keeper and its over 10,000 member's support the
14 resolution and we also intend to march in strength. I
15 have two invitations and two suggestions for the
16 balance of my testimony. We invite those who are
17 going to march to march with River Keeper and Water
18 Keeper Alliance. We're a network of 200 different
19 keeper organizations devoted to protecting the waters
20 of our beautiful planet. We are under siege with
21 climate change, on water supply, water quality, and
22 of course, the issues associated with sea level rise
23 and other impacts of climate change such as weather
24 changes. So march with us, wear navy blue, join us
25 on the day of the climate march. Secondly, Water

2 Keeper Alliance is invited to do a teach-in as part
3 of the climate convergence workshop, which is being
4 scheduled and I have the great honor of being the
5 moderator of that panel. I invite you to join us at
6 that workshop and see how climate change is affecting
7 our water. First suggestion, in 2012 I worked with
8 this Council very proudly on Intro 834A, which became
9 a Local Law on August 22 of 2012, and it made
10 permanent the Mayor's climate change initiative and
11 added a citizen's taskforce on adaptation, and I've
12 got to tell you it's a shame that this hasn't gotten
13 the prominence it deserves, because if we do not move
14 from the ground up from the communities up, we're
15 going to lose. So implement and assure that the
16 Administration implements Intro 834A. It is long
17 overdue. The second recommendation I have is the most
18 important, broaden this movement. There was a time
19 when Newt Gingrich and Nancy Pelosi were photographed
20 together in climate change action ads sitting on the
21 couch in front of the Capitol Building. Now, those of
22 you with smart phones, you can find this in about
23 seven seconds. Those days are gone. More and more,
24 this becomes an issue that seems like it's generating
25 the sound of one hand clapping. We are going

2 backwards on nonpartisan action on climate change.
3 This is a war we are in. It is the ultimate war to
4 save our civilization and there is a medal of honor
5 out there waiting for the person who figures out how
6 to make this a bipartisan or nonpartisan initiative.
7 Two months after the intro in 2012, hurricane Sandy
8 hit. It hit regardless of political affiliation or
9 non-affiliation. It hit regardless of whether you're
10 a conservative, liberal or moderate. We have got to
11 harness the impacts of Sandy to bring the people who
12 are not in this room into this room the next time we
13 hold a hearing like this. So that is our ultimate
14 goal as far as I'm concerned. Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

16 JON FORSTER: Good afternoon, Chairman
17 Richards and sisters and brothers of the City Council
18 and the audience. My name is Jon Forster. I'm a
19 member of Local 375 and an Executive Vice President
20 with District Council 37, which represents 120,000
21 city employees and 50,000 retirees. I applaud you
22 for this resolution. Two years ago we collectively
23 endured the ravages of Sandy, product of the very
24 climate change we are speaking of today. People all
25 over the city suffered terribly, especially in our

2 lower income communities of color. Our own DC 37
3 headquarters was flooded and closed for eight months.
4 Many of our communities have still not fully
5 recovered. Now, we have the chance to collectively
6 fight back, with this resolution, with a progressive
7 climate conscious city policy, and with the People's
8 Climate March. We have the opportunity to send a
9 message to this country and to every country in the
10 world that climate change is already here, and if we
11 don't take the appropriate aggressive steps needed to
12 confront climate change and do it now, it will
13 unleash forces far greater than Sandy and may well
14 destroy us all. The first press conference announcing
15 the People's Climate March in Times Square three
16 weeks ago was the most inclusive, most diverse
17 gathering around a climate action I have ever seen in
18 the United States. It was diverse because this was--
19 this is New York City. It was diverse because of the
20 presence of environmental justice organizations, the
21 youth, the LGBT and faith communities, and it was
22 diverse because of the presence of organized labor.
23 Over 70 unions have endorsed over 1,000 organizations
24 have endorsed the People's Climate March. This
25 organizing effort is diverse because there is a

2 growing recognition that we are all truly in this
3 together and it will be wonderfully inclusive and
4 diverse as we march through the streets of Manhattan
5 on September the 21st demanding jobs, justice and
6 real action on climate change. This inclusion and
7 diversity is the great strength and unique
8 contribution that we bring to this resolution, to
9 this march and to the message that we are going to
10 broadcast to the world on 09/21. Bothers and sisters,
11 together we must act to stop climate change now.
12 Together we must demand this government and every
13 world government immediately act to make the tough
14 decisions to reduce C02 emissions. Together, we too,
15 must make the sacrifices and surrender some of the
16 comforts and indulgences of our own to reduce the
17 deadly growth of greenhouse gas emissions. To
18 paraphrase one of our revolutionary founding fathers,
19 sisters and brothers, we must hang together in our
20 fight on climate change or eventually we will surely
21 all hang separately. This resolution is a big step
22 towards all of us hanging together. Thank you.

23 [applause]

24 ANN FAWCET AMBIA: Good afternoon. My
25 name is Ann Fawcet Ambia. I'm a recently retired

1 attorney at DC 37 Municipal Employees Legal Services
2 where for the past 12 years I represented city
3 workers in housing and administrative law cases. Most
4 of those administrative law cases involve NYCHA
5 residents. As a result of Sandy, 500 of our members
6 who live in NYCHA housing were made homeless.
7
8 Countless additional people were made homeless who
9 live in private housing particularly in the outer
10 boroughs and hundreds more were left stranded in
11 neighborhoods without transportation, without access
12 to food and water, without schooling for their
13 children. Many of those people remain in very
14 terrible situations. I myself, live near the Verisano
15 [sp?] bridge right outside of flood zone where many
16 trees were down and I used what gas I had in my car,
17 because there was no gas available to go to the local
18 high school where many of my clients were living
19 converted, a high school that was converted into a
20 homeless shelter. I would like to say that I have
21 personal experience in seeing the devastation that
22 was caused to our membership and we--that I just want
23 to say that we have to absolutely do something to
24 change this because Sandy will happen again in the
25 city. As far as what we're doing as a city, I want

2 to say that even though Governor Cuomo has issued a
3 moratorium on hydrofracking in New York State, we
4 have two pipelines, the Spectra Pipeline in the West
5 Village and the Rockaway Pipeline that's currently
6 being built in the Rockaways. I was just at Reese
7 Park Beach twice this week. You can see three
8 drilling rigs off the coast. Those pipes are being
9 laid under what was formerly protected wildlife refuge
10 Jamaica Bay. There is an accelerator that's being
11 built in Floyd Bennett [sp?] Field, and that pipeline
12 is running down Flatbush Avenue. Again, these
13 pipelines are subject to massive explosions. They've
14 been happening not only across the United States, but
15 across the world, and hydrofracked gas, as it's been
16 pointed out, is extremely hazardous. This is New York
17 City. This is my city where I was born and where live
18 and we are a city of islands and harbors and rivers
19 and we absolutely must be at the forefront of this
20 country in protecting the environment and supporting
21 sustainable and renewable energy sources. Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much.
23 And as a representative of the Rockaways, you know,
24 who had to endure Sandy, we certainly know the
25 reality of climate change and you know, we have a lot

2 of work to do, and with the leadership of this
3 council and working with the Mayor we hope to really
4 come up with some things with teeth to really move
5 this agenda forward, the people's agenda forward. I
6 just had a question for both Eddie Bautista and also
7 Ms. Thurman. So on an environmental justice front,
8 climate change has certain environmental justice
9 implications as it pertains to risk. Can the
10 environmental justice implications be adequately
11 addressed without identifying those implications?

12 EDDIE BAUTISTA: Yes, and it must. I
13 mean, I think that--let me take a step back. The
14 implications of climate change, a lot of us had been
15 doing a lot of research and have been submitting
16 reports in collaboration with Beryl's group and 40
17 other organizations. In the aftermath of Sandy, we
18 founded something called the Sandy Regional Assembly.
19 Out of that came literally, you know, dozens and
20 dozens of recommendations of how to specifically
21 identify what the particular vulnerabilities of low
22 income communities and communities of color are, and
23 the vast amount of low hanging fruit frankly that is
24 there for the taking in terms of making our city more
25 adaptable and resilient. We have not--so not only

2 has all those--and that was a snapshot in time,
3 right? But not only a lot of those vulnerabilities
4 have long been studied and are out there for public
5 consumption and you can check our website for that
6 report. It's www.nyc-eja.org, but the point is is
7 that there is a panoply of legislative initiatives
8 that we think, we hope, expect that the City
9 Council's already considering. Some of it is left
10 over business from a few years back. Some of it is
11 the new climate change threats that we've since
12 Sandy. It's, you know, New York City is one of the
13 top three cities in the United States that's
14 vulnerable to these kinds of climate events. The
15 other two are Miami and New Orleans, and it's no
16 coincidence that all three are predominantly cities
17 of color. So, part of our challenge is having the
18 courage to stare these vulnerabilities in the eye and
19 then have the political wherewithal and muscle to put
20 our shoulder to wheel and actually pass, whether it's
21 legislation that looks at the largest buildings in
22 the city over 50,000 square feet. We got the job half
23 done in 2009, right? We mandated audits. We didn't
24 mandate retrofits, right? Public housing in terms of
25 making sure that our boilers and our 20th Century H-

2 Vac and infrastructure is taken out of harm's way.
3 Public housing needs to look at how do we connect
4 them to micro grids. So there's a host of--the
5 question is, do we have the political courage to be
6 able to look these challenges in the eye and do what
7 needs to be done. A lot of us have met with several
8 representatives of the de Blasio Administration. We,
9 our sense is they understand that this is a moment in
10 time, that you know, they can take a moment when the
11 eyes of the world are going to be on New York City
12 and take full advantage of that. We remain hopeful
13 that they will partner with the City Council and take
14 full advantage of that moment. I'll stop there.

15 BERYL THURMAN: In terms of what we're
16 doing with the North Shore Waterfront Conservancies,
17 we received a grant from the Department of
18 Environmental conservation, and the grant is so that
19 we can do a resiliency study about Staten Island's
20 north shore, and the purpose of this study is so that
21 we can determine where we have buffers and where we
22 don't have buffers, and the areas that don't have
23 buffers are those also areas that have contaminated
24 sites, where the contamination, once the water hits
25 can then be pushed back towards the residential

2 community. This is something that we felt was
3 necessary to do because in order for us to get any
4 kind of movement with the EJ communities on the north
5 shore of Staten Island, we have to be able to present
6 facts. We have to be able to present documentation.
7 We have to be able to present something that is
8 tangible to our officials and even to the Army Corps
9 of Engineers. And for the most part, during most of
10 the conversation, most people don't even know that
11 there are EJ communities on the north shore of Staten
12 Island. So, we have like--we have to get over that
13 hurdle as well, you know, then telling people not
14 only are we here, but we are being impacted by not
15 only the water, which is the kill bancul [sic] but
16 the industrial and maritime businesses that are there
17 at our waterfront and what's coming back towards our
18 residential communities. It's not going to be easy,
19 and we started working on this project in the spring.
20 We hope to get a good portion of it finished in
21 December, and then once we have completed the entire
22 project, we will present it to you in your office.

23 EDDIE BAUTISTA: Just two last points. I
24 just wanted to reiterate something that Jon
25 mentioned. You know, the idea of making our city more

2 adaptable and resilient is also a jobs program for
3 this city. We're literally talking about thousands of
4 jobs that could be generated if we do all, if they
5 enact all the measures necessary to get us close to a
6 zero carbon city. So it's a win/win in a way that I
7 think Al Appleton mentioned, Paul, and then Beryl and
8 I from a different perspective but this is really a
9 moment where it's also about jobs. And I will say
10 one last thing, even if, and I'm not suggesting this
11 is never the City Council, but even if people don't
12 care about environmental justice communities, just
13 recognize just from Sandy had high tide for Long
14 Island Sound coincided with Sandy's landfall, the
15 Hunts Point food market, which is the bread basket
16 for the region, 23 million people in this region
17 depend on the Hunts Point food market for our food,
18 our food supply for the region would have been
19 disruptive. And if you guys thought the gas lines
20 were nasty? Those fights, imagine cutting off food
21 for New Yorkers, right? So if you don't care about
22 EJ communities, for God's sake, care about
23 yourselves.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Well said. Well, I
25 want to thank this panel, and we will call the next

2 panel. Thank you for testifying. Alright, we'll
3 call-- I'll call the next. I just want to acknowledge
4 we've been joined by Council Member Eric Ulrich, my
5 counterpart in the Rockaways. Thank you for being
6 here. I will-- next, we'll call Claire Donahue from
7 the Same Energy Project [sic], Lisa Dicaprio from
8 350--she not here? She's not here, okay. They're
9 not here, okay. Robert Friedman from the Natural
10 Resources Defense Council, Catherine Skopic, I think
11 I said it right, from the IMAC representing the--I'm
12 trying to read this, Anglican. Alright, I can't--I
13 think I got you, but I can't read this. Trying to
14 get there. Tamara has glasses, she can probably see
15 that.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: IMAC, representative for
17 Anglican something UN Office, Catherine Skopic.

18 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Oh, she's up
19 there. Oh, she's there, okay, great. And Patrick
20 Almonrode from the--from 350 NYC. And we'll call up-

21 -

22 COUNCIL CLERK: They're going to testify
23 together.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Is Erica Eatland
25 and Augusta Williams from Columbia University.

2 School of Public Health, I just wanted to acknowledge
3 that too, Nailman [sic] School of Public Health.
4 Okay, we'll start here and work our way down. She's
5 going to swear you in, so we--

6 COUNCIL CLERK: [interposing] Please
7 raise your right hands. Do you swear or affirm to
8 tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
9 truth today?

10 PAT ALMONRODE: Chairman Richards,
11 members of the committee, council, ladies and
12 gentleman, good afternoon. My name is Pat Almonrode,
13 and I'm here to speak in support of the resolution
14 now before the committee. I'm an attorney. I'm a
15 long term member of St. Peters Lutheran Church at
16 54th and Lexington, and I'm a volunteer member of 350
17 NYC, the local affiliate of 350.org, which is an
18 international grassroots organization working to
19 fight climate change. The name, as you may now,
20 refers to the highest atmosphere concentration of
21 carbon dioxide that according to scientists will
22 allow us to maintain a livable climate, 350 parts per
23 million. We're up over 400 parts per million right
24 now. As a member of 350 NYC, I've been involved
25 almost from the very start with the People's Climate

2 March along with Kira Sheppard [sp?], Louie Remain
3 [sp?], Ravi Ragbir [sp?] and others, all lead by
4 Reverend Fletcher Harper of Green Faith. I've been
5 helping to organize faith communities. This march
6 has tremendous support among people of faith because
7 it reflects two concerns that all faith traditions
8 share, care for the natural world and an imperative
9 to do justice for the poor and vulnerable. I've
10 included a selection of statements from world
11 religions reflecting these two concerns as appendix A
12 to my remarks, and I'd like to briefly mention a few
13 key points. As stated in the interfaith declaration
14 on climate change issued at the 2011 conference of
15 the UN parties in Durbin, South Africa, the nurturing
16 and respect for life is a central doctrine of all
17 faiths on earth. Today, our faiths stand united in
18 their call to care for the earth. Strong action on
19 climate change is imperative by the principles and
20 traditions of our faiths and the collective
21 compassion, wisdom and leadership of humanity. As
22 Pope Francis has said, let us be protectors of
23 creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in
24 nature, protectors of one another and of the
25 environment, and I might note that in response to

1 this call, Cardinal Dolan will be urging Catholics in
2 New York City to march or to support the march in
3 other ways. In addition to the imperative to be
4 protectors of creation, all religious traditions also
5 share a concern for the poor and vulnerable. And as
6 the Reverend Doctor Joel C. Hunter of the National
7 Association of Evangelicals has pointed out, the
8 impact of climate change will fall disproportionately
9 on those who have contributed the least to this
10 problem, the world's poor. So as Rabbi David
11 Saberstein [sp?] Director of the Religious Action
12 Center of Reform Judaism has put it, global warming
13 is not just a scientific or political issue. It is a
14 moral issue. It's time for the moral voice of
15 religion to speak up loudly to demand action, and
16 Imam's, Rabbi's, preachers, teachers, pastors,
17 priests and other religious leaders all over the city
18 and all over the country are speaking up loudly and
19 marching. By marching we're calling for more than
20 climate action. We're calling for climate justice.
21 We want solutions that prioritize those who have
22 already--who are already bearing the brunt of the
23 developing climate crisis. The People's Climate
24 March is about lifting up the voices of those who are
25

2 already feeling the impacts of climate change and
3 pollution, exactly what our faith traditions call us
4 to do. On trains and on buses, people of faith are
5 coming from all across the country. We hope that
6 many will join us at one or both of the two
7 multifaith services that will bookend the march, the
8 morning services still in the planning phases that
9 will be held at the assembly point for the interfaith
10 contention which is 58th Street between 8th and 9th
11 Avenue, and the evening service, a great celebration
12 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at 6:00 p.m.
13 Other folks that day will simply be worshipping with
14 their feet, and that will be beautiful too. There
15 will be singing, chanting and praying as we walk
16 through the streets of Manhattan. We've also asked
17 houses of worship along the route to ring their bells
18 or make other symbolic sounds at one o'clock and
19 worship communities around the world will be doing
20 the same. I'll leave it to others today to make the
21 case for the march on climate science grounds or
22 economic justice grounds or political grounds. I just
23 wanted to let you know that the New York Faith
24 Community in all its glorious diversity will be
25 marching, Buddhists from the East Village and the

2 Upper West Side, Baptists from Harlem and Sunset
3 Park, Hindu's and Muslims from Brooklyn and Queens,
4 Jews from Borough Park and the Upper East Side,
5 Catholics from Bay Ridge and the Bronx, Presbyterians
6 from 5th Avenue and Lutherans from Lexington Avenue
7 and on and on. All will be marching in a multifaith
8 contention that we fully expect will be several
9 thousand strong. Please join us in this powerful act
10 of witness, first by adopting Resolution 356 and
11 second, by marching with us on the 21st. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

13 LISA DICAPRIO: My name is Lisa Dicaprio.
14 I will be giving my own testimony as well as reading
15 a statement on behalf of Lena Hienkel [sp?] who could
16 not attend today's hearing. I am a clinical
17 associate professor of social sciences at NYU. I am a
18 member of 350 NYC and the Sierra Club, and I'm
19 helping to organize the People's Climate March. I
20 would like to thank Councilman Donovan Richards for
21 serving as the prime sponsor of this resolution in
22 support of the People's Climate March and to express
23 my appreciation for the Committee on Environmental
24 Protection's broad spectrum of environmental
25 initiatives which include measures for climate change

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mitigation and adaptation. We can unite the people and policy makers to support a global climate treaty if we one, emphasize the social and economic benefits of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy and two, promote a vision of climate justice that is local and global in scope. The UN will only succeed in negotiating a new global climate treaty by the conclusion of 2015 if the US makes an ambitious commitment to the reduction of US emissions based on a recognition of its historic responsibility for one-quarter of all global greenhouse gas emissions since the industrial revolution. Today, the US is one of 12 countries that produce 70 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2011, for which the most recent data is available, from the International Energy Agency, US emissions comprised 5.5 gigatons of the 32.6 gigatons of global greenhouse gas emissions or about one-sixth of the total. Although China is now the world's largest emitter with 8.7 gigatons and must be included in a new global treaty, US emissions per capita exceed those of China. Moreover, if every country were to adopt the average American lifestyle with its accompanying ecological footprint, we would require the equivalent of four to five planets of

1 resources. Government policies, mandates and
2 incentives at all levels of government and at all
3 institutions, civil as well as corporate, must aim to
4 achieve one planet living. As Christiana Figueres
5 [sp?], the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework
6 Convention on Climate Change stated in an interview
7 in the March 15th, 2014 issue of the New Scientist,
8 "We have to get to the point where each individual,
9 each corporation, each community chooses low carbon,
10 because it makes fundamental sense." What does this
11 mean for us in New York City? Currently, two thirds
12 of our electricity is generated by natural gas plants
13 within New York City. We must phase out rather than
14 build out the natural gas infrastructure. Here are
15 several proposals for reducing our reliance on fossil
16 fuels. With regard to buildings which represent 79
17 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in New York
18 City, we can one, carry out energy audits on all city
19 buildings to ensure that they have proper insulation.
20 Two, improve New York City building codes for
21 efficiency. Three, provide energy audits funded by
22 NYSERTA [sic] for all New York City property owners
23 and property tax credits for implementing
24 recommendations made by the audit. Four, require all
25

1 new buildings in New York City to meet passive house
2 certification, an energy efficiency standard
3 requiring a virtually air tight building envelope,
4 which dramatically reduces energy use for heating and
5 cooling. And five, mandate the DEP to include
6 information about energy conservation, efficiency,
7 renewable energy and green power purchasing in all
8 water bills sent to building owners. As a result of
9 New York State's deregulated electricity market,
10 institutions and individuals can obtain 100 percent
11 of their electricity from renewable sources. With
12 regard to the People's Climate March, we can call on
13 all New York City government officials to publicize
14 the march on their websites. Members of the City
15 Council and our Borough Presidents in particular
16 could include a new green page on their websites with
17 suggestions for how we can conserve resources and
18 promote sustainability. Recommendations could be
19 provided on a regular basis in newsletters to
20 constituents. Finally, New York City should join the
21 existing global Go 100 Percent Renewable Energy
22 campaign, which encompasses cities, regions and even
23 entire countries. As we cannot generate all
24 electricity that we consume within New York City,
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2 this commitment may be achieved with a combination of
3 onsite generation and green power purchasing. In
4 conclusion, the People's Climate March provides an
5 unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate that we are
6 responding as global citizens to demands to new
7 climate treaty. It is a cruel paradox that the
8 countries which have contributed the least to the
9 greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are being effected
10 the most dramatically by climate change. However,
11 super storm Sandy has shown us that climate change
12 impacts do not respect international boundaries. As
13 Muhammad Nasheed [sp?], the former president of the
14 Maldives, a low-lying nation in the Indian Ocean,
15 reminded us at a 2/11 New York City screening of the
16 island president, "Remember, you too live on an
17 island."

18 [applause]

19 LISA DICAPRIO: Thank you. And next, I
20 would like to read the testimony of Lena Hienkel,
21 founder of 350 NYC, the local group of 350.org who
22 could not attend today's hearing. "Good afternoon
23 Chairman Richards and members of the Committee on
24 Environmental Protection, and thank you for
25 introducing Resolution 356, calling on the New York

1 city Council to support the People's Climate March.

2 On September 23rd, 2014 in New York City, UN

3 Secretary Ban Ki-moon is convening a UN climate

4 summit of world leaders in government, civil society

5 and the private sector to address the climate crisis

6 and to mobilize support for negotiating a global

7 legally binding treaty in 2015 to reduce greenhouse

8 gas emissions. As part of the negotiating process,

9 governments are being asked to make ambitious

10 commitments for the reduction of greenhouse gas

11 emissions. The US must assume a leading role in

12 these negotiations if they are to succeed. Our 350

13 NYC demands for the People's Climate March are one,

14 we are calling on President Obama to commit the US to

15 reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50

16 percent by 2030, using 2005 as a benchmark. This

17 scientifically feasible reduction is to be achieved

18 with energy conservation and efficiency and renewable

19 forms of energy. We are calling on all participants

20 in the UN Climate Summit to one, support a 100

21 billion dollar annual global fund for climate change

22 adaptation. This is a crucial aspect of climate

23 justice. In 2009 in Copenhagen, as US Secretary of

24 State Hillary Clinton pledged support for this fund.

2 The US must lead in the global commitment required to
3 meet this pledge. And two, increase investment in
4 clean renewable energy in response to the appeals of
5 the UN, the World Bank and the UN intergovernmental
6 panel on climate change, IPCC, for massive
7 investments in green infrastructure and clean energy
8 technologies. This year series a nonprofit
9 organization advocating for sustainability leadership
10 launched the investing in the clean drilling
11 campaign, which is based on a 2012 international
12 energy agency report that global "investments in low
13 carbon energy technologies will have to at least
14 double reaching 500 billion annually by 2020 and then
15 double again to one trillion by 2030" if we are to
16 have an 80 percent chance of remaining below two
17 degrees Celsius of global warming since the
18 industrial revolution. As the world's second largest
19 emitter of greenhouse gas emissions, the future of
20 our planet depends on the US assuming leadership for
21 the actualization of these demands. Thank you."

22 ROBERT FRIEDMAN: Chairman Richards, now
23 absent members of the Committee on Environmental
24 Protection, thank you for this opportunity to speak
25 here today. My name is Robert Friedman. I'm the

1 youth engagement coordinator for the Natural
2 Resources Defense Council based here in New York
3 City. I'm here on behalf of NRDC to enthusiastically
4 support this resolution recognizing the dangers of
5 climate change and publicly endorsing the People's
6 Climate March. I've been working on issues around the
7 climate crisis for much of my life. As we all know,
8 it has never been the most uplifting subject, but
9 recently I've been feeling a renewed sense of
10 commitment to this cause. Here's why, in the ground
11 swell of organizing that is taking place around the
12 world to recruit people to come to New York for the
13 People's Climate March, the movement for climate
14 justice is beginning to look a lot more like what
15 many of our communities can and should like.
16 Racially, politically and socioeconomically diverse
17 strong, resilient and powerful. Our brothers and
18 sisters from organized labor are at the table, local,
19 national, and international environmental and social
20 justice groups are at the table. People of faith,
21 LGBTQ folks, young people, old people and everyone in
22 between, they're all at this table. It's an honor to
23 be there with them. I wanted to share with you a
24 story from a young woman I just had the pleasure of
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1 meeting. Ovsana [sp?] Octer [sp?] recently graduated
2 from Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies. She'd
3 be here with me today, but she's just beginning her
4 Freshman Year at Barnard [sp?]. She's a passionate
5 student leader and she was actually here two weeks
6 ago, here the City Council meeting supporting the
7 introduction of a climate education resolution with
8 her fellow alliance for climate education and global
9 kids climate action fellows. The following is her
10 explanation as to why the march is so important: "I'm
11 originally from Bangladesh. In my life I have been
12 through hurricanes that snapped the old mango tree
13 next to my house and blew off many people's tin roofs
14 and left them bare. I've been through floods that
15 leveled the rice patties in ponds and water that
16 reached my knees. However, I've never been through
17 anything as intense as hurricane Sandy. Although
18 Sandy lasted a few days, it is still affecting all of
19 us today whether we know it or not. After 14 months
20 the MTA is still working to fix the damage that was
21 caused by this storm. People who lost their lives
22 still hurt today. Sorry, people who lost their loved
23 ones still hurt today. By seeing what has happened
24 and what has happened and what is still happening due
25

2 to climate change, I am motivated to join the
3 People's Climate March. I am tired of people taking
4 climatic issues lightly and thinking that ignoring
5 them will somehow vanish them. The future belongs to
6 not only us, but those who come after us. If we
7 don't make any noise now, it'll be too late when
8 something worse than hurricane Sandy hits us." A
9 movement of this size and depth is new for this
10 cause, but it exactly what is needed to win the
11 future we want and need. Fundamentally, climate
12 change is an issue of intergenerational and social
13 justice. The People's Climate March is an
14 opportunity for all of us to come together under a
15 single banner of demanding climate justice now.
16 Climate change has and will devastate many
17 communities here in New York City and beyond. But if
18 there's anything positive about it, it has the
19 ability to bring us all together. That's exactly
20 what's going to happen on September 21st. Thank you
21 for all that you do, and I hope I will see you at the
22 People's Climate March. Thanks.

23 [applause]

24 CATHERINE SKOPIC: Good afternoon. My
25 name is Katherine Skopic. I'm an artist,

2 environmentalist and the United Nations Rep for the
3 Anglican Community Office at the UN. How appropriate
4 it is that we are here in this room as we can look up
5 and see Abraham Lincoln's words, "A government of the
6 people by the people for the people," because we are
7 here for the People's Climate March. I thank you
8 Chairman Richards and Simora Swanson [sic] for all
9 you have done and continue to do for the environment.
10 I thank you on behalf of the thousands of New Yorkers
11 who are not here today for your consideration of
12 Resolution 356 to endorse the People's Climate March.
13 I call upon all Council Members to vote yes on this
14 resolution and invite all of you to march on
15 September 21st. I hope you will. There are many
16 reasons to endorse the People's Climate March, but I
17 would like to briefly mention three. One, the
18 continued use of fossil fuels could be understood to
19 be illegal. Two, the continued use of fossil fuels
20 is considered by many to be immoral. With effort,
21 New York State could have 50 to 98 percent renewable
22 energy and be fossil free by 2030. One, a United
23 Nations treaty, the Environmental Modification
24 Convention, ENMOD [sic], outlawed the hostile use of
25 weather control in 1978. The UN Convention on

2 Biological Diversity, CBD, adopted a defacto
3 engineering, geo engineering moratorium in 2010. Geo
4 engineering is the large scale intentional
5 manipulation of earth or climate systems. Since we
6 know now that earth has reached its carbon budgets
7 and the burning of fossil fuels adversely effects our
8 climate, the intentional continued use of fossil
9 fuels, coal, oil, methane, natural gas could
10 therefore be considered to be illegal, violating the
11 2010 convention on biological diversity. This global
12 map prepared by the ETC Group shows places of geo
13 engineering. [off mic] I would venture a guess that
14 everyone in the room here has either been directly
15 affected by a result of climate change like super
16 storm Sandy or knows someone who has--raise your hand
17 if you have either been directly or you know someone.
18 Okay, we see it's everybody in the room. So, is it
19 morally right to stand by the wayside and do nothing
20 to halt further damaging climate change? As a person
21 of faith, caring for creation is part of my
22 responsibility. The world's major religions have
23 respect for and protection of creation, mother earth
24 at its center. Passing this resolution to endorse
25 the People's Climate March is a major step toward

2 that protection we know earth and all life needs.
3 Mark C. Jacobson of Stanford University along with
4 Robert W. Howard and Anthony R. EnGraffia [sp?] of
5 Cornell University put together a plan for New York
6 State that could help it become 100 percent renewable
7 by 2030s wind, water and sunlight. Some adjustments
8 would have to be made and maybe it would only be 98
9 percent renewable, but it is doable. The technology
10 exists, and this plan would provide lasting jobs and
11 economic growth. New York City is an integral and
12 important part of this energy plan, with top down,
13 bottom up and middle out, we could do it. The
14 political will of our leaders is needed. So far, the
15 extensiveness of this march that has reached
16 throughout our nation and around the globe surely
17 shows that the grassroots is behind such a renewable
18 energy future for our home, New York City and our
19 planet. The time is now. The future is in our
20 hands. Please pass Resolution Number 356 to endorse
21 the People's Climate March and join the march. Thank
22 you.

23 [applause]

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

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ERICA ETMUND: Thank you Chairman Richards and councilwoman for the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Erica Etmund [sp?] and my colleague Evesta [sp?] Williams joins me. We are Masters of Public Health Candidates at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, specifically focusing on climate and health. We would like to take this time to address the current and future state of our climate and its relationship to the health of our fellow New Yorkers. Recognizing that the ten warmest years on record have all occurred since 1998, New York City faces new public health challenges, including those associated with more frequent and intense heat waves. It is expected that the global temperature will rise as much as six degrees Celsius by the end of the century with higher latitudes being disproportionately impacted compared to the equatorial regions. Heat stress impacts are most vulnerable to New Yorkers including the elderly, children and low income families who may not have the resources or ability to overcome these environmental health challenges. Echoing my colleagues here today, I would like to mention that they're faced, the most vulnerable populations are faced with the

2 overwhelming cost of the changing climate, whether it
3 is rebuilding their home after super storm Sandy or
4 paying energy bills for their air conditioner during
5 a heat wave.

6 EVESTA WILLIAMS: However, no community
7 will be immune to the impact of climate change. Food
8 insecurity and its resulting malnutrition is
9 predicted across the world as the agricultural
10 industry suffers. Altered transmission patterns will
11 introduce diseases to new areas. Hotter temperatures
12 induce pollen growth leading to an increased
13 incidence of allergies and asthma. Poor air quality
14 from pollution results in respiratory illnesses. To
15 ensure better health for New York City residents,
16 there are preventative measures that can be taken
17 today. Having learned valuable lessons from super
18 storm Sandy, we have been able to make strides in
19 becoming a more resilient city. Through coastal
20 rebuilding, painting roofs white and fortifying our
21 subway system, we have already begun to prepare for
22 our changing environment. As students, we see that
23 climate education is another important investment in
24 New York City's present and future health. The New
25 York City Climate Week events, specifically the

2 People's Climate March, provide an excellent
3 opportunity to bring that education to the public
4 while raising awareness of climate change and its
5 intersection with health.

6 ERICA ETMUND: New York City has always
7 been a pioneer in human and environmental health.
8 The early formation of the Department of Health in
9 the mid 1800's was sparked by repeated cholera
10 outbreaks and the recognition that human health is
11 tied to the quality of our air, water, food and
12 housing. It is the better management of conditions in
13 our built environment that has allowed our city to
14 flourish. Nearly 150 years later we are asking the
15 city to recognize the dangers of climate change to
16 human health in an effort to improve our wellbeing
17 today and for future generations to come.

18 EVESTA WILLIAMS: The Lanta [sic], a
19 leading global medical journal stated in 2009 that
20 climate change is the biggest global health threat of
21 the 21st century. The impacts will be felt all
22 around the world and not just in some distant future,
23 but in our lifetime and those of our children. By
24 witness to and endorsing the largest discussion on
25 climate the world has ever seen, New York City

2 currently has the chance to be at the forefront of a
3 historical and monumental occasion. The actions we
4 take during New York Climate Week will foster lasting
5 discussions on the international response to climate
6 change impacts and protect the livelihood of
7 millions. The march is not just about saving our
8 planet. Is about saving each other.

9 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much.
10 I have a question for you on heat. We know that--I
11 represent the Rockaways and represent the in Queens
12 at least the biggest portion of public housing
13 developments, alot of elderly people, low income
14 individuals. Do you think the city is doing enough
15 to really address the heating issue right now?

16 ERICA ETMUND: Having worked with Astoria
17 Houses for about a year, before hurricane Sandy even
18 hit there was a difficulty with how the NYCHA houses
19 are already prepared. There is a need that these
20 buildings are now 60, 50 years old and we need to
21 action before it is too late. The conditions, I was
22 supposed to say the truth, were deplorable from the
23 beginning and we need to moving forward and working
24 with architects and Urban Planning, people already--
25 there is very easy ways to work and retrofit those

2 buildings. So it's not just, you know, one building
3 it's the whole city can benefit from this change.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Give me an example
5 of retrofitting? What is one thing you would look?

6 ERICA ETMUND: Retrofitting, we are
7 decided to use lightweight steels that would cover
8 the buildings, because right now the ways that the
9 buildings are built is with brick facing, leaving
10 huge gaps that allow water to come in and letting
11 that cold air to come in. Using, you know,
12 lightweight insulation, taking that weight off the
13 buildings and constant maintenance, you have these
14 steel panels that can cover and well insulate these
15 buildings.

16 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Great, thank you.
17 And I guess I'll ask you this question, or if you
18 want to come and take a shot at it, Robert, do you
19 think that the climate change, the Climate March will
20 make a difference? You got to come up and answer
21 that.

22 [off mic]

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Don't be shy now.

24 ROBERT FRIEDMAN: [off mic] Alright,
25 thanks. I think the purpose of the march or the march

2 has several purposes, to demonstrate to world leaders
3 that the people are holding them accountable. It's
4 not just world leaders, it's also our local leaders.
5 Thank you for your leadership. It's also to
6 demonstrate to the people that there are others like
7 us out there that are fighting for this cause. This
8 work is inherently isolating. You know, working on
9 climate change, I think we've all felt that in one
10 way or another. It's vitally important for civil
11 society to be given the opportunity to come together
12 and actually see hundreds of thousands of people on
13 the street that are all standing up for climate
14 justice. So, in that respect, yes, it's going to be
15 successful. I think we have to believe that it's
16 going to be successful, and that it's actually going
17 to drive policy change, especially as we're looking
18 towards these elections. You know, elected officials
19 need to be aware of that.

20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much.
21 I want to thank all of you for testifying, and we're
22 going to call our next panel. Thank you for being
23 here.

24 ROBERT FRIEDMAN: Thanks your honor
25 [sic].

2 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you. Thank
3 you for your support. Alrighty, next I am calling
4 Kevin Murungi from Global Kids, Telia Smith [sp?]
5 from the Bronx Climate Justice Brook Part, East 41st
6 in--Bronx Climate Justice. Denise Catsman from
7 Envire Hancement and a Rivers Keeper member. Raymond
8 Figueroa, President of the New York City Community
9 Garden Coalition, and Jeremy Sanders from DC 37 Local
10 1501.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Please raise your right
12 hands. Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the
13 whole truth and nothing but the truth today?

14 UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: I do.

16 KEVIN MURUNGI: Thank you, Chairman
17 Richards, Ms. Swanson. Ladies and gentleman, my name
18 is Kevin Murungi. I am Director of Human Rights and
19 Foreign Policy Programs at Global Kids, a not for
20 profit youth development and global education
21 organization working with young people from
22 underserved communities in New York City and
23 Washington D.C. Thank you for giving me the
24 opportunity to represent Global Kids and address this
25 urgent global emergency. I'd like to start by reading

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from an excerpt, a student of ours wrote a piece in the Huffington Post when she was a junior in high school. Her name is Maya Faison [sp?]. She's now a sophomore at Adelphi [sp?] University. She was directly and tragically impacted by the effects of hurricane Sandy, and I quote: "It is day nine with no heat, no power and no gas in my mom's car to escape. As a climate change activist, I knew something like this was bound to happen, but I never expecting something this big. I feel proud that I've been working with other activists to get our elected leaders to take immediate action on climate change. However, I feel heart-broken that it's taken a major storm that has taken over 40 lives and counting for my elected leaders to acknowledge the reality of climate change. We have heard about how climate change affects fall of places such as the Maldives or the arctic, but here in New York City, it is our reality now more than ever." Maya is a member or was a member of the Global Kids Human Rights Activist Project. Even before hurricane Sandy, she and her Global Kids colleagues chose to focus their activist energy and work on climate change and climate justice. They recognized the immediacy of the issue

1 and wanted action taken to mitigate the effects of
2 climate change and that was action from their peers,
3 actions from their schools, from their government and
4 governments around the world. They have passed--they
5 have use this program as the platform to take action
6 on several climate justice related campaigns. In the
7 past, they have called on the New York State
8 Legislature to use, to issue a moratorium on
9 hydraulic fracturing or fracking. As more
10 transparency and stricter regulation is put in place
11 to ensure that the process is environmentally safe.
12 They have worked on the campaign to install green
13 roofs on New York City public school buildings.
14 Green roofs that would help reduce storm water run-
15 off and reduce heating and cooling costs as well as
16 provide green living labs for their classes. Last
17 year, they worked on the campaign to mandate climate
18 education in schools and make it possible for
19 students around the city to learn more about climate
20 signs and climate solutions. The students of Global
21 Kids would like this chamber to know the following.
22 Global Kids leaders representing schools in all five
23 New York city boroughs want to see international
24 leadership on climate change and as such
25

2 enthusiastically endorse the People's Climate March.
3 As you may have already heard in my testimony, Global
4 Kids leaders were impacted by super storm Sandy and
5 know first hand the devastating impact of climate
6 change. GK leaders are from countries around the
7 world that are especially vulnerable to climate
8 change, including Haiti, Nepal, Bangladesh. This
9 issue hits close to home for them on several
10 different levels. Global Kids leaders ultimately
11 want to see world leaders work together to make a
12 binding climate treaty to curb global emissions. I'd
13 like to close with another quote from Maya, because
14 as is usually the case, the young people say it a lot
15 better than we do. "This is the future I want, a
16 country that is better prepared for climate and
17 environmental disasters and is working proactively to
18 mitigate global warming. Just like we have fire
19 drills in school, we need to have evacuation plans
20 and disaster preparedness kits. We must rely less on
21 oil and more on alternative energy and reduce carbon
22 emissions by any means necessary. We cannot continue
23 to provide subsidies to oil and gas companies that
24 are wreaking havoc on our earth. We need more
25 preservation of natural resources and less

2 consumption. Science matters and we must educate the
3 next generation on the realities of climate change so
4 we are all working to promote better, more
5 sustainable future. I am more committed than ever to
6 work to make the future I want a reality." Thank
7 you.

8 DENISE CATSMAN: Denise Catsman. Thank
9 you for holding this vitally important hearing. I'm
10 speaking as a business owner. I'm a business manager
11 and a climate science analytic. I'm also an
12 activist. There was a major positive initiative that
13 happened recently through Council Member Helen
14 Rosenthal, myself and Pat, who's over there in the
15 lovely red tie, and a gentleman named George. We met
16 with her to get the city's dormant idling law
17 revived, strengthened and enforced, and right now it
18 is somewhere in between the 60 day clock, and we are
19 looking forward to it becoming legislation, because
20 stationary idling vehicles are a primary component of
21 climate crisis. When the methane is released from the
22 tailpipe and it enters the atmosphere, it creates
23 ground level ozone and it mixes with VOC's and
24 sunlight, it becomes smog. And that is a major
25 contributor to asthma, all forms of ADD and heart

1 attacks. The ozone on that ground does not belong
2 there. It belongs in the upper atmosphere to protect
3 us from the sun's rays. And what I would like to see
4 happen is a energy task force that is an amalgamation
5 of citizens and elected so that solutions can happen,
6 and these solutions can be healthy resilient ones
7 that create jobs, protect our planet because our
8 environment and our economy are mutually inclusive.
9 They are not exclusive. And if we don't have a
10 healthy environment, we don't got squat. NYCHA,
11 which a few folks have spoken about, has been given
12 cart lunch [sic] for far too long. Due to Sandy, a
13 lot of us know that they were given boilers, and
14 those boilers are burning methane. Those boilers
15 need components of biomass and biodiesel, which I
16 know that both Samara and yourself, Chair Richards,
17 do support, and they shouldn't be allowed to have
18 this cart launch [sic] any longer. The--an
19 environmental justice there are a lot of communities,
20 but it's not just about those communities, it's about
21 environmental justice doesn't discriminate. It's all
22 over the place. NOAA [sic] just announced since its
23 record keeping began in 1888, that this past July was
24 the warmest on record, and that's not such a nice
25

1 announcement, but it does have a positive platform
2 for New York and our neighbor New Jersey. It's
3 created a resiliency mechanism adjust sea level rise.
4 Our fresh water is being flagrantly wasted. The
5 world bank has stated that by 2025, 2.6 billion
6 people will live with absolute water scarcity and
7 speaking of 2025, that's the same year that the
8 city's LAP ends, Land Acquisition Protection, which
9 Mr. Appleton knows a lot about. The--there was a
10 lawsuit. This is the 2010 annual report for the
11 city's law department. There was a lawsuit that was
12 settled and as I said, it ends in 2025. The--our
13 forests provide about 60 percent of our water supply,
14 and sorry, 60 million people with fresh water and the
15 federal government has allowed fracking in federal
16 forests, which creates a terrible oxymoron, and
17 directly to New York City it's called the Delaware
18 Aqueduct. There's a lot of work that's going to be
19 happening on the Delaware Aqueduct, and then one of
20 the major projects is the bypass tunnel, and this is
21 due to the fact that DEP was lying for too many years
22 and had finally go put in its proper place and has
23 paid money, necessary money, to communities upstate
24 that have been negatively impacted by all of the
25

1 major links of the tunnel. And according to River
2 Keeper's scientists, the--if there is a catastrophic
3 failure of the tunnel due to pressure, that 50
4 percent of the city's water supply will be lost, and
5 that the city's reservoirs will run out of water in
6 just 80 days. And there was a very important MIT
7 study last August, and I'm going to condense it.
8 Combustion emissions adversely impact air quality and
9 human health and they have stated those emissions
10 from electrical power generation, industry,
11 commercial, and residential sources, road
12 transportation, tail pipe emissions, marine
13 transportation and rail transportation.
14 Epidemiological evidence is used to relate long term
15 population exposure to sector induced changes in the
16 concentrations of parts per million and ozone to
17 incidences of premature death. They are estimating
18 200,000 premature deaths per year due to combustion
19 emissions of carbon and methane, and 10,000 deaths
20 due to changes in ozone concentrations. And this is
21 again another reason why the city's idling law is of
22 the utmost urgency. And on the State level, Cuomo
23 created the Community Risk and Resiliency Act. He
24 was supposed to sign it by the end of the summer, but
25

2 guess what? He has not signed it. So the City
3 Council can possibly do a little necessary nudging in
4 that area. And finally, on a funny endnote, because
5 it's true, there's a great publication called City
6 and State, and they have a contest. For the first
7 time ever, everyone has the opportunity to get
8 something out of our state's rampant political
9 corruption, a free dinner. You, if you can correctly
10 guess the next elected official to be indicted in New
11 York State. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Definitely need
13 change. I don't know if that has anything to do with
14 climate change, though. Okay, we'll have the next.

15 TELIA SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Telia Smith [sic]. I'm a resident of Washington
17 Heights, proud to be represented by Ydanis, though
18 he's not here. I saw him outside with some Garufinah
19 [sic] climate migrants, ladies that have been flooded
20 out of their community and have been criminalized
21 here in New York City with ankle bracelets and
22 separated from their children. So I wasn't surprised
23 to see my representative out there. I was surprised
24 to see only Councilman Torres from the Bronx
25 supporting this resolution as the Bronx is on the

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front lines of climate injustice and climate risk.
And while I live in Washington Heights, I always say
I give my best hours to the Bronx. That's where I'm
working with Bronx Climate Justice, a group of
environmental justice and workforce and community
groups that are going to be gathering at 9:00 a.m.
the morning of the climate march, marching over the
Madison Avenue Bridge to Harlem to really shine a
spotlight on what's happening uptown before we join
the millions downtown and demanding climate justice.
So, the public and politicians must indeed come
together as brothers and sisters of the human race,
along with our neighbors outside our borders and
inside of our jails. Resolutions are only as good as
their outcomes. The United Nations will declare
resolutions this month to determine the future of the
planet, but the actual outcomes are up to us, all of
us. We are so proud to be part of a diverse and
vibrant community of problem solvers. Ain't no
hustle like a New York hustle. Don't even get me
started about the BX, but what are the outcomes we're
seeking? Should climate change be one more game of
survival of the fittest? Do we let our waterfront
communities drown, drive out the elders and poor

2 unable to pay rising rent, clean one neighborhood to
3 dump on another? As New Yorkers, survival isn't
4 enough. We like to thrive. The Global Climate
5 Justice Movement is calling Vive [sic] Bien [sic], to
6 live well, well-being. Even the animals, trees and
7 the earth herself deserves it. In the Bronx and with
8 our neighbors across the city we've done some
9 thinking about what we believe is best for the
10 wellbeing of our people, and we call upon the New
11 York City Council to do more than sign resolutions,
12 but take action in the following. Number one is stop
13 Fresh Direct [sic]. New York City cannot be taken
14 seriously in a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases,
15 then subsidize a diesel truck based company to
16 relocate their dirty business on highly prized
17 waterfront land in an asthma plagued and flood risk
18 community. Dodging environmental impact statements
19 and living wages and misallocating subsidies cannot
20 be the MO of a city truly dedicated to climate
21 resiliency. The dirty air and water in the Bronx
22 doesn't stay within our borders. Number two, stop
23 redlining green. Oh, my goodness. Number two and
24 the bell rang. I'll just give you the highlights. If
25 we want to transform our economy from brown to green,

1 we need to dedicate resources in a fair distribution
2 that prioritize our most vulnerable. I'll tell you
3 right now, I've been working on a program for retro
4 fits. You've heard a lot about them. Not one Bronx
5 contractor is qualified by the state to get those
6 subsidies to do the work. If we want to see jobs
7 created, we need to have that trickle down to our
8 local contractors, local workers. We need renewable
9 energy that are accessible to low and middle income
10 communities. The city has done a great job in
11 banning number six dirty oil in some of the oldest
12 buildings that have been burning it. However, in
13 theory, you guys are fuel neutral. Which means Con-
14 Edison is taking advantage of this moment to push
15 natural gas, and a lot of landlords don't realize
16 that they have a clean and more affordable option in
17 biodiesel. So we hope the City Council will inform
18 their community about that. We've talked a lot about
19 front line communities. We need evacuation plans for
20 NYCHA and for Riker's Island. Those are--and we also
21 need to stop criminalizing our youth, right? As we
22 talk about protecting the future, we--I work every
23 day with youth in the Bronx, and we try to connect
24 youth to their--make them feel like they're part of
25

2 the ecosystem, and that's really hard when they are
3 being targeted and adults are aiming to kill them.
4 Like, we need to have some accountability on that,
5 whether it's Bronx, Brooklyn, Ferguson, the Mexican
6 border. We support Global Kids initiative for
7 climate education in all public schools. You're going
8 to hear plenty about community gardens from my friend
9 Ray sitting next to me. We want to think clean air,
10 which means real programs inside of these federal
11 non-attainment areas, right? We've been waiting.
12 The Clean Air Act was what, in the 60's? The UN's
13 been talking about this for 30, 40 years. We need
14 enforceable mechanisms, not just ideas. For future
15 generations, our children now and the entire planet,
16 we call upon the New York City Council to take
17 action. We are the ones we've been waiting for.
18 Thank you very much.

19 RAYMOND FIGUEROA: Good afternoon, and
20 thank you Chairman Richards for this opportunity to
21 come before the Committee on Environmental Protection
22 as well as your esteemed colleagues for convening
23 this hearing on the People's Climate March. My name
24 is Ray Figueroa. I am President of the New York City
25 Community Garden Coalition, an organization dedicated

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to the preservation, creation and empowerment of
community gardens through education, advocacy and
community organizing. I am also the Program Director
with a community-based environmental organization,
Friends of Brook Park, located in the South Bronx
where among a host of pro-active community-based
sustainability and resiliency initiatives I oversee
the Brook Park Youth Farm which just to dovetail on
what my esteemed colleague just mentioned, we run,
we're proud and very privileged to be running an
alternatives to incarceration program, engaging court
adjudicated youth from the South Bronx and pro-active
community-based environmental initiatives, not the
least of which is producing food organically and
distributing that food, that nutritious food
throughout the community of Mott Haven in the South
Bronx. Thank you. My work in this capacity has been
critically recognized by the prestigious
International Environmental Litigation Education and
Advocacy Organization Natural Resources Defense
Council, NRDC. In this regard, I am the NRDC New
York City 2014 Environmental Advocate of the Year.
And this is all as a result of work happening through
community gardens. I'm here testifying in support of

1 Resolution 0356, and I'm just going to try to cut to
2 the chase as much as possible. As you are already
3 well aware of, People's Climate March aims at
4 catalyzing action by government, business, finance
5 industry and civil society in areas for new
6 commitments and substantial scalable and replicable
7 contributions to the summit that will help the world
8 shift towards a low carbon economy. Did you know how
9 I've heard that already substantial scalable and
10 replicable contributions to shift toward a low carbon
11 economy are already occurring right here in New York
12 City via the aggregate of proactive sustainable and
13 resilient ecological contributions of community
14 gardens. What are these ecological contributions? A
15 cursory survey of the city's community gardens
16 reveals the following, and in the process further
17 helps to underscore why the community garden movement
18 in general and the New York City Community Garden
19 Coalition in particular are in support of the City
20 Council People's March Resolution. Community Gardens
21 are actively engaged in the following cost effective
22 sustainable and resilient activities. Number one,
23 carbon sequestration via composting that diverts
24 methane and other carbon constituent gases from
25

2 landfills at pennies on the municipal dollar.
3 Actually, storing carbon in the soil, fertilizing the
4 soil in the process and bio remediating urban soils.
5 Number two, storm water run-off mitigation that
6 prevents overwhelming of our aging combined sewage
7 system infrastructure as result of the surface
8 permeability of soils in community gardens, promoting
9 storm water infiltration, root zones of trees and
10 plants absorbing water from these storms. A
11 conventional sewage system infrastructure retrofit
12 would be astronomical in cost, yet Community Gardens
13 has a green infrastructure form of storm water
14 mitigation are extremely, extremely accessible to the
15 city right now. Heat, number three, heat island
16 mitigation as a result of the tree canopy. In other
17 words, natural cooling centers at a fraction of the
18 cost of conventional cooling centers that are at risk
19 of failing as a result of heat wave related power
20 outages or storm related power outages, as we know
21 with super storm Sandy that the Con-Ed substation in
22 the lower east side of Manhattan exploded and as a
23 result power was not available to--as well as
24 buildings, the utility rooms of apartment buildings
25 were blown out and therefore power was out for quite

2 some time, putting people's health directly at risk.
3 Number four, air filtration as a result of plants and
4 trees reducing particulate matter pollutants from
5 motor vehicles as well as buildings at a fraction of
6 the cost reducing asthma in the process. We have had
7 any number of individuals come to Community Gardens
8 and say, "You know, the air smells really fresh here.
9 I don't need my pump." Number five, I want to draw
10 particular attention to this, resiliency sustainable
11 resiliency factor decentralize and neighborhood based
12 food production. The current centralized food system
13 hub, the largest in the world, is located in the
14 Hunt's Point Terminal Market in the Bronx. It's
15 carbon footprint along with that of supermarkets is
16 as big if not bigger than New York City. And the
17 Hunt's Point Market almost went under water during
18 super storm Sandy. It was just a matter of minutes in
19 terms of high tide, full moon and the storm surge
20 from super storm Sandy that avoided that Hunt's Point
21 Market from being knocked out and therefore our
22 access to food disrupted. In the case of storm and
23 heat wave related power outages, Community Gardens
24 sustainably promote local, decentralized,
25 neighborhood-based community resilience by ensuring

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an unspoiled steady supply of nutritious food even in the midst of disaster or some other emergency. The current centralized food system that we have is not sustainable. Okay. And what did I'd--okay. Number six, other value added sustainability and resiliency contributions include the following, crime reduction through natural green environment of community gardens, mitigation of aggression. A reference was already made to ADD, but attenuating ADHD has been copiously researched by environmental psychologists and it's a well-established fact that community gardens have this impact on people's nervous systems and young people at that. Environmental Education learning labs for local schools, alternatives to incarceration for court adjudicated youth, employment program opportunities for youth, entrepreneurship opportunities, food based economic development opportunities, community beautification, safe space for children and seniors, for all of these non capital intensive cost-effective reasons, community gardens are leading the way on climate change. Community gardens are strategically well-positioned as a climate change solution. We in the Community Garden movement and the New York City Community

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Garden Coalition understand climate change. We get it. We understand also what it will take on the ground literally and figuratively speaking to resolve this ecological crisis, and so we are marching the People's Climate March and we support the City Council People's Climate March Resolution 356, and we urge all members to vote yes. Finally, I'd just like to say that we certainly hope that distinguished members of this body will be sufficiently moved beyond the symbolism of today's vote, supporting the People's Climate March and ultimately join with all of us in the front line EJ and Climate Justice communities in the long march for environmental justice, and ultimately consider from our perspective to permanently preserve all community gardens in the city as they represent a truly holistic, sustainable, resilient and cost-effective climate change solution. The global is the local, and New York City being the greatest city in the world has a golden opportunity here to lead by example. What you as leaders here in the City Council do matters and people all over the world including the global leaders will take note. Thank you very much. I am open to questions on how we

2 can specifically look for implementation of these
3 initiatives.

4 [applause]

5 JEREMY SANDERS: Hi good afternoon. Thank
6 you for the opportunity to speak. Mine is more of a
7 personal story. My name is Jeremy Sanders. I'm the
8 President of the District Council 37 Local 1501
9 representing New York Zoological Employees. I work at
10 the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo where
11 I'm a Senior Keeper, Senior Animal Keeper in the
12 ornithology department, or for simpler terms, I'm a
13 bird keeper. I work in a field where we have been
14 able to see firsthand how fragile the world can be.
15 Global warming, whether you believe it exists or not,
16 its effects cannot be ignored. Climate change is
17 here. We are teetering on a climate catastrophe. We
18 all remember Sandy. Call it a hurricane or a super
19 storm, its effects were impossible. We have lived
20 through hurricanes before. In fact, most seem to come
21 and go without a second thought. Many just seem to
22 make the weather channel a little bit more
23 interesting. We have heard many stories about damage
24 Sandy caused, the financial loss, the loss of life,
25 the loss of homes. I was born in the Bronx, grew up

1 in Westchester. I now live in Rockland County Stony
2 Point. With my wife and son I live in a house that
3 was constructed in 1880. It has weather over 70
4 hurricanes. On the night of October 29th, 2012,
5 while the city was preparing for a strong hurricane
6 and we knew it was going to be a bad one, we had no
7 idea what we were in for. During times of emergency
8 you often hear about essential personnel or emergency
9 personnel being the only ones allowed on the roads,
10 doctors, nurses, police, fire, E-M-T and zoo keepers.
11 We have our own contingency plans in effect. Mostly
12 sitting and waiting, I kept in contact with my family
13 and they were safe throughout the night, although
14 they did lose power and phones sporadically. Back at
15 the zoo I slept in my car thinking I would be able to
16 hear and see any emergencies that would arise. It was
17 eerily relaxing, but the howl of the wind hid the
18 sound of the trees crashing down. At about 1:00 a.m.
19 I decided to patrol my area and came across a large
20 tree that had crashed through the perimeter fence
21 from some of the--from some of our crane yards.
22 Fortunately, the animals were safe, but now they
23 needed to be secured. It wasn't easy to wake up my
24 colleagues, but once we were all up we rallied
25

2 together and rounded up the cranes and relocated them
3 to safe quarters. The rounding up part was no simple
4 task, standing about five feet these cranes are fast
5 and formidable in daylight, scratching and slashing
6 with their feet and stabbing with their bills, it was
7 a first involved rounding up and catching two of them
8 in darkness and in the rain and wind. Two days later
9 I returned home and began to assess the damage. I
10 was lucky. About 40,000 dollars worth of damage to
11 my home and property. Many people I work with lost
12 their homes, their cars, their belongings. They
13 won't argue with you over whether or not the climate
14 change is here. This is I found really interesting,
15 actually. I was looking it up last night. Twenty-
16 five, 46 and 21 sounds like locker combination. It's
17 the approximate number of hurricanes that have hit
18 New York in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. We're
19 only 14 years into the 21st century and we have had
20 almost as many as the 19th century and we're almost
21 at the halfway mark of the 20th. The People's
22 Climate March is here because we need to make a
23 change and the change needs our support. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you. That
25 was actually my locker combination by the way. It

2 was a joke. Just want to say thank you all for your
3 testimony. We certainly heard you loud and clear.
4 The idling is something that this committee is really
5 going to be looking at and working with DEP on
6 oversight on because we understand that this is a
7 major issue in New York City and if we don't do
8 something about it we're only adding to the problem.
9 Community Gardens, I just want to touch on that. In
10 the Rockaways we have now two beautiful community
11 gardens. I just had the privilege of visiting one on
12 Thursday where I bought my vegetables, my fresh
13 vegetables, spinach and all that good stuff. So, it
14 is critical, and we're actually going to--we're
15 looking to have more. So we may end up with like
16 three or four eventually because we have so much city
17 owned land out there. And you know, you're doing
18 such a phenomenal job. I mean, the food what they
19 don't sell they're giving to food pantries, and
20 residents are coming in. I mean, I bought a ten
21 dollars worth. I mean, I could probably feed a family
22 of 20 with the amount of stuff I walked away from.
23 Yes, I did eat a lot of it myself, but that's another
24 story for another day. And then I just wanted to
25 touch on the Clean Heat program, which we do notice.

2 In EJ communities, a lot of the building owners don't
3 necessarily have the resources to convert or to even
4 know how to get into the program, so we're actually
5 working with the Administration now. And I'm hoping
6 that we're going to come up with some centers or
7 something like that for smaller building owners who
8 may not have the means to actually, you know,
9 convert. So we heard you loud and clear and we look
10 forward to working with all of you as we move
11 forward. We understand that this is just--the march
12 is the beginning and then there's still so much more
13 work to do. So I'll add last points and then, you
14 know, we will--we're very quick.

15 TELIA SMITH: Thank you, Chairman. I just
16 wanted to say there's a number of people who couldn't
17 be here today, and if there were a portal online
18 where they could submit testimony, that would be much
19 appreciated.

20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Sure.

21 TELIA SMITH: And also, just to make
22 sure, don't convert to natural gas. Right?

23 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Yes.

24

25

2 TELIA SMITH: The biodiesel is cheap and
3 clean. Alright. Just wanted to make sure that was
4 clear.

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: We want solar.

6 TELIA SMITH: Hey, even better.

7 DENISE CATSMAN: The energy taskforce
8 that will be ali--should be aligned with EP can
9 institute what the state legislature put in place in
10 the 70's and everyone ignored. The Disaster
11 Preparedness Commission was created in the 70's, and
12 every single year, every single decade it was
13 ignored, and if it was in place, tropical storm Lee,
14 hurricane Irene, super storm Sandy wouldn't have done
15 the tremendous damage that it did do.

16 RAYMOND FIGUEROA: Yes, I'm just going to
17 focus on one, maybe two. One initiative, you just in
18 your remarks you alluded to in passing, city owned
19 land. We have a structural governance issue, those
20 of us in the environmental community. There is a
21 structural governance issue as to how the disposition
22 of land is determined. Right now, ULURP is
23 intertwined with SECRA [sic]. If any of you what
24 planning commission is made up, it's constituted of
25 real estate developers. It actually should be called

2 the Real Estate Development Commission, not the
3 Planning Commission. That--let me take the liberty.
4 That Real Estate Development Commission oversees,
5 that Planning Commission oversees SECRA. That is the
6 environmental review process for all disposition of
7 city land. There is an inherent conflict of interest
8 there and decisions are being made as we speak to
9 build where there is not the sewage system
10 infrastructure capacity, as in Coney Island, you
11 know, as in other areas. This is a make-- because
12 the economic reductionist analytical framework that
13 these real estate developers are engaging in is over-
14 riding and unbiased. So our recommendation is to
15 separate Planning Commission, have a separate SECRA
16 Commission that will be part of the overall ULURP
17 Process in determining how development goes forward.
18 The other is on the state level. We're looking to
19 have possibly city council put together a home rules
20 resolution that will go up to state DEC, Department
21 of Environmental Conservation. They have an area
22 known as, a designation known as critical
23 environmental areas. We are looking to have
24 Community Gardens, given all that I testified on
25 today, designated as critical environmental areas and

2 therefore, cannot and should not be developed on.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: It's a great idea.
5 Alright, next panel, next to last; Kristina Andrioti-
6 -Andreotta from Citizen's Action of New York, Annie
7 Wilson, New York Environmental Law and Justice
8 Project, Alexia Ilpo [sp?] from the CUNY Hunter
9 College and People's Climate March. I think I'm
10 seeing this right, Buck Moorehead from the New York
11 Passive House DCS in NYH2O, and Leah Barbell [sp?]
12 from 350 NYC. We'll just ask you to be sworn in.
13 We'll ask Samara to swear you in.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Can you please raise your
15 right hands? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
16 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth
17 today?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

19 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: I have a choice,
21 right?

22 KRISTINA ANDREOTTA: Good afternoon. I'm
23 going to try to do us all a favor and be very brief.
24 You've already heard from a lot of the experts. My
25 name is Kristina Andreotta. I'm the New York City

2 Campaigns Manager with Citizen Action of New York. We
3 are a statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization.
4 We're a member based organization, 20,000 members
5 statewide and we fight for racial, social, economic
6 and environmental justice. We are supporting the
7 People's Climate March because ultimately it is a
8 march for justice, justice for the youth whose
9 futures are on the line, justice for communities, low
10 income communities of color on the front lines where
11 homes and lives are directly threatened by climate
12 change, justice for residents whose health is
13 affected by global warming pollution and the ongoing
14 use of dirty and dangerous energies, oil, gas and
15 even nuclear where we have a nuclear power plant just
16 24 miles north of New York City, justice for workers
17 who need good jobs and could find meaningful
18 employment, building a sustainable energy
19 infrastructure where we harness the power of the wind
20 and the sun in distributively [sic] just and
21 equitable ways, and for those reasons we will have
22 members coming from all over the state on September
23 21st. And like many here today, I am grateful and
24 appreciative of the council and their willingness to
25 lead on this critical issue. Thank you for your

2 leadership. Councilman Richards, I know that you've
3 seen for yourself in the Rockaways in your district
4 firsthand how devastating climate change can be, and
5 I know others here as well. And we are running out
6 of time. New York must lead. As New York City goes,
7 so the world goes. And so I hope that you will not
8 stop at simply endorsing the People's Climate March,
9 but that this will truly be just the beginning and
10 that you will go on to pass meaningful legislation
11 and resolutions to guide New York City toward a 100
12 percent renewable energy future to protect our
13 environment, our city, our communities and our future
14 with just for all. Thank you.

15 ALEXIA ILPO: Greetings. This is
16 actually my first time here at City Hall, so I'm a
17 little bit nervous.

18 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Great, you're in
19 the people's house, so don't be nervous. It's your
20 house.

21 ALEXIA ILPO: This is my house.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: You know you pay my
23 salary.

24 ALEXIA ILPO: Thank you very much. I'd
25 like to thank the council and all its members, fellow

1 advocates and ladies and gentleman here in this room.
2 I'm from Hunter College studying political science
3 and environmental justice. I have a modest
4 background in advocacy. I'm not going to pretend,
5 but I am here representing the youth and fellow
6 students. There are but two issues I wish to bring
7 to the attention of the Council and to the ladies and
8 gentleman of this room. First, being that 20 percent
9 of public school students ages five to 10 do not know
10 where their food comes from. That's third graders
11 that don't know that vegetables grow in the ground.
12 The second thing, as I'm sure you're all aware, that
13 my generation is heavily involved in social media,
14 and because of this the amount of information being
15 rotated sometimes does not directly impact their
16 lives or impact their communities for that matter. In
17 my community in Queens, residents who were approached
18 on issues regarding GMO labeling, climate change, and
19 whether or not they would come to this march did not
20 even know that such things existed. I don't want to
21 assume that they didn't care. I urge the City Council
22 Members and the state of--the city of New York itself
23 to recognize the potential of the People's Climate
24 March. Undoubtedly, this will be a historical event
25

2 on the same fashion of the civil movement, civil
3 rights movement. And I for one just want to say that
4 I will be there and I will be representing other
5 students who do care about global warming. I also
6 just wanted to mention that I feel I represent here
7 the conscious students who will become the next
8 advocates and politicians and professionals. They may
9 not be in this room, but they will be here tomorrow,
10 and if Al Appleton was here, I would say, you know,
11 your grandchild is in good hands. So thank you so
12 much.

13 MANNIE WILSON: Great. Hi, thank you for
14 inviting us here today and I'm Mannie Wilson [sic]. I
15 work with the New York Environmental Law and Justice
16 Project and we serve and support the disenfranchised
17 and underserved in the city, and your Resolution 356
18 deserves to be commended and supported. And surely,
19 it'll get passed. The low carbon economy is
20 essential as well as a nuclear free economy, because
21 of Shima [sic] and other events that have taken
22 place, Shirnoble and other nuclear facilities in the
23 United States. We are in a nuclear community with
24 Indian Point up the river as you know. So Donovan
25 Richards, thank you so much for focusing on what is

2 important to us in our communities, first on health
3 and your first hearings on health and environmental
4 justice. I think that's really a good step towards
5 where we need to go given the construct of what's
6 taking place, and a lot of insolence by large non-
7 governmental organizations, a lot of nonprofits that
8 are being somehow creating priorities and policies
9 that most often are promoted by the large donors that
10 support them, and I think that in the way that you've
11 taken on as Chair and with your colleagues that
12 you've been able to focus on what's important, which
13 is the people in New York and what our needs are
14 within our community. And I think that's very, very
15 important. And I hope you continue to do so, and
16 won't wind up unduly insolence by some of these
17 interests that don't necessarily represent and
18 respect the needs of the people. So, with that said,
19 I also wanted to submit a copy of the Universal
20 Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth that had
21 been decided in 2010 in Cochabamba, and here you go.
22 It's a very important document. These are principles
23 that can help align, you know, various directions,
24 directives, bringing a global perspective to our
25 local issues and our respect for our mother earth and

2 a planet we live in, on and with. There's also, in
3 the construct of all the issues that are not being
4 considered, there's the issues of GMO's. There's the
5 issue of the military. There's the issue of the 51
6 percent of greenhouse gas related emissions which is
7 animals, animal agriculture. We need to be looking at
8 that as well, and that seems to be so often ignored
9 or emitted from the discussion. And I want to tell
10 you, I did 10 years of NGO work at the United Nations
11 with Delane Wang [sic], back in the late 90's, and
12 back then--I'll conclude right quickly. Two hundred
13 organizations had decided the top priority is to
14 remove the subsidies to fossil fuel and nukes, and
15 that was some time ago and we still have a way to go.
16 So, for the record, Delane Wang is no longer with us,
17 but she had spearheaded that work. And there was
18 still at that time the issues that linger today,
19 carbon trading, offsets, these type of market
20 solutions that do not reflect the needs, our needs,
21 for the few, I mean, the many and certainly advantage
22 the few that own the many, or infrastructures that we
23 live amongst. To conclude, I think we need more
24 public education campaigns and a general discussion
25 and awareness of the community that we live in, the

2 world that we live in, and I think that when people
3 are better informed there will be better decisions
4 and better systems for us all to somehow enhance.
5 Thank you very much. Bye.

6 BUCK MOORHEAD: Hi, my name is Buck
7 Moorhead. Thank you very much for having this
8 hearing. I've appreciated listening to everyone who's
9 been here. I've learned a lot myself about what
10 people are working on and I appreciate your patience
11 in how you have run the hearing and letting people
12 speak. I'm speaking on behalf of two anti-fracking
13 groups, Damascus Citizens and also NYH20. And as
14 many of us here in this room and around the city who
15 have been working on that issue for five or six years
16 now, you can't be anti something for too long without
17 saying, "Well, what's your plan for moving forward?"
18 And that--I'm an architect in the city. I became
19 fascinated with and eventually certified as a Passive
20 House Consultant. Passive House is a strategy for
21 energy conservation and I found that that was
22 something which helped me in conversations about
23 anti-fracking to have a potential solution. Most
24 scientists today believe that 80 percent of the
25 fossil fuels that are in known reserves, remain in

2 the ground. They--we do not do ourselves any benefits
3 to taking that fuel out of the ground even though we
4 know it's there. So, part of that mitigation, energy
5 conservation to look at buildings--well, let me say
6 80 percent of the energy that's used in New York City
7 is building energy, 40 percent nationally. New York
8 City is 80 percent because we actually use so much
9 public transportation whereas around the country, the
10 number becomes 40 percent because they're actually
11 using a lot of energy driving around. But that 80
12 percent is a significant amount of energy. So, if we
13 can look at saving building energy and Passive House
14 is something which is started in Europe in the 1990.
15 They've developed buildings that use 80 to 90 percent
16 less energy for heating and cooling. They've done
17 30,000 buildings. This is nothing that's fancy. It's
18 straight forward. It's smart planning, good quality
19 construction. It's completely doable right now. This
20 standard is, to give you an example, they--the
21 European Union by 2020, all new buildings are to be
22 near zero or net zero by 2020. That's five and a
23 half years from now. This is a completely achievable
24 world of actually, you know. The idea is you take a
25 building, make sure it uses as little energy as

2 possible that you can do, and then you find a way to
3 generate that energy through alternative means. So
4 that's, you know, something that we should be
5 obviously striving for and it's completely
6 achievable. These buildings are not just houses. The
7 name is unfortunate. They are schools, prisons, large
8 multifamily buildings, offices, court buildings, and
9 fire stations. I'll finish up quickly here. Bringing
10 the focus back to New York City, there is a New York
11 Passive House of which I am also representing. It has
12 been around for four years now in New York City.
13 There are buildings being built to Passive House
14 standards in Brooklyn and Queens now. There's
15 presently a 40 unit market rate Passive House rental
16 building in the planning stages for Manhattan that's
17 not--that is considered using electric heat for its
18 heating system. It's not going to need gas. So all of
19 the discussion about gas and the gas infrastructure,
20 expanding that, the fossil fuel industry, most of
21 their reserves are going to be fracked gas, like 90
22 percent of it. We cannot have, expect just because
23 it's there to allow ourselves the, kind of the easy
24 way out and just keep using it. You know, so we can--
25 we need a master plan for our energy future that

2 weans us off that fossil fuel and off fracked shale
3 gas. It is not natural. We do not need an expanded
4 gas infrastructure. We need an energy master plan
5 that is not determined by companies that will benefit
6 financially by that plan, but rather an energy master
7 plan determined by us, by you our representatives, an
8 energy master plan that looks at our energy resources
9 at public health and global environmental risk. New
10 York City can lead the way in our country. This City
11 Council can push our city forward thoughtfully and
12 intelligently. We are going to be having a teach-in.
13 So we support this resolution quite obviously.
14 There's going to be a teach-in that's part of the
15 People's Climate March on the 20th, Saturday, and if
16 you go to their website, it's Converge for Climate.
17 I'm not--it's going to be on the lower east side. I'm
18 not sure the time, but for people here if they wanted
19 to hear more about this and other matters at that
20 teach-in. Thank you very much.

21 LEAH BARBER: Hi, I'm Leah Barber [sp?],
22 and thank you Chairman Richards and all the members
23 of the committee and Samara for your patience this
24 afternoon. I applaud your resolution to support the
25 People's Climate March, and I invite you and I hope

2 that you will all, and everyone on the City Council
3 will actually join us on September 21st as we walk
4 through our beautiful New York City streets and
5 avenues. I hope, also, and I urge you to invite and
6 promote this event to your constituents, your
7 friends, your family, your neighbors, and we have
8 thousands and thousands of fliers that we're
9 distributing around the city and I hope that you will
10 encourage everyone to be there on September 21st. I'm
11 also going to make a plug. I haven't heard one
12 website given out today. So the place to go on the
13 net is peoplesclimate.org. It's a simple way to get
14 people plugged in and informed about the logistics
15 and other details about the march. I'm a former
16 dancer. I worked for over 25 years here as an artist
17 in New York City. I'm now an activist. I'm a member
18 of 350 New York City, and I've been working as a
19 volunteer with the People's Climate March Host
20 Committee all year to help make this mobilization a
21 historic and transformative moment. We see it not as
22 a one-off event, but as the beginning of an urban and
23 global movement of civic leaders and citizens working
24 together over the next months and years on behalf of
25 climate change and environmental justice. On

2 September 21st I will be walking not as I, but as we.
3 It's predicted that 80 percent of the world's growing
4 population will be living in cities by the middle and
5 end of this century. Eighty percent of emissions
6 come from cities. When city governments and leaders
7 take actions to curb the greenhouse gas emissions, to
8 lower their footprint and encourage and invite their
9 citizens to participate in that mission, it makes a
10 powerful difference. When cities act in tandem with
11 each other around the world, sharing resources and
12 ideas, it has the potential for creating the kind of
13 sustainable, global affect that we are all seeking.
14 The New York City Council is a leader in that global
15 network of cities that can make environmental
16 sustainability and climate justice in all of our
17 communities in actuality in a common way of life. We
18 are living at a historic moment in human history. We
19 who are alive today are witnessing a transformation
20 in how human beings must live on earth. In no small
21 part, this is the result of the urgency and
22 inevitability of catastrophic change in nature if we
23 continue living as a global community with our
24 current value system. The earth's temperature is
25 rising and we must be as concerned about that two or

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three degree rise as we would be if it was our own child up all night running 102 degree temperature. You all know, as members of this council committee, that in your discussions of sustainability you're being asked to think ahead five years, 15, 30, 50, 100 years from now, to think not only with good judgment and logic but also with imagination and empathy fueled by facts and personal witnessing. What will New York City look like in the future? What will the world look like in the future? You have willing and supportive partners in this effort and we'll all be gathering on September 21st. All of us who are concerned about climate change and the effects on the lives of our children and grandchildren are learning to think in a new way toward a future we will never see. I believe that all of us, legislators and citizens alike, must be willing to change to see the world and ourselves and our needs in it in a different way, a way that is about interdependence, not independence, sharing not owning, sustainability not flagrant wasteful consumerism. We must be guardians of our home, our earth in order to protect all citizens. We are

2 caretakers not profiteers. We're all in it together.
3 Thank you.

4 [applause]

5 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you so much.
6 Alrighty, we have our last panel coming up. You did
7 good. That is your first time here?

8 LEAH BARBER: Yeah.

9 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Seemed like you've
10 been here a long time.

11 LEAH BARBER: My first time speaking.

12 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Okay, got you.
13 Well, you did alright. Alrighty our last two
14 panelists, Barbara Harris from the Alliance for a
15 Green Economy and Marge Schab, or Schaab [sp?]. And
16 Samara Swanson is going to swear you in.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Can you please raise your
18 right hands? Do you swear or affirm to tell the
19 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
20 today?

21 BARBARA HARRIS: My name is Barbara
22 Harris, and I'm from the Granny Peace Brigade. You
23 have everyone here so far this day. It's been
24 exciting, and I have the grandmothers and also part
25 of the Alliance for a Green Economy, and the Granny

1
2 Peace Brigade is very active within the environmental
3 issue and supporting Alliance for Green Economy.
4 AGREE's [sic] primary focus is securing a carbon
5 free, nuclear free energy future predicted on the
6 closure of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant located
7 just 35 miles north of Midtown Manhattan. Finally,
8 in the last panel people did mention Indian Point,
9 and that's been one of my issues for a long time,
10 because 40 years ago I was up there with Pete Sieger
11 [sp?] saying, "Why are we building a nuclear power
12 plant near a major city? This is not right. This is
13 wrong." And it still is. We're still working at
14 changing that. Indian Point puts over 20 million
15 people at great risk and has been granted many
16 exceptions to safety regulations over the years so
17 that it continued to operate. And we now some of the
18 problems, but a couple that I'll just mention because
19 they hit me, is the evacuation plan from Indian
20 Point, which is sort of a dream of a plan, and
21 anything that happened at Indian Point definitely
22 hampers the health and safety of all people in
23 Manhattan and every borough in the city. It's too
24 close and it's two iffy. Indian Point has, of
25 course, safety records despite many safety exemptions

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granted to the NRC including corroded piping, leaking spent fuel pools and exploding transformers. It's been around for 40 years in operation and it should definitely be closed. It's licenses should never be repealed at this time, or reissued. Hudson River water used in the cooling process at Indian Point kills over one billion fish and other aquatics annually. I'm sure the gentleman from the Wildlife Society and many others would be very pained by that particular number. But there are alternative energy projects already slated to come online in the near future which will easily replace the electricity from Indian Point provided in the local grid. Coupled with conservation measures and upgrades to existing transmission lines, Indian Point's electricity is unnecessary to power our area. Indian Point can be replaced entirely with green energy at virtually no additional cost over time. And I'd like to just look at one project that is current now, and it's a city project, and I'm focused on New York City, although I know this is a global issue. It's the solar issue, the potential of solar energy in our city to end the use of fossil fuel, and there's a project right now happening and going on actually since 2007,

1 Sustainable City University New York has led the
2 implementation of multiple US Department of Energy
3 solar initiatives and partners to strategically build
4 solar energy within the city. New York City has been
5 actively engaged in solar initiatives since 2005,
6 when the City University launched the million solar
7 roofs initiative in partnership with the US
8 Department of Energy. In 2007, Sustainable CUNY led
9 the Mayor's Office in long term planning and
10 sustainability, developing and implementing
11 comprehensive plans for large scale solar integration
12 and it's something the Council can take on if the
13 Mayor is on this track, and it's there at City
14 College. And there have been Department of Energy
15 grant awards for this particular project. And the
16 heart of the matter for me as a retired educator, is
17 there's first of all, great solar market growth in
18 the area and you'll see a chart that is just 2006,
19 growing and growing and growing. So, and it will--
20 the more it grows, it will continue applying downward
21 pressure on the cost of solar in New York. What's
22 close to my heart is that City College has not only
23 built and developed and followed this project and
24 created and researched it, but is offering green
25

2 energy and other training programs for individuals,
3 unions, employers and other organization as a key
4 element of this commitment to sustainability. No
5 single institution offers CUNY's range and depth of
6 knowledge in so many sustainable related fields. With
7 23 colleges throughout the five boroughs, serving
8 230,000 degree program students and of the 200,000
9 continuing education students, CUNY has unmatched
10 capacity to offer credit bearing courses, certificate
11 programs, degrees and non-credit training programs.
12 It's a win/win for the city. Clean energy, cleaner
13 environment, educated students and potential jobs in
14 the environmental sector. So, I applaud your having
15 this meeting today and the resolution and the march,
16 and we'll all be there, and the Grannies will be
17 there, lots of us, supporting this because we do it
18 for our kids and our grandkids, and I wish I had a
19 picture of my grandchildren, too, but I don't have
20 that with me. And just one point you had asked
21 earlier, what's the value of the march to someone
22 else, and I've been in so many marches in my
23 lifetime, and they've been big and small, but big,
24 and it's--the march is energetic, but it has to move
25 so much past that, and we look to you for

2 legislation. The citizens speak, we act, we make
3 petitions, but we need legislators to say this time
4 we're changing. There are things out there for us to
5 change and I learned so much today and I love Brook
6 Park and the gardens and now that you have it in
7 Rockaway. I'm so impressed what people in communities
8 can do, but we look to you for the final solution
9 here. It's all--we're all in it together and we hope
10 we have the right moves. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Thank you.

12 BARBARA HARRIS: Thank you very much.

13 MARGE SCHAB: Hello, I'm Marge Schab
14 [sp?] . I am on the Board of Damascus Citizen for
15 Sustainability. This is probably mostly personal,
16 and I'm pleased first of all, Chairman Richards, to
17 sit here for all this time and you listen very
18 carefully to everyone. And I applaud your dedication
19 and I look forward to your leadership as we enter
20 into a new era which we must preserve you--I'm older
21 than you--and your children.

22 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Stop it.

23 MARGE SCHAB: Well I mean it. I--you
24 deserve all the praise I can possibly muster at the
25 moment. I am pleased that the Committee of

2 Environmental protection in this meeting is
3 discussing the resolution that New York City will
4 endorse the People's Climate March scheduled
5 September 21st. I endorse this resolution. We have
6 reached a fork in the road, and in order to ensure
7 the future of our health, we must take necessary
8 steps to reduce precipitously our use of fossil fuels
9 as quickly as possible. The use of fossil fuels
10 including natural gas, which is a fossil fuel causes
11 climate change. Also, the mining of fossil fuels,
12 especially fracked gas and oil produces a lot of
13 dangerous waste that have to be disposed of
14 somewhere. The trucking and disposal of these liquid
15 and solid waste is alarmingly unregulated.
16 Fortunately a frack waste bill has been introduced by
17 a member of the committee and to the New York City
18 Council. Frack waste in our city has been
19 detrimental effect on our environment and on the
20 health of all New Yorkers. I am glad that the New
21 York City Council has begun to address this issue,
22 and I urge its passage with some better definitions
23 and higher penalties. The most--it is most important
24 when expressing our concerns about the environment,
25 we understand that climate change is a real emergency

2 for each and every one of us. Climate change is
3 nothing less than a public health hazard. I wish that
4 is the three words we would use, because that's what
5 it is. When climate is altered, what will live and
6 what will not, where it rains and where it doesn't,
7 what food is available, where is there contamination,
8 air impacts, ozone spills, water contamination, all
9 this can happen. Moreover, methane in the air is the
10 highest it has ever been. This is why I call it a
11 public health crisis. This is the reason it's so
12 important to address courageously and deliberately
13 the causes of this crisis, not the symptoms.
14 Addressing the symptoms of climate change will not
15 stop its danger to our civilization. New York can
16 and New York should lead the way away from fossil
17 fuels into renewable energy sources. And today, many
18 people have given you great ideas and together we're
19 going to do it. Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 CHAIRPERSON RICHARDS: Wow. Well, I want
22 to thank you for coming out, both of you for coming
23 out and testifying today, as this concludes our
24 hearing. I just wanted to say that I am, as they
25 would say, young people would say turnt [sic] up

2 about the climate change march, People's Climate
3 Change March, and we, the City Council, we will be
4 marching in that parade, well, march. So we
5 certainly will be there in support because we have to
6 stand with the people, and for far too long,
7 corporations and other folk have got away with doing
8 what they wanted to do with our tax payer dollars,
9 and this is what has got us closer to this mess than
10 we would be if these things weren't happening. One
11 thing I learned during hurricane Sandy is that it
12 doesn't matter what your economic background is, it
13 doesn't matter what race you are, it doesn't matter
14 what religion you are, storms and climate change
15 doesn't discriminate. So we have a responsibility to
16 ensure that we are looking out for everyone in
17 particular as well as the most vulnerable communities
18 such as folk in the Rockaways who I represent. And I
19 don't want to say it today, but I think there should
20 be some sort of carbon tax, but that's another story
21 for another day. We can't go backwards, you know.
22 The bottom line is we can't go backwards. We have to
23 move forward. New York had to move forward. We have
24 to lead as many people said today the nation in this
25 fight because the nation is looking towards us. One

2 thing I want to say is when the people speak and act,
3 they can move mountains and mountains can move people
4 and mountains can move leaders, and I think that this
5 is what's so symbolic about this march that's about
6 to happen, is that you're going to--we're going to
7 shake the world up that day. And people are going to
8 really start to look. Your political leaders are
9 really going to start to look at and say, "Woah, this
10 many people came and we didn't know. We had no idea
11 that this was this serious." Even though we went
12 through a storm and even though people are still not
13 back in their homes. So there's still a lot of work
14 to be done. The People's Climate March is the
15 beginning. I want to say, it's been a lot of work
16 even before I was born, but the People's Climate
17 March to me is the beginning of a new era as you
18 said, and now we as government and this committee
19 along with Samara whose been very good in working
20 with us excellent for years. I think we're going to
21 accomplish something that no one thought we could
22 accomplish all of these years, and it's the dawn of
23 the new day. So with that being said, this will now
24 conclude our hearing, which went, I think what,
25 around three or four hours, but I honestly listen to

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each and every one of you, and I always tell people,
"You don't know everything." You know, there's always
more you can learn and I learned every--something
every time I sit before people such as yourselves in
this fight. So thank you so much for coming out. God
bless you all for being here. Thank you.

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COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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 September 10, 2014