

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR, JOINTLY WITH  
THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR, JOINTLY WITH  
THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

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Thursday, June 26, 2025

Start: 1:20 P.M.

Recess: 3:48 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Chair of  
Civil Service and Labor  
Hon. Jennifer Gutiérrez, Chair of  
Technology

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Erik D. Bottcher  
Tiffany Cabán  
Eric Dinowitz  
Oswald Feliz  
Kamillah Hanks  
Robert F. Holden  
Julie Menin  
Francisco P. Moya  
Vickie Paladino  
Yusef Salaam  
Julie Won

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING: Brewer,  
Farías, and Williams

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR, JOINTLY  
WITH THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY  
A P P E A R A N C E S

Alex Ford,  
Executive Director of Research and Collaboration  
under the Office of Technology and Innovation  
(OTI)

Pauline Toole,  
Commissioner of the New York City Department of  
Records and Information Services (DORIS)

Katrina Porter,  
Deputy Commissioner of Human Capital at the  
Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
(DCAS)

Prince Gupta,  
Associate Commissioner for Application  
Engineering at Office of Technology and  
Innovation (OTI)

Rachael Fauss,  
Senior Policy Advisor at Reinvent Albany

Sarah Roth,  
Legal Intern at The Surveillance Technology  
Oversight Project ("S.T.O.P.")

Laura Moraff,  
Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society's Digital  
Forensics Unit

Alex Spyropoulos  
Director of Government Relations at  
Tech: NYC

Malek Al-Shammary,  
Independent Budget Office (IBO)

Davon Lomax,  
Political Director at District Council 9 and the  
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

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

Richie Lipkowitz,  
Representing—Self

Rafael Espinal,  
Executive Director of the Freelancers Union;  
Former State Assembly Member; Former New York  
City Council Member

Nadira Pittman,  
Ethics of AI in the Workplace

Liliana De Lucca,  
Representing—Self

William Medina,  
Organizer for Workers Justice Project

Norma Simon,  
Representing—Self

Faisal Lalani,  
Representing—Self

Adam Scott Wandt, J.D., M.P.A  
Associate Professor at John Jay College of  
Criminal Justice, The City University of New York  
(CUNY)

Foluso Ogundepo,  
Experience Designer, Researcher, and Product  
Manager: Representing—Self

Michele Anne Blondmonville,  
Lead for Humanity

Beverly Blondmoville,  
Lead for Humanity

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR, JOINTLY  
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A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Daniel Wolf,  
Director of State Programs at Alliance for  
Digital Innovation

Samantha Sanchez,  
Program Manager for Common Cause New York

Cynthia Conti-Cook,  
Director of Research & Policy at the  
Collaborative Research Center for Resilience

Olivia Gonzalez Killingsworth,  
Member of SAG-AFTRA

Christopher Leon Johnson,  
Representing-Self

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2 SERGEANT PAYTUVI: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Committee on Technology, jointly with  
4 the Committee on Civil Service and Labor, recorded on  
5 June 26, 2025, located in Chambers by Nazly Paytuvi.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon, and  
7 welcome to the New York City Council Hearing of the  
8 Committee on Civil Service and Labor, jointly with  
9 the Committee on Technology. At this time, please  
10 place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent  
11 mode.

12 If you wish to testify, please go to the  
13 back of the room to fill out a testimony slip.

14 At this time, and going forward, no one  
15 is to approach the dais. I repeat, no one is to  
16 approach the dais.

17 Chairs, we are ready to begin.

18 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: [GAVEL] Good  
19 afternoon, I am Council Member Carmem De La Rosa,  
20 Chair of the Committee of the Civil Service and  
21 Labor. Welcome to today's joint hearing, held in  
22 collaboration with Chair Gutiérrez and the Technology  
23 Committee, to discuss the impact of automation and  
24 artificial intelligence on the New York City  
25 workforce.

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In addition to today's oversight topic,  
we will be hearing the following legislation:

Introduction 372, sponsored by Council  
Member Keith Powers, in relation to establishing  
timelines for the approval of permits and expanding  
real time tracking of pending permits.

Introduction 540, sponsored by Council  
Member Brannan, in relation to an assessment of a  
cloud-first policy for city technology systems.

Introduction 1066, sponsored by Council  
Member Williams, in relation to the creation of an  
interagency task force to examine the impacts of  
artificial intelligence on civil service and civil  
service employees.

Introduction 1235, sponsored by Council  
Member Brewer, in relation to a creation of a  
centralized system for processing Freedom of  
Information Law (FOIL) requests.

Resolution 860, sponsored by Majority  
Leader Farías, in relation to calling on the NYC  
Department of Citywide Administrative Services  
(DCAS) to develop and implement a qualifying practical  
exam for painters as part of a civil service testing  
process.

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In recent years, we have witnessed the rapid advancement of automation and artificial intelligence technologies. AI assisted tools like chatbots and machine learning models are now commonplace across a range of industries, including government. These technologies offer exciting possibilities such as streamlining processes, analyzing large data sets, and improving operational efficiency.

But there are also some pressing concerns:

- How are these tools handling private or sensitive information?
- Are the algorithms trained on complete and unbiased information?
- What are the consequences when decisions about public services or benefits are made by automated systems instead of humans?
- How do we ensure that these technologies support, rather than displace, the dedicated workers who keep our city running?

The City Council has taken important steps to regulate the use of AI. In 2021, the City Council enacted Local Law 144, which prohibits the

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use of automated employment decision tools unless they've undergone an independent bias audit. And in 2022, the City Council enacted Local Law 35, requiring city agencies to report annually on their use of automated decision systems. Today's hearing builds on this work.

Our goal is to ensure that the City embraces innovation without compromising transparency, fairness, or the rights of workers. We want AI automation to enhance the work of our municipal workforce, not replace it. The Committee looks forward to hearing from the Office of Technology and Innovation, OTI, and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, DCAS, about how these technologies are being used and what steps we take to protect workers while responsibly integrating new tools.

We also look forward to hearing feedback on Introduction 1066 as we consider how best to monitor the long term impacts of artificial intelligence on civil service and ensure workers have a voice in shaping those policies. I'd like to thank the committee staff, Senior Policy Analyst Elizabeth Arzt, Policy Analyst Justin Campos, and Senior



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Legislative Counsel Rie Ogasawara, for their hard work in preparing for this hearing. I would also like to thank my Chief of Staff, James Burke, Legislative Director; Kiana Diaz; and Frayn Familia, Director of Communication.

I would like to recognize by Council Member Williams, Majority Leader Farías, obviously, Chair Gutiérrez is here, Council Member Holden, and Council Member Brewer, Council Member Cabán, and Council Member Menin.

(BACKGROUND CHATTER)

We are going to pause for a second; our Zoom is down for a minute. And then I will turn it over to Chair Gutiérrez once the Zoom is back up.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, I now turn it over to Chair Gutiérrez for her opening statement.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair De La Rosa. Welcome, and happy last day of school for everybody. I'm Council member Jennifer Gutiérrez, Chair of the Committee on Technology. Thank you for joining us today on our hearing topic: *Oversight - The Impact of Automation on the New York City Workforce.*

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I'm especially excited to be chairing  
this hearing with Chair De La Rosa and to look at AI  
from multiple angles of how it affects the workforce  
in the city.

Artificial intelligence or AI, it's  
already here, it's in our phones, in our schools, in  
our doctors' offices, your HR department, and it's  
moving fast—Faster than most of our systems are  
ready for.

But I want to be clear that AI can be  
good. It can be useful. It can help doctors detect  
illnesses earlier. It can help teachers reach  
students in different ways, and it can help  
government translate and deliver services more  
effectively. If it's done transparently and in the  
right way, it can expand access and reduce  
inefficiency if we get it right. That's why we're  
here.

Our job is to ask who built this, who  
benefits, who's being harmed, and what happens when  
something goes wrong. This matters most for the  
people on the ground, our city workforce. If they  
don't understand how AI is being used, if they're not  
trained, if their feedback isn't being actively heard

and integrated, then we're building brittle systems with no accountability. Take ACS, for example. If frontline workers don't know why a family is flagged as high risk, and the answer is something like "a parent grew up in foster care", then we are not just embedding bias, we're institutionalizing it.

AI models don't just reflect values, they define them, and without transparency or the ability to dissent, we risk locking in bad assumptions and calling it progress. We need public systems that are built for responsiveness, not just efficiency. That means real time feedback loops. That means public oversight. That means asking not just whether a model is accurate, but whether it's serving the public good and who gets to define that.

We can't keep reacting to the effects of AI after harm has already occurred. We must proactively shape how these tools operate, build them to reflect our values, and design them to adjust when they fail. Because the alternative, letting automation quietly reshape our public institutions without public input, is not governance, it's abdication.

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As chair, I've tried to bring that lens to everything we do. And today's hearing is part of that ongoing work. Because technology doesn't belong to CEOs or engineers alone, it belongs to all of us. And if it's going to shape our future, then our voices need to shape that too. I want to thank the Tech Committee Staff Policy Analyst, Erik Brown; Legislative Counsel, Irene Byhovsky; our Chief of Staff, Anya Leher; Legislative Associate Victoria Peters; and our Fellow, Josmary Ochoa-Cruz, for their work in preparing for today's hearing. And I want to recognize Committee Member Erik Bottcher, who has joined us from the Tech Committee today. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much, Chair Gutiérrez.

I will now turn to Council Member Williams for her opening statement.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. Artificial intelligence is no longer a concept of the future. It's in our workplaces, our schools, and our government. And for many, it's raising real questions about privacy, fairness, and job security.

The truth is, AI is already here. That's why we need to understand how it's being used, assess

its impact, and ensure it's not undermining the rights or voices of working people, especially those in public service. That same technology is being used in our city systems, too.

Civil servants are encountering AI in hiring platforms, shift scheduling, and performance tracking tools, sometimes without even knowing it. And while these tools are often marked as "neutral" or "efficient", we know they can replicate bias, obscure accountability, and quietly shift the power dynamics of the workplace.

Intro 1066 is a response to that reality. This bill would establish a dedicated task force bringing together agency leaders, technologists, labor voices, and civil service employees themselves to examine how AI is being used across city government and how it's impacting the workforce.

The task force would meet regularly and stay engaged, not as a symbolic body, but as an active mechanism for oversight, data sharing, and accountability. Just as importantly, it would create a formal channel for workers to report how AI is showing up in their day-to-day jobs, what's helpful, what's harmful, and where guardrails are urgently

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needed. We cannot afford to treat these changes as inevitable or invisible. We need to study them, understand them, and plan for them.

This bill is about protecting people, not just adapting to technology, and making sure the future of our workforce is shaped by data fairness and public accountability. Thank you, Chairs.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much, Council Member Williams. We now turn to Majority Leader Farías for her opening statement.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chairs De La Rosa, Gutiérrez, and my colleagues, for the opportunity to speak on Resolution 860, which calls on the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to include a qualifying practical exam in the civil service testing process for municipal painters.

This legislation is the result of a meaningful and necessary call to action from the District Council Nine of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. I want to thank them for their advocacy, partnership, and leadership in helping to shape a solution that centers on worker quality, job readiness, and public accountability.

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Currently, the City's hiring process for painters relies solely on a multiple choice test and an education and experience application. Far too often, this method fails to assess hands-on skills that are essential to the trade. We only learn that someone isn't qualified after they've been hired, when they show up to a job site and can't perform the basic tasks at hand. That inefficiency wastes City time, money, and disrupts project timelines.

Resolution 860 offers a straightforward fix. Maintain the existing written exam, but require that all candidates who pass it proceed to a practical skills evaluation. This second stage would ensure that they can physically demonstrate the proficiency necessary to be certified as municipal painters.

To further strengthen fairness and accuracy in the hiring process, the Resolution also recommends a minimum passing score of 70% on the practical exam, a clear full-time equivalent formula for converting part-time experience, so all applicants are evaluated equitably, and crediting graduates of non-certified painter apprenticeship

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programs with one full year experience, recognizing  
the rigor and job readiness of those programs.

While DCAS has already had the authority  
to design the structure of these exams, this  
resolution sends a strong message that it's time to  
adopt higher, trained, aligned standards in civil  
service testing. A two-stage process, written and  
practical, ensures we are hiring painters who are not  
only knowledgeable but capable of doing the work from  
day one. Ultimately, this is about raising  
performance standards, safeguarding public resources,  
and ensuring excellence across our municipal  
workforce.

Thank you for your time and consideration  
today. I respectfully urge your support of this  
resolution to promote fairness, efficiency, and  
professionalism in City hiring. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you,  
Majority Leader.

We now turn to Council Member Brewer for  
her opening statement.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
much. I'm talking about Intro 1235. What it would do  
is require DORIS (Department of Records and



Information Services), which is a wonderful agency headed up by Commissioner Pauline Toole, to create a centralized Freedom of Information request website—which exists, but it does need some help. It would receive, track, update, and post responses to the agency's FOIL requests. It would also require the commissioner to formulate performance guidelines for agencies based on the FOIL response statistics for each agency, and to convene meetings of agencies' FOIL officers regarding the implementation and updates.

The reason we're doing this is a couple of reasons: Number one, Reinvent Albany introduced their report in 2025 called *Freedom of Information Law*, and it felt that there was not enough response to FOILS. According to the report, the public can wait months or sometimes years for city agencies to provide the records that they've requested. About 15% of the FOIL requests submitted in the first quarter and second quarters of 2024 were still open one year later. The slowest agencies, according to the report, which I have right here, are the Department of Corrections, which averages 485 days, and the Mayor's

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Office, which averages 283 days. These agencies need the most public scrutiny.

The Intro is designed, as I said, to bring transparency to FOIL request processing across all agencies, making it easier for the public to track and access government records and to hold agencies accountable. I think we all feel that transparency and accountability are not optional in government.

And I just want to mention groups like the Foreign Press, Reinvent Albany, BetaNYC, Citizens Union, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the New York City Bar, the Legal Aid Society, the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, and others are supportive of this Intro. And I want to thank Sam Goldsmith from my office, Andrea Vasquez and Elliot Heisler from the Speakers' Office, Legislative Affairs. Thank you very much to both chairs.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you, Council Member Brewer.

We have also been joined by Council Members Feliz and Salaam.

We will be hearing testimony from representatives of the administration. And I now turn

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to the Committee Counsel to administer the oath for  
this panel of administrative officials.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: We will now hear from  
the administration. Before we begin, I will  
administer the affirmation. Panelists, please raise  
your right hand. I will read the affirmation once,  
and then call on each of you individually to respond.

Do you affirm to tell the truth, the  
whole truth, and nothing but the truth, before this  
committee, and to respond honestly to council member  
questions?

*PANEL AFFIRMS*

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: You may begin.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Good afternoon,  
Chair Gutiérrez, Chair De La Rosa, and Members of the  
City Council Committees on Technology, Civil Service,  
and Labor. My name is Alex Ford, and I'm the  
Executive Director of Research and Collaboration  
under the Office of Technology and Innovation, or  
OTI. With me is Prince Gupta, OTI's Associate  
Commissioner for Application Engineering. Thank you  
for the opportunity to discuss our areas of expertise  
with the committees today and for holding a hearing  
on this timely topic.

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3 For those not familiar with our work, OTI  
4 has led the charge on the City's broad approach to  
5 artificial intelligence, or AI, policy and  
6 governance. Our AI Action Plan, which was released in  
7 the fall of 2023, is the first major step in  
8 developing a framework for city agencies to carefully  
9 evaluate AI tools and associated risks, help city  
10 government employees build AI knowledge and skills,  
11 and support the responsible implementation of these  
12 technologies to improve the quality of life for New  
13 Yorkers. We crafted this plan, the first of its kind,  
14 for any major US city, with feedback from 18 agencies  
15 alongside expert insights from industry and academia.

16 The plan introduced a set of phased  
17 actions for the City to complete, which would enable  
18 agencies to evaluate risks and determine whether a  
19 tool is the right technology to deliver better  
20 positive outcomes for New Yorkers. As of now, we have  
21 initiated or completed most of the 37 actions as  
22 described in the AI Action Plan.

23 With respect to the impact of AI on the  
24 municipal workforce, we've consistently taken the  
25 position that the work we're doing is not intended to  
aid in the replacement of any City jobs with AI.

Rather, review AI as a tool to support our employees to help free up more of their time to focus on the things that are most critical. Our objective is to prepare City personnel, whether they serve in technical roles or not, to effectively and responsibly work with and on AI.

To that end, there is an initiative in the AI Action Plan dedicated to building AI knowledge and skills within city government, including seven short and medium-term actions:

1. Exploring and pursuing opportunities to foster information sharing across agencies and teams.

2. Identifying high priority agency skills needs within the City's AI Steering Committee.

3. Assessing the landscape of internal and external resources to support AI knowledge building efforts.

4. Launching initial knowledge building efforts to plan the scope, structure, and priorities of new AI learning resources for City staff

5. Exploring opportunities to bring AI talent into city government for limited term projects

6. Centrally tracking and sharing with agencies emerging tools, use cases, and considerations.

7. Encouraging alignment on AI skills and duties to ensure city government job descriptions and civil service titles reflect the range of AI skills needed to support city efforts.

While many of these efforts are in progress or complete, the action taken will continue to inform our work going forward. The AI Action Plan is intended to create the framework to guide uses and impacts of AI as the technology continues to evolve and become more ubiquitous. We will also continue to monitor AI policy and engage our intergovernmental partners at all levels, as appropriate, in this rapidly changing regulatory landscape for emerging technologies.

I will now turn to the legislation on today's docket:

Introduction 1066 of 2024 seeks to create an interagency task force to examine the impacts of artificial intelligence on civil service and civil service employees.

We certainly agree that the impact of AI and the municipal workforce should be evaluated

comprehensively, and this subject focus dovetails with much of the work we have laid out in the AI Action Plan.

However, as written, we don't feel that the structure of the task force that Intro 1066 would create would produce the insights we collectively seek. We'd like to discuss further with the Council the ways in which we can collaborate to achieve the most useful outcome.

Introduction 540 of 2024 would require OTI to assess the feasibility of a Cloud-First policy, in which the use of a cloud computing system would be given preferential consideration when city agencies are developing technology solutions, strategies, and operational deployment plans for any software program, mobile application, or data storage needs.

We appreciate the Council's interest in the modernization of applications and storage solutions for the city. In practice, at least over the last several years, Cloud has been overwhelmingly the best solution for a large number of projects, and we have significantly expanded our portfolio with cloud-based solutions. Cloud was preferred over on-

premises technologies for a variety of reasons,  
including ease of deployment, scalability,  
prepackaged solutions, cost, and ability to upgrade  
as technology evolves. This preference is in line  
with a trend of offerings from companies that provide  
products that serve the needs of agencies seeking  
more modern, agile platforms.

That said, we don't believe a feasibility  
assessment of a Cloud-First policy would be useful.  
We already know from experience that when developing  
requirements for a new application or evaluating our  
proposal from another agency, it is not beneficial to  
limit the specific kind of technology utilized to  
fulfill a need.

Thank you once again for the opportunity  
to testify today. We will now take members'  
questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you.  
Could you also submit a copy of the testimony for us  
to have?

Any other agencies? Yes, you can go  
ahead.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: My name is Pauline  
Toole, and I am the Commissioner of the New York City



Department of Records and Information Services,  
commonly known as DORIS. Thank you for the  
opportunity to testify today and for the proposed  
local law to require a publicly accessible portal for  
Freedom of Information Law FOIL requests.

This administration is committed to  
ensuring that government is open, accessible, and  
transparent so that residents of New York City can  
engage with city government in a meaningful way.  
Providing access to government records helps  
accomplish that goal.

The Charter gives DORIS three  
responsibilities related to the City's records. The  
Municipal Archives accessions, preserves and makes  
available City government's historical records, which  
are mostly the unpublished records of government  
agencies and officials. The Municipal Library  
preserves and makes available the published records  
of City government. The Records Division sets records  
retention policies and works with agencies to  
modernize the management of their records—in all  
formats.

Introduction 1235 would amend the Chapter  
72 of the City Charter—the DORIS chapter—to require

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the agency, in consultation with the Office of Technology and Innovation, to develop and maintain a publicly accessible online portal to intake and process requests made pursuant to Article 6 of the New York State Public Officers Law, commonly called FOIL. The proposal would require the portal to include several data points in a machine readable format, permit full text searchability of all requests and responsive records, include an application programming interface, or API, issue automatic notifications of determinations provided to any person, list all records access and appeals officers at each agency, provide a variety of statistics, and post all responsive records. Further, it would require all agencies to provide a link to the portal on their websites and enter any FOIL requests received by agencies via other methods into the portal. It also requires consultation with the Office of Operations and public hearings on possible metrics, regular meetings with records access officers, and the development of an implementation plan to be submitted to the mayor and speaker.

DORIS appreciates the Council's interest in providing access to public records via an online

portal. In fact, the Department developed an open source Freedom of Information Law portal that launched in 2015 as a pilot and subsequently has become the primary point for public access to City agency records.

The genesis of the Open Records portal is a report issued by then Public Advocate Bill de Blasio in 2013 rating City agencies' FOIL practices. The report revealed the many difficulties members of the public faced in accessing public records, waiting years or forever for acknowledgement of the request or the actual records.

Because the DORIS mission is providing information to the public and government officials, we teamed up with the Office of Technology and Innovation's predecessor agency to use open source code to develop a one-stop site to submit and respond to FOIL requests. Currently, 53 agencies use the portal to receive and post responses to FOIL requests. We will soon onboard the New York County District Attorney's office. More than 526,000 FOIL requests have been filed on the portal, and 475,000 have been processed by agency staff.

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3 Our existing portal meets many of the  
4 requirements set forth in subdivision B of section  
5 3012 of the New York City Charter that would be  
6 created by the proposed local law. It offers a one-  
7 stop site for people to file requests for public  
8 records. It provides a unique identifier, and shows  
9 the date each request was submitted and acknowledged,  
10 and the expected response date. The portal publicly  
11 posts the agency's determination of a request, and  
12 when the request is denied entirely or in part, the  
13 exemptions cited under the Public Officers Law to  
14 deny the request.

15 Similarly, the portal already fulfills  
16 several of the requirements set forth in subdivision  
17 C of proposed Charter section 3012. It allows  
18 agencies to acknowledge receipt of a request within  
19 five business days, enter into dialogue with the  
20 requester, provide a summary response that includes  
21 the reason a request was denied, citing the relevant  
22 exemptions under State law, and upload records to  
23 which access has been granted. Prior to the  
24 development of the portal, an individual might have  
25 sent a request to an agency and never know if it was

received or being acted upon. The portal provides that information up front.

The Open Records Portal allows the public to filter search results by agency, dates, and the status of the request. The requests and responsive records could be filtered by additional categories, but this would require additional programming time. The proposed local law requires access to data about utilization of the portal, disaggregated by agency. Please note that the number of requests received and closed is currently available. Additional statistics described in the proposed law could be made available, such as the average resolution time and the number of requests granted or denied, in whole or in part. This, too, would require additional resources. The proposed requirement to post monthly statistical updates would be unnecessary because the data is available in real time. It is important to note that many documents are covered by Personally Identifiable Information protections. For example, a person's school records from the Department of Education can be obtained by that person via FOIL. City agencies use Open Records to receive and respond to these requests, but they do not post them to the

public. As a result, the proposed requirements for all records to be made publicly available on the site with full text search capability would be problematic.

The DORIS Application Development Team constantly makes improvements that help requesters find the right agency and improve the usability for agency end-users. The proposed local law includes requirements that are not currently deployed on Open Records and which would require additional resources to implement.

For instance, the portal does not currently track information on appeals to agency Appeals Officers. That information could be included, but would require additional implementation resources.

The proposal also would require information related to Article 78 cases filed in civil court to challenge the denial of a FOIL request, including whether a case was filed; the attorneys' fees assessed, if any; the dates of the judicial decision and any subsequent appeal; and a machine-readable copy of the records released through this process. These requirements are not feasible for

DORIS to implement, since the information is not tracked in a central location.

Another requirement that would necessitate substantial resources would be the development of an Application Programming Interface or API. This would require building a parallel application stack to meet the extensive reporting, full-text search, and application programming interface requirements. At a minimum, the additional personnel resources implicated by this requirement would include a solutions architect and a full-time developer to develop and maintain the new application stack. Duplicating the content will also substantially increase our cloud budget. And finally, there are many security ramifications of enabling an API, including access tokens, rate limiting, and the redaction of Personal Identifying Information, which would require additional expertise.

As written, the proposed local law would enshrine the existing online FOIL portal, Open Records, in local law and give DORIS responsibilities that the agency cannot presently fulfill.

Additionally, there are a few terminology changes that we suggest: first, using the term

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3 records access officers, instead of freedom of  
4 information law officers; and second, including the  
5 option for the portal to be cloud-based and not  
6 solely maintained on a website.

7 We commend the City Council for its focus  
8 on records access and would be happy to take any  
9 questions you may have. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you,  
11 Commissioner.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: Good  
13 afternoon, Chairs De La Rosa and Gutierrez, and  
14 Members of the City Council Committee on Civil  
15 Service and Labor and Committee on Technology.

16 My name is Katrina Porter, Deputy  
17 Commissioner of Human Capital at the Department of  
18 Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). Thank you  
19 for the opportunity to speak before the committee.

20 DCAS is always looking for ways to  
21 improve our service delivery to make city government  
22 work for all New Yorkers, and that includes  
23 automating processes. Primarily, in Human Capital,  
24 our automation efforts have been people-focused with  
25 decreasing processing times for exam candidates so  
that they can get their scores and test results



1  
2 faster, get on a list sooner, and ultimately be  
3 picked up for an agency job. Our automation efforts  
4 have also helped us to be more sustainable by  
5 eliminating paper and utilizing electronic resources  
6 where possible. Additionally, we have implemented  
7 automation efforts to bring the civil service into  
8 the 21st century and make systems more accessible  
9 online to the public.

10 As we integrate automation where  
11 feasible, it is important to note that our services  
12 have always been human-centric, and it is our  
13 intention to have them remain as such. Within DCAS,  
14 and particularly in Human Capital, we are striving to  
15 nurture and champion the value each worker brings to  
16 the City of New York. To achieve this, we manage  
17 multiple programs that provide pathways to a  
18 sustainable and fulfilling career in public service.  
19 More than that, we administer our bridge exams,  
20 including the recent addition of public safety  
21 titles, to eliminate cumbersome requirements and  
22 provide opportunities to enter the City's workforce.  
23 And we also manage the City's Employee Self Service,  
24 the Help Desk, the Customer Experience Call Center,

and the NYC Jobs page —all of which are employee-centered services.

At DCAS, we are committed to recruiting and retaining top talent by helping them be more productive through the automation of processes, not to replace employees with automated tools. DCAS does not have any plans to implement automation or AI tools that would replace employees.

As we turn to the legislation, DCAS is here to comment on Introduction 1066. We appreciate and understand the Council's concerns regarding the impacts of artificial intelligence on the future of municipal work and the City's workforce.

We stand committed to providing municipal employees with a platform for sharing their experiences and for disseminating that information with relevant government partners. The Administration believes a focused and coordinated evaluation in this space can have a positive impact on the workforce, but we recommend further dialogue between DCAS, OTI, and the City Council on the topic.

Thank you again for allowing us space in this forum. We are here, should you have any questions directed to DCAS, but we would defer to our

colleagues at the Office of Technology and Innovation  
(OTI) regarding AI and its use across City agencies.  
Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you all  
for coming and testifying. I'm going to ask a few  
questions, and then I'll turn it over to Chair  
Gutiérrez.

I also want to recognize that Council  
Member Dinowitz has joined us. Welcome.

Some of my questions are obviously for  
DCAS, and I know that you're going to defer to the  
colleagues. So if it's appropriate for anyone on the  
panel to respond, that's fine.

As AI use across the agencies continues  
to grow, what role, DCAS, specifically, do you  
envision for the agency in being helpful in building  
a safe, ethical, and well managed ecosystem for this  
technology?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So we're here  
to support OTI and its efforts to build a framework  
around AI, and that can be through training or, you  
know, or development structuring, but OTI can  
definitely speak more about the efforts that are  
underway currently.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Thank you for that question. So our focus, as I said in testimony, is on supporting the City's workforce and their ability to work with and on AI tools, focusing not only on technical staff, so those who, you know, themselves may be doing engineering development the sorts of efforts that are related to building and implementing tools, but non-technical staff, too. (INAUDIBLE) budget, lawyers—people who may be interfacing with tools, so that everybody has a foundational understanding about what these tools can do. What does the technology actually permit underneath all of this? And create that baseline understanding, shared terminology, shared perspectives on the tools and what they can and cannot do.

We have a number of different initiatives, as we said, that we're initiating to be able to move that work forward, including the partnership with agencies like DCAS.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: And the ethical component is that something that is part of your framework?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yes, and the entire Action Plan is premised on responsible use and leading to the principles and definitions that we drafted in 2024. So included within those principles in definitions is our commitment to social responsibility and the fair and responsible use of AI tools.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. And when it comes to the recruitment of a workforce that is trained to use AI, we have titles across the City like chief information officers, chief technology officers, program managers, and procurement staff. How are we working to build literacy around AI and automation in decision-making systems?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yes. Again, an excellent question, that's sort of at the core of what we're trying to understand.

So one of our initial efforts was to survey agencies and better understand from them what they perceive their skills needs to be. And universally, what we heard was AI literacy. So this again, this basic need for City staff to go beyond just what they're hearing in the day-to-day conversations around AI and better understand what

these tools are, how they work, what they can  
actually do, et cetera

So what we're creating, or starting to  
create now, is an effort that can be utilized across  
the entire City workforce, thinking about not just  
one specific job set or one specific skill set, but  
broadly applicable, and then to follow up with, you  
know, things that are more specific and more tailored  
as needed.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. And,  
DCAS, you testified that the plan is to stay human-  
centric, which is good to hear. But as we begin to  
see the proliferation of AI, has DCAS begun to plan  
for a possible job displacement or job redesign, the  
upskilling of workers, and high risk job categories?  
Have you identified what those categories would be?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So we will  
work with OTI to determine what, if any of those  
titles would be, you know, after they've completed  
their, you know, initial work around building a  
framework for AI.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: And your  
question raises another really interesting point  
around, you know, what is automation? What is AI? How

do these things relate? Where do they not relate? And so that's another component of having a better landscape of, you know, what are we talking about in terms of the technology and its potential impacts? What are we talking about in terms of the specific jobs and skill sets associated with those? So we need to be able to look at that diversity on both sides of the equation, you know, the technology itself, and then the jobs.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Mm-hmm. As you look at the types of jobs that exist in the city, I'm sure you're working in partnership, have you all looked at some of the titles that may be at risk?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So our focus to date has really been more globally understanding, again, the basic needs or the foundational needs, I should say, that agencies have. So understanding, you know, where IT teams need skills that are hard, you know, quote, unquote "hard skills" to support development engineering, et cetera, where the literacy skills are needed. And our focus has been on working with agency partners to better understand the needs with respect to their particular missions and agencies.

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We're going to keep, you know, digging through and analyzing at a deeper level to know where specific agency needs are. But we really want to start with that global view and better understand, you know, what is needed for the City overall.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. And I mean, DCAS knows one of my favorite topics is a civil service exam. I'm wondering if there's been conversation and exploration as to the impact of AI on civil service. You know, we often talk about vacancy rates and agencies and how we're looking to fill them. So, what has been the conversation around the civil service exam?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Again, I think that most of our conversation has been thinking about the workforce and its totality. So, obviously, civil service is a component of that in terms of how people find themselves in particular roles, exams, et cetera. But we want to make sure that we're dealing with the key components of skills first and then applying that to what the existing frameworks are.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: So I'm kind of hearing like we're not there yet. It's kind of the vibe, right?



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: There's a lot more that we can and want to be doing and are doing currently to understand the particulars better.

Again, we've done a lot of foundational setting by doing our agency surveys, building out speaker series, and other sorts of opportunities to directly upscale the workforce. But we're still lots to do.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Yeah. Lots to do

I think, I guess, for me, the challenge that I'm having as we're having this conversation is that AI is already here. While I understand that the implementation is a long road, I could imagine even people who are studying to take civil service exams, looking at city jobs, are already utilizing AI to kind of help them on that road.

So, I'm wondering if we're falling behind as we look to enforce some of the laws that, granted, our newer laws that the City Council has passed and others, in order to have a workforce that is prepared, but also agencies that are prepared to kind of deal with that innovation?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: The good thing is that the City's workforce is already very

1 prepared. So the City's been using AI for a very long  
2 time. The term AI is sort of more recent in the  
3 broader national conversation, but refers to a lot of  
4 technologies that have been around for a while. And  
5 we see from public reporting that agencies have  
6 really been involved in this work for quite some  
7 time. We have a very capable and innovative workforce  
8 that's building out new tools that already support  
9 the work that they're doing. So the work that we're  
10 thinking about is keeping up with the evolving state  
11 of AI, the technology, the policy, etc., and making  
12 sure that we're responsive to those changes.  
13

14 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Great. Thank  
15 you. I'll come back for some more questions, but I  
16 want to pass it to Chair Gutiérrez.

17 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Chair.  
18 Good to see you again.

19 All right. My first question is, since we  
20 last chatted, I think it was October, was the hearing  
21 —Has OTI developed any mandatory training for City  
22 workers, especially those already using AI tools?

23 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So the training  
24 that we're developing right now is intended to be  
25 available for the full workforce and for those who

are interested in learning more to be able to find resources that help them understand these sorts of foundational layers of AI. We will be building out additional resources to help, as I said, with some more specific training as time goes on.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And what is the timeline?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: We're hoping to launch our training by the end of the summer.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: At the end of the summer? And you said it's going to be available to the entire City workforce?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: That's the goal.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And is it going to be required? Is it mandatory?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: That's not envisioned at the moment.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: That's not?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Envisioned.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, so how do you imagine that folks will take this training? They'll just...

It will be offered to everybody, and we'll be doing an engagement effort to make sure that

city agencies know that this training is available,  
uh, that the platform is accessible and available for  
employees. But my comment is that at the moment,  
we're not envisioning requiring it for employees.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Are there  
any aspects of the training just top level that you  
can share today?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sure. So our  
very first goal is going to, again, be sort of level  
setting. So what is AI? How do we make sure that when  
a City employee hears that word, they're thinking  
about it in a way that is consistent with the way  
that we think about it at OTI? But then also usable.

The AI itself is quite a complex topic.  
So how can we sort of provide the workforce with a  
shared language and shared vocabulary around AI?  
Share a little bit more about how these tools  
actually work, to demystify a little bit of the inner  
workings of them, and then to provide some working  
examples of what that looks like in practice?

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Is there any part  
of the training that is specific to that City  
worker's job?

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Say again,  
sorry?

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Is there anything  
in the training that you're developing now that is  
specific to, let's say, whatever City worker or  
whatever their job is, who signs up for this  
training? Is there something that will be specific to  
their job?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: The goal with  
the initial trainings will, again, be sort of  
universal access. So, it's not going to be job role  
specific. It will be open and available to everybody,  
but it is intended to be focused on the role that AI  
plays in the workplace.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And what is it? Is  
it like a one-day training? A couple of hours?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: It'll be a  
recorded training.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Pardon?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: A recorded  
training.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. So they'll  
complete it at their own speed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Is that what it  
is? Okay.

Regarding the Action Plan, I am curious;  
I know that obviously we had a hearing, and I reread  
it as a refresher. Can you share with me, obviously,  
you had different agencies participate in the  
development at both, you know, agencies— internal,  
and then you had advocates, external. Has there been  
a system to ensure that more City workers are reading  
through this Action Plan, or what has that looked  
like since it was first launched?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sure. So there  
are a couple of different ways to think about that.  
One is that all of our outputs are available  
publicly, so City workers and the public can see  
them. We have a centralized website for all of the  
work that (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But, I have to  
know it exists to go look for it, correct?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: We've been  
getting the word out there as much as we can. Uh,  
that's the (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Well, what are you  
doing? How?

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3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: I'm sorry?

4 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: How are you  
5 getting the word out there is my question.

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So the other  
7 thing that we've been doing is meeting a lot with  
8 agencies directly. Sometimes that's with agency  
9 leadership, sometimes that's with specific business  
10 teams who may have questions or projects that they're  
11 interested in doing. And every time we have a chance  
12 to engage with agencies, we want to be able to plug  
13 those resources that are available to them.

14 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And has  
15 there been any feedback in--are you at these  
16 meetings, or what is the--what does a conversation  
17 around the plan look like?

18 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sure. So there  
19 are a lot of different parts of OTI that can be  
20 involved in agency conversations around AI projects.  
21 In some cases, you know, like my colleague from  
22 Applications, would be supporting agency work. We're  
23 helping to steer the overall strategy through the  
24 action plans. So when agencies are interested in  
25 learning more about, you know, what AI could be doing  
for them, what are some of the considerations that

they should have? You know, we meet with them and talk to their specific needs and help provide a path forward.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And is there any plan to update the Action Plan, considering that you are meeting with agencies and different folks?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, we'll have an annual progress report that will come out in October, aligned with the second anniversary of the Action Plan

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And is the intention after every annual progress report to kind of do the same set of meetings, or is it now the second or third year in, it's really up to different agencies and city workers to bring that up with OTI?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sure. There are a lot of different specific dynamics for how these could work. We have our standing steering committee meetings, the AI Steering Committee, which is a standing body of agencies that meet with OTI to help inform on a direction and strategies.

OTI, in general, meets with agencies on a constant basis based on their needs and their



specific projects. So that sort of agency engagement  
is always going to be ongoing.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: How often does the  
steering committee meet?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Quarterly.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Quarterly? Okay.

Now I want to bring up this question,  
because there was some coverage about ACS's use of  
predictive algorithms.

So, their algorithm is one of the most  
high stakes systems in the city government. Can you  
confirm if you've conducted any of these  
conversations around the AI Action Plan or any  
training with ACS staff who interact with or are  
affected by this tool specifically?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: We have not  
conducted training with ACS... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: You have not?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: No.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I'm sorry, the  
acoustics are really bad in here, so I apologize if  
I'm making you repeat yourself.

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3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: No, sorry, maybe  
4 I'm far away. We have not done any dedicated training  
5 with ACS.

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: No? Is that a  
7 training that you can do?

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: We're always  
9 available to support any agency that needs it. And  
10 again, the training and resources that we want to  
11 create by way of the action plan are intended to be  
12 used by all agencies.

13 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. And are you  
14 familiar with the predictive algorithm tool that I'm  
15 referring to, that ACS, uh...

16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: I'm familiar  
17 with some of the tools that they report via Local Law  
18 35.

19 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, and do you  
20 think they're, I don't know, do you think that it's  
21 like a safe tool to use? Do you think there's any  
22 danger in using a predictive risk model without staff  
23 who understand how it's being used?

24 My understanding of the staff who were  
25 being asked to intercept and kind of connect with  
these families, because they were flagged by this

1  
2 tool, was that they also had no idea why they were  
3 being flagged. Certainly, the parents and the  
4 families who were being impacted by this also had no  
5 idea why they were being flagged.

6           So, do you have a position, or is there  
7 something that OTI is doing more proactively in these  
8 instances? Because I do think it's harmful, first of  
9 all, that you are being flagged for a system that  
10 says they're using historic data. That could look  
11 like anything, and obviously, for me, that feels  
12 discriminatory.

13           So, is there something that you are all  
14 looking at specifically for ACS? Is there a ability  
15 for you all to be more proactive in this instance?  
16 Because if both the worker and the New Yorker don't  
17 understand why they're in this system, I think that's  
18 really harmful. So, is there something that you all  
19 can do proactively, or have you thought about that?

20           EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, I  
21 appreciate the question. In terms of the specifics of  
22 ACS's systems, I would of course defer to them on  
23 decisions around how they arrived at those specific  
24 tools.

I will say in general, you know, like I said before, we want to be clear that the City's workforce has been using AI for quite some time. There's a lot of familiarity and real excellence in terms of how agencies have been using AI for many, many years now and in a lot of different forms. And different agencies will have different needs in terms of their own workforces, what that workforce needs, and what that workforce already has.

So we have not, at this point, assigned specific, you know, other than what agencies have told us in terms of what they want to be able to do for their workforce—you know, we need to follow their lead in terms of their skill set needs and gaps.

We're here to support any agency, and so, if something comes up, we're happy to do that.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Sure. And I agree. I think obviously AI, the tools, and just the resources of AI overall is a spectrum, right? I think it's on all— kind of tools that we use on our phones. I'm specifically asking about predictive algorithms. And this isn't the case specifically with ACS. So I would love to follow up on that.

I'm going to move on, because you just, you just gave me a really good transition to, you know, engaging with agencies about the AI tools that they're using. Local Law 35, as you know, from 2022 requires that they report annually.

Can you tell me if you are all, as OT, being engaged with the agencies about these tools before the report goes out?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Mm-hmm

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Yes. Can you confirm whether that's happening?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, we do. We talked a little bit about this, like you said at the last hearing. Essentially, Local Law 35, that work is coordinated out of OTI. Every agency is responsible for identifying the tools within that agency that meet the definition for reporting and assembling those. We provide guidance for agencies both on the process and in helping to understand the language of the law and what systems could qualify for reporting. And, then, of course, OTI centralizes the preparation of the final report and makes it available both publicly on our website and also through the open data platform.

So we engage agencies before the actual reports are due. Those are due statutorily on December 31st every year, but we engage with agencies several months before that.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And do you think that agencies in these conversations before the report are including everything to the best of their ability?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah. Again, the onus is on the agencies to understand what the law requires. We provide them with guidance on how to understand the applicability of that law for their systems and provide guidance on, you know, specific cases where they're wondering if those criteria are met. At the end of the day, agencies are responsible for that decision and reporting that to us.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, the State Comptroller's Report, were you able to read it? It was an audit, excuse me, on their reporting. Were you able to review that? Because I think they had some inconsistencies where agencies were certainly not including some of the tools that they were using.

Are you aware of the audit that I am referring to?

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: From several  
years ago?

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I think it was  
from last year, from 2024, I think it was released.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Uh, yes, I think  
I know which one you're talking about.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okays, so in that  
audit, they mentioned that the DOE failed to report a  
specific tool, DOB as well as, what is the process  
for when you-- and I understand it's up to the  
agencies to really put everything in, like, submit  
everything in this report, but what is the process  
for OTI when you find out that tools not being  
included in the report?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, so as you  
said, the sort of like basis of the bill is that  
agencies need to be able to self report and identify  
the tools in their systems that meet the definition.  
We do provide guidance for agencies, not only on  
which tools would potentially meet the definition,  
but also some exercises on how to have those  
conversations internally with agencies.

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3 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, and I'm  
4 sorry to interrupt. OTI does not audit whether  
5 everything that they've submitted is completed?

6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: That's a  
7 component of Local Law 35.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. It's not  
9 a component of the bill, so that's why you don't do  
10 it.

11 Uh, but now that you know it's in the  
12 state audit, what happens?

13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So again, our  
14 process every year for working with agencies on Local  
15 Law 35 is to remind them of the requirements and  
16 provide them with usable guidance that helps them to  
17 do this reporting work.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. But you  
19 can see how that's problematic, because it's not  
20 really fulfilling the spirit of the bill. The idea is  
21 for agencies to report on every single tool that  
22 they're using. There's a state audit that's saying  
23 they've omitted this, and OTI saying, like, well,  
24 it's not part of-- it's the I'm helping you, the  
25 agency, figure out, to the best of your ability, how



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to report. But I'm telling you they're not reporting.  
So...

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: (INAUDIBLE)

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: They're not  
following the law.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: In general,  
there may be several reasons why agencies would not  
report an algorithmic tool. One would be, foremost,  
that it's not fully used yet for decision making, so  
maybe it's in development and hasn't actually been  
integrated into the way that an agency is doing work.  
So, proof of concept or pilot or something along  
those lines. Another would be that its impact is not  
a material impact as defined by the law.

So Local Law 35 requires all tools that  
have a material impact to be reported, and it has a  
definition of what that means. So some tools will be  
a little bit more behind the scenes sort of tools,  
you know, supporting technology infrastructure, et  
cetera, and so those may not be part of Local Law 35  
reporting.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. One  
second. Okay, I'm going to take a break to share some  
love, and we'll pass it to Chai Member De La Rosa.

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CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

Council Member Brewer actually has some questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. And I want to thank Commissioner Toole and DORIS for the work that they've done, and also for the suggestions of better terminology. I appreciate that a lot.

So my first question is, right now, I know you have the portal, but who is-- is it that your staff is responsible for updating the status of the request, and how frequently is information on the portal updated?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Well, information on the portal is updated in real time, so when an agency records access officer responds, they enter the response or they enter the timeframe for making a response. And that is shown automatically. The agency office access officer enters the information responsive to the request that they receive.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, and does each agency have an account in order to submit a request, and do users receive updates regarding the status of their requests?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Each agency has designated users at different levels who can access the requests and respond to them. So when the request comes in, the agency records access officer or someone on that team, if it's a large agency, will review the request and maybe acknowledge it and fulfill it almost immediately or maybe acknowledge it within the requisite five days and then frequently enter into a dialogue with the requester if the request is somewhat complicated, uh, to be able to make sure they understand. Then they enter the timeframe for responding to the request and issue the responsive record either on the portal or through other means.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And to the best of your knowledge, that seems to be working in terms of what you've heard either anecdotally or otherwise?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Well, yes, I mean, we've met recently with agency records access officers and figured out some tweaks to sort of help resolve one problem they were facing, which is getting a substantial number of records requests that did not belong to them. So I know for DORIS ourselves, we receive many requests for NYPD records.

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And the Development Team sort of shifted the category, so any records for the NYPD would be driven toward them and not to all the other agencies. So that improved, sort of, you know, how agencies took a volume of requests that are wrong that agencies get, and will help us have better statistics.

I think it largely works. I think there are things we can do to continue to enhance that, both of which take development time, and potentially additional development resources.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: My list of those who are not participating is DDC, Health, Homeless Services, Parks, HRA, EDC, and NYCHA. And I don't know if that's true that they're not participating. I don't know why, but also, how does the public FOIL from them? Do they have to go to those agencies or how does that work?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Well, several agencies had been using the portal and, in the wake of COVID, they stopped using the portal. And we're working with them to try to bring them back into the system. As for NYCHA and HHC, they are not... (CROSS-TALK)

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: They're not...  
City...

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: They're non...  
(CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: They're not  
City... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: They're non mayoral  
agencies. They are, you know, so they, they...  
(CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: They have their  
own (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: They don't fall under  
our, our area of responsibility at DORIS, uh...

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: But Parks and HRA,  
et cetera, do. So how are... are they not part of it?  
Do you have a list of those that are not part of it  
that are City...

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Parks, uh, I can get  
you the list. I don't want to make a mistake, but  
it's certainly HRA, DHS, Parks, and DDC had been  
using the system, and now they have parallel systems  
of their own that they use.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well, that's a problem in my opinion. So we need to work on that, okay.

What role does OTI play? You talked about it a little bit in the operation of the portal.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: OTI was instrumental in helping us build the portal initially and provided a great level of assistance and guidance.

Currently, the portal is maintained on servers. We're in the process of moving it to the cloud, which requires an extensive security review that is underway. And we work very closely with OTI and Cyber on that process.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. And do you get, as DORIS, copies of the actual FOIL (TIMER) responses? The reason I ask is because you will hear testimony, and I mentioned a couple of long time non responses from the Mayor's Office and Correction, I mean, that's the problem. So I don't-- how do we-- in other words, do you get the answers to know that this is such a long timeframe? I think that's what our challenge is. And I know I'm out of time, but how do we improve the time response by these agencies? How are we going to do that?

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COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Well, just on the  
Corrections piece, I'd like to say that they weren't  
using the portal; they were answering their records  
requests separately.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: But they recently  
came back to the portal. So, the timeframe that is  
given for not responding or providing a response, the  
data is not accurate. Uh... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Because it was a  
pre-portal response, is what you're saying?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: So, no, I mean, I  
don't... I can't... I mean (INAUDIBLE) close to  
100,000 records requests submitted annually, and  
growing all the time, and no, I don't see the  
requests--the responses. I only see the DORIS  
appeals, not the DORIS responses.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, all right.

Just final, I guess my final question is,  
what do you suggest? Do you think being in the portal  
will help them get the persons responding—legitimate

1 requests—on a faster basis? Because that is the  
2 concern.

3  
4 COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Yes. I think it does.  
5 I think, A)you can see where your request is. Right?  
6 When you make it, you know it's there, you know it's  
7 been received. And you can track where it's going and  
8 eventually get your responsive record.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, because it  
10 does seem to be that there are a lot of--and you'll  
11 see it from the testimony, situations--agencies that  
12 are on the portal who are not responding on a timely  
13 basis. So...

14 COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Well, I would say to  
15 that, the timeless factor is when the law was  
16 written, we were in a paper system, and people had  
17 file cabinets. And now we are in an electronic system  
18 with such a large number of records. And it is very  
19 hard for the records access officers to plow through  
20 them in the timeframes that the law contemplates.  
21 Even the best, I mean, it just-- it takes more time,  
22 a lot of the time, unless the request is very  
23 specific and very simple. And I think that merits  
24 looking at. I know that's a state level issue, but it  
25 does merit some review.



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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you, Madam  
Chairs.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you,  
Council Member. Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Good afternoon.  
In your testimony, you state that DCAS does not have  
any plans to implement automation or AI tools that  
would replace employees. If an employee isn't  
formally laid off, isn't it still a workforce  
reduction if a vacant position goes unfilled because  
that position has been automated?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: I appreciate  
your question. The difficulty in my responding is  
that at DCAS, we don't have insight into agency  
vacancies. So it would be difficult for me to respond  
to that and how the agency would either use or  
repurpose any vacancies at their agency.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: What about  
employees within DCAS proper?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: Within DCAS  
proper, we have no, you know, as I stated in our  
testimony, we have no plans of replacing employees  
with automation, with AI. Our automation tools have

1  
2 been more about streamlining processes so that we can  
3 do things more quickly and more effectively.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Just for the  
5 sake of asking, if an AI tool could significantly  
6 improve public service delivery, faster processing,  
7 better outcomes, would DCAS still not implement that  
8 tool in the name of-- because it might impact a job  
9 title?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: Yes, it is  
11 difficult for me to respond to that. We are in the  
12 very early stages of understanding the impacts of AI  
13 on the work that we perform, other than, you know,  
14 the automation of projects that I spoke about in the  
15 testimony — you know, auditing our civil service  
16 processes, eliminating paper, making our processes  
17 more streamlined, and, you know, available to folks  
18 online. So, we're not there yet, but we are open to  
19 having further conversations.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Thank you.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: You're  
22 welcome.

23 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: I am actually  
24 going to piggyback on that and push back. Because,  
25 although maybe the task of agency vacancies is left

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to OMB, I am sure the hiring arm of the City, DCAS does get a report of what the vacancies on agency levels are in order to hire, correct?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So at a high level, we get information about vacancy rates across an agency, but not by title. So we are not privy to that information.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, does DCAS have the ability to request that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: We can reach out for it, but currently, we don't receive it.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay. I just want you to follow our line of thinking about how that sounds counterproductive. Right? If you are tasked specifically with recruiting talent to fill agency vacancies, then why isn't there a communication in order to say these are the titles that we-- and I know the conversation happens, for example, in hard-to-fill titles. Because you all have made it a point to come to the Committee and say when there are hard-to-fill titles, we try to make accommodations to get those titles filled.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: Right, it is a collaborative effort, Chair De La Rosa. So we

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require input from agencies as to what areas they need support in recruiting and attracting top talent. The approval of their vacancies and the level of effort that is needed is really at the agency level.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: But when you are having that collaborative conversation, there isn't a conversation at this time about AI or automation in those discussions?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: Not at this time.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay. Well, that is something for us to follow up with.

And then, I will say that I am getting contradictory responses from you all. On one hand, we are hearing that AI has been around, the workforce has used AI for a long time, we know how to do that, our City workers know how to use it. And then, on the other side, I am hearing that this is brand new, this is something that we are just starting. So which is it?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sure. It's an excellent question. And I think what it points to is that there is a complicated relationship between individual AI systems and individual jobs, right? In

1 many cases, the AI tools that you can find through  
2 public reporting, and or even those that have been  
3 around for a long time, were always designed to  
4 support and augment the City's workforce and have  
5 been doing so. And what you may sort of see in terms  
6 of changes in the workforce may not necessarily be a  
7 one-to-one relationship with specific tools or  
8 technology.  
9

10 So what we're focused on right now is  
11 sort of that layer of first understanding what skills  
12 are needed to make sure that the workforce is current  
13 and up to date, you know, two, what sort of impacts  
14 do we expect that to have on the City's existing  
15 workforce? And then three, how do we close the gap  
16 between those things?

17 So I think that there's a lot of work, of  
18 course, that has been done to promote innovative use  
19 of AI. And like I said, it's been used for a long  
20 time. But sometimes those relationships between  
21 agency operations are seen at a much more aggregate  
22 level.

23 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay. I think  
24 there's much more work to do here, but it would seem  
25 to me that as part of this plan, we do need to get

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1 some interagency coordination around, you know, the  
2 vacancy situation that exists in our current  
3 workforce, right? That's a crisis that we have at  
4 hand. And like Council Member Bottcher was saying,  
5 there might be opportunities to fill in some of the  
6 service gaps. But also in keeping with a robust  
7 workforce, which keeps our city running, the human  
8 aspect of it, we need to be coordinating. And it  
9 seems to me like there is-- although, I understand  
10 that for some aspects, we are still in the beginning  
11 of that process, there are still some major gaps  
12 here.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Well, certainly,  
15 I can say that the coordination is something we  
16 absolutely agree with. DCAS is on our AI Steering  
17 Committee and has been part of that since it started.  
18 So we do have an opportunity to stay in the loop on  
19 those sorts of conversations, and as we move more of  
20 the action plan forward, all of the relevant agencies  
21 for those various initiatives will always be part of  
22 that conversation.

23 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay. I also want  
24 to ask a question to DCAS regarding Council Member  
25 Williams' Bill 1066. The Committee has frequently

asked about the means by which City employees can reach out with grievances and concerns related to their workflow. Can you please share with us whether City employees can report concerns about being displaced by automation efforts or artificial intelligence, or concerns about their job roles being altered due to the use of automation in decision making systems? If so, where do those reports go, and what actions can be taken to address employee concerns?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So there's, in the human capital, there's no process in place for employees to report directly to us, but I'm sure they have access to their agencies', you know, HR departments and relevant folks who would, you know, review such claims.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, all right, I'm going to pass it back to Chair Brewer. She's the Chair, too (LAUGHS), to ask a second round of questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yeah. Thank you very much.

Again, for Commissioner Toole, so going back to trying to figure out how to get more timely

1  
2 responses, are there mechanisms to ensure agencies  
3 respond to the request in a timely manner? How do we  
4 track that? And also obviously, in some cases, people  
5 are going to end up going to court with an Article  
6 78. I know you indicated you can't track that because  
7 you don't have the court system, but can we figure  
8 out what is done on a timely basis? Does the portal  
9 do that, and do you monitor that? Because obviously  
10 you have been meeting, I think, with some of the  
11 agencies to try to get them to improve, and they have  
12 some suggestions on how to tweak it.

13 But there is, it does seem, even though  
14 they have to go through file cabinets that are full  
15 of paper, it does seem to me the outside world thinks  
16 that things are not being responded to on a timely  
17 basis, having to do with-- on purpose. That may not  
18 be correct, but that's not what we want.

19 So the question is, how do you track it,  
20 and what do we do about it?

21 COMMISSIONER TOOLE: I would say initially  
22 that it's absolutely correct that, you know, the  
23 Freedom of Information Law is hard for people to, you  
24 know, find all the responsive records. And the  
25 records access officers work really hard to get the



1 information to the requester. It just does take  
2 longer than the law contemplates in many cases, but  
3 not always. The portal currently does show,  
4 disaggregated by agency, the number of requests and  
5 the number of closed responses. We could add  
6 additional information so it could show the duration  
7 it takes to complete a response it would. As I said  
8 in the testimony, it would require us time and  
9 programming resources to do it. And the data is  
10 there; it doesn't have to be created. The data  
11 exists; it's just that making it accessible and doing  
12 the programming will take time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. Then, I  
15 guess, if there aren't responses on a timely basis  
16 and I know people can get extensions, then is there  
17 any way of adhering? I mean, what happens to an  
18 agency that doesn't adhere to FOIL requirements? Is  
19 there any stick...

20 COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Council Member  
21 Brewer, the great and powerful DORIS does not have  
22 like, enforcement authority if an agency does not,  
23 you know, meet the deadline set in the law. And even  
24 with the best attempt, you know, sometimes things  
25 take longer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: All right, I appreciate it. I think there is work to be done, but I appreciate what you have accomplished thus far. I can just say that as government, and we know from the world that we're in, people are very concerned, particularly the Police Department. They're the ones that get the most FOIL requests, and you'll hear about some drone requests in the future because that's current and the information that people want. I think we have to figure out how we can do more. But I appreciate what you have done thus far. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Council Member.

I have a couple more questions for OTI and then for DORIS.

For OTI, can you point to one instance where OTI flagged misuse or problematic deployment of an AI tool and took some kind of action?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So, you know, the way that we think about technology with respect to OTI is that it has a lot of different parts of it that touch different agency technology projects. And then a lot of different technology projects could

1  
2 have AI components, which may be considered an AI  
3 project. So there's a lot of variability there in  
4 terms of what we think about it as OTI's oversight  
5 and what an AI project may be. It's a little hard to  
6 provide a specific instance of one project with  
7 specific outcomes because there's a multitude of  
8 different review factors that go into that.

9 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, I'll pull  
10 directly from the Action Plan. I'm looking at  
11 Initiative 6, "enable, streamline a responsible AI  
12 acquisition," and this is where we develop AI-  
13 specific procurement standards to help with  
14 contracting.

15 What does it look like in the example or  
16 world where an agency is engaging in the procurement  
17 of a tool and they're not meeting these principles  
18 that you've outlined in Initiative 6?

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: That's a great  
20 question. So that particular one is still under  
21 development. So that's something that we're working  
22 on currently. So that, six-four, I think it is, is  
23 not yet complete, but we will be working on a way to  
24 better understand the role that procurement terms can  
25 help us support the responsible use of AI and how

agencies can then bring that through to their procurements as well.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: You said it's not completely flushed out?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Correct, we're working on that now.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And what can you tell me about what it will look like if an agency doesn't follow whatever guidelines you're still working out?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Again, I mean, there are a number of different ways that agencies get guidance and oversight from OTI for their projects. Generally, particularly in the space of cybersecurity or privacy, those are, you know, derived from those mandates, often from Law, that agencies must follow. And then sometimes agencies are seeking more advisory type work from OTI to help inform their project direction.

So there are a number of different pathways through which agency projects could touch various parts of OTI to help guide the work that they're doing. So I think there's not a single mechanism there.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. So, just kind of going off of what you said, my concern is, for example, Local Law 35, which mandates every single agency to report on AI tools, is that the intention of the law is for them to report on every single tool? And outside of the example that you gave, where it may not necessarily be in use, and that's why they're not reporting it, but in the instances where they are in use, and they're not reporting, what is OTI's role? Because you are essentially requesting this from every agency, so that you can report, so that it goes live on your website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: What does OTI do?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So our goal, again, is to be able to provide agencies with the information about what is required by the law (INAUDIBLE) required... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I know. You've said this, but you're not... But are you... Is there accountability between OTI, serving as the agency that is publishing this report, and the agency that has not fulfilled that?

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3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Our  
4 accountability with the agencies is to comply with  
5 the law and provide the reported information by the  
6 deadlines (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

7 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But if they didn't  
8 submit it, they're not following the law.

9 So I mean, this is the example that I'm  
10 giving you—specifically DOE. So it does not meet  
11 that scenario where they're not using it. It's the  
12 Teach To One 360 tool. DOB, for example, allows  
13 third-party facade inspectors to use AI, and they're  
14 not necessarily providing any oversight. So I'm  
15 trying to find out who is responsible. If you are  
16 saying that it's not OTI, I'm really bewildered.  
17 Because I believe the executive order said that OTI  
18 coming together as OTI would be responsible for all  
19 of this. So I am trying to understand who is  
20 responsible? Because what we are trying to achieve is  
21 obviously the most transparency. And I have never  
22 said AI is bad. No one here has ever said it's bad,  
23 but we want it to be responsible. We want to make  
24 sure it is transparent for every New Yorker to  
25 understand.

And when we're talking about DOE specifically, we had a whole joint hearing here. And there were parents who used AI, but they were not sure how it was being utilized for their students. So in my eyes, OTI's role is to ensure that every agency is reporting on every single tool. You're saying, we work with every agency to interpret the law to the best of our ability, but after that, after we publish it and it's in the ether, we've got no responsibility? I'm trying to find out if that's true.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So the responsibility for Local Law 35 content is with the agencies. They are responsible for understanding which tools their use meet the definition and must be reported. Our responsibility under Executive Order 3, which created OTI, is to oversee the coordination of Local Law 35 compliance and to ensure that agencies are aware of their responsibilities under that law, and to provide them with guidance to be able to complete that correctly.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. Would you support legislation that gives OTI the authority to enforce?

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: I think we're very happy with the way that Local Law 35 has provided really valuable insights to the public. It has provided really valuable insights to us and city agencies. We have found that city agencies learn a lot from one another's reporting under Local Law 35. We think that the compliance process that we used to help agencies comply with the law is working with the intended spirit.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: What about the ability to enforce the recommendations made in the AI Action Plan?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Can you specify which recommendations?

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So there's, I mean, and I know that this is still like a work in progress, but there is Initiative 4, for example, that focuses on skills in city government. You have specific outcomes at the hearing in October. You know, I said, I'm so glad there's an action plan, looks great. How are we ensuring that agencies are utilizing some of the recommendations that are made in this report? And I think your response was like, well, you know, "we did the report". And I'm just



1 trying to create a thread here to understand. This is  
2 a strong plan. I think the fact that you guys have a  
3 steering committee is great. And that's the exact  
4 discussion that we want to continue to have around  
5 AI. But what I'm trying to understand is who makes  
6 anybody do what? If it's not OTI, let me know who it  
7 is. But we have concerns, because there needs to be  
8 checks and balances. And with this administration  
9 that is pushing a 10-year moratorium, I think New  
10 York City is responsible for creating those  
11 guardrails because our federal government is  
12 obviously not. And so I would love to know if it's  
13 OTI, and if it's not, you can tell me who it is.

14 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, no, it's a  
15 great question. So the action plan consists of, I  
16 think, what we would describe as actions of a lot of  
17 different sort of nature, right? Some of them are  
18 related to governance, so building out the components  
19 of governance. Others relate to say, training  
20 opportunities or research opportunities for us to do,  
21 you know, more fact finding around a given topic.  
22 Each of those actions sort of needs to be completed  
23 in a way that's suitable for how it's structured. And  
24 that means that agencies, and we as OTI, you know,

sort of digest the outputs of that in different ways depending on what it is. Certain things, like our AI principles and definitions, are something that we published and encouraged all agencies to refer to, particularly thinking about where we want to have a more unified definition of AI that's used across the city. So that becomes a resource that agencies can access and go to.

When we think about initiatives under the action plan related to Local Law 35, for example, some of the changes that we've implemented there are to better support agencies in complying with the law and providing information that helps them to make sure that they're reporting and that we have, you know, effective, meaningful transparency outcomes under the law.

And then other initiatives have again a completely different output, right? So when it comes to training and skill building, we want to make sure we're responsive to agency needs. OTI will be supportive of those and will drive the overall work of the action plan. But also needs to be aware of what agencies' specific needs are and what their

goals are, so that we can adapt and make sure that  
we're meeting them where they are.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

I mean, obviously, I'm concerned about  
this bill and Local Law 35 and how people are  
responding to it. But in the example that I just  
gave, I'm clear on how you are using the bill. Which  
is, you know, you're engaging with these agencies to  
make sure they're doing and they've got a self-  
report.

So I just told you about this DOE tool.  
What happened? What will change about your  
conversation with DOE before this year's reporting,  
now knowing that?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah. So to be  
clear, we talked with agencies, both like I said, as  
part of the compliance process, we talked to  
everybody and said, "Hey, Local Law 35 reporting is  
coming up. You know, as a reminder, here are your  
requirements," et cetera. We also talked to agencies  
on an ad hoc basis when they needed to... (CROSS-  
TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But what changed  
with DOE specifically?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So what we often talk about with agencies when they're contemplating a project or thinking about something or asking about something is we have that lens of, you know, is this something that Local Law 35 would apply to? Agencies, we have found, are very aware of Local Law 35 and its requirements. (INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: And was there any feedback from DOE regarding this tool, Teach To One 360?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Sorry, can you say that again?

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Was there any feedback from DOE in your conversations about this tool, even before or after the report, Teach To One 360?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: We have not talked to them specifically about that.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay, okay. I hope that you do because I think the state audit did a really good job, and everyone-- I think New Yorkers just want to understand how these tools are being used. Like the ACS, the predictive algorithm tool that I mentioned is obviously concerning. There are

many AI tools that the DOE uses that I think are really helpful. And I think people just deserve to know how they're being used. You know this because you said you read the audit. I'm repeating myself about the specific tool not being used.

So I hope that there are conversations before this year's reporting with DOE that ask, "Is this tool in use?" Because it should be in the report. And so if you're admitting that agencies understand this bill, then I expect this year's report to be a lot more robust and to have every single tool, and that there's not this kind of overlooking of tools that agencies are using, because you know, you've done the minimum of engaging with agencies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: Yeah, we're happy to take that back.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. My last questions are for DORIS.

According to the Open Records "About Page", agencies can post responsive records on the portal. However, based on the Council's review, most of the closed requests do not have an attached record. Can you tell me why that is?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: I think a lot of the records access officers fulfill the request using the privacy setting. And so they don't make the record publicly accessible.

I think there are a couple of things, sometimes, the records are governed by-- they have personal information. They shouldn't be attached; they shouldn't be made public. And then I think we need to clarify what the Records Office access officers-- the rules around privacy settings.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: So, is it just mainly personal information that could potentially be in the record, which is why it's not included?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Right, a record that has personally identifiable information would not be put up on the portal for public...

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: But is that the only reason they're not attached?

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: I don't know. I know that the records are made available to the requester using one of two privacy settings, and why those are the settings chosen by the records access officers, I do not know.

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CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Okay. We'd love to  
follow up.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: I would, too.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER TOOLE: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Chair?

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. I  
wanted to ask a sort of general question, but what  
protections are in place for unionized workers  
impacted by AI deployment, and are unions part of the  
planning conversation?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: So at OTI, we  
have not spoken with unions directly about this, but  
again, the nature of the action plan work and the  
steering committee is that we would engage with the  
relevant agencies and partners as we do work that  
involves the goals and outcomes for those agencies.

You have something to add?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: No, I'm just  
going to add that, you know, unionized staff  
absolutely have access to their, you know,  
represented labor unions who share like their  
feedback or, you know, any concerns that we.

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CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: What about with  
OLR?

PANEL: (NO RESPONSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: With OLR, the  
Office of Labor Relations, are they part of the  
conversation? Because OLR negotiates contracts with  
unions, so I would think that there's some  
conversation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FORD: They're not part  
of the AI Steering Committee specifically, but we're  
happy to continue conversations with them.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, I think  
that it would be important to add our unions as  
stakeholders. Obviously, they represent and negotiate  
the contracts of our city workers. And as this  
technology continues to be introduced into the  
workforce, I think that they would be an important  
partner. So I would make that friendly suggestion.

I also have a question that is very  
specific to the Majority Leader's Reso, Resolution  
860, which calls upon DCAS to develop and implement a  
qualifying practical exam for painters as part of a  
civil service testing process. The proposed practical  
exam for painters would mirror the exam that is



currently administered for the glazers. Has DCAS considered implementing a practical exam for painters in the past? If so, challenges, barriers, what were what were identified?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So we have no comment on the Reso today.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: I know you normally don't comment on Resos, but have there been challenges in the past with this type of implementation?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PORTER: So what I can say is that the examination process is very complicated and there are, you know, steps that are required to determine the test parts for an examination. So it's very difficult for us to respond on the resolution, because other things need to happen, that you know, kind of predict what the exam types would be.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay. And I know the administration usually does not comment on resolutions, but I will just say that the fact that the Council is taking up this resolution is a symbol of our commitment to this workforce, to the painters of our city, who are part and crucial to the

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continuation of building our city up. And so we appreciate you looking into this matter and getting back to us if there is anything that we can do to be supportive of this workforce.

Okay, all right, well, thank you so much for being here and for testifying.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, I now open the hearing for public testimony. Before we begin, I remind members of the public that this is a formal government proceeding and that decorum shall be observed at all times. As such, members of the public shall remain silent at all times.

The witness table is reserved for people who wish to testify. No video recording or photography is allowed from the witness table. Further, members of the public may not present audio or video recordings as testimony, but you may submit transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant at Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

If you wish to speak at today's hearing, please fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant at Arms and wait for your name to be called.

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Once you have been recognized, you will have two minutes to speak on today's hearing topic: *The Impact of Automation on the New York City Workforce.*

If you have a written statement or additional testimony you wish to submit for the record, please provide a copy of that testimony to the Sergeant at Arms.

You may also email written testimony to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov) within 72 hours after the close of this hearing. Audio and video recordings will not be accepted.

When you hear your name, please come to the witness panel.

For the first panel, we invite Alex Spyropoulos—I'm sorry for messing up your name, but please come up—Rachael Fauss, Malek Al-Shammari, Laura Moraff, and Sarah Roth.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right. Once you're settled, you can begin in any order. Just make sure you identify yourself for the record. Thank you.

RACHAEL FAUSS: Folks kindly pointed to me, so I thank you for letting me go first.

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Good afternoon, Chairs Gutiérrez and De La Rosa, Council Member Brewer, and I think the other members of the committee have left, but I appreciated seeing them here today. My name is Rachel Fauss, and I'm the Senior Policy Advisor for Reinvent Albany. We advocate for a more transparent and accountable New York government. We were involved with the 2012 Open Data Law and the initial creation of the Open Records Portal.

We strongly support Intro 1235, sponsored by Council Member Brewer, with 23 other co-sponsors in the Council. We believe the legislation will dramatically improve agency responses to FOIL requests, and it's supported by 13 transparency, civil liberties, and environmental government watchdogs, and journalism groups who submitted a memo of support yesterday.

The Council has been a great champion of improving compliance with the Freedom of Information law historically, and we're glad you are continuing that today.

In 2014, at the request of then Borough President Brewer, there was a bill very similar to this one that we supported. And ultimately, the Open

Records Portal was created administratively. We appreciate that DORIS has done great work building, maintaining, and improving the portal. But unfortunately, despite DORIS' best efforts, agencies struggle to provide the public with timely and complete responses. And some agencies appear to actively resist disclosing public records.

We submitted a report earlier this year that looked at response times. Unfortunately, 16% of requests submitted via Open Records were still open a year later in 2024. A number of agencies have very long response times. Unfortunately, we didn't know that the Department of Correction had stopped using the portal, so the time we have listed for them is probably higher than it actually is. Nonetheless, we do know agencies like the Mayor's Office take 283 days to respond. So the numbers are quite high.

Our testimony goes into further detail in a number of these areas, and I'll be happy to answer questions (TIMER), but we know the backlog of requests is huge. There are agencies with requests that are nine years old in some cases, and that's just not acceptable to the public, and this bill would create greater accountability to let groups

like mine help the Council hold the agencies  
accountable for the response times.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much.

SARAH ROTH: Hello, my name is Sarah Roth.  
I'm a legal intern at the Surveillance Technology  
Oversight Project. We are an anti-surveillance group  
that advocates and litigates against discriminatory  
surveillance. We urge the Council to modernize the  
Freedom of Information Law process by passing Intro  
1235.

When New York enacted FOIL in 1974, it  
promised broad and timely access to agency records.  
But today, FOIL is more symbolic than functional.  
Requesters face excessive delays and a lack of  
transparency, waiting months for a responsive  
comment, and some agencies average over a calendar  
year before responding to a request. When records are  
released, many agencies fail to publish them on open  
records.

Delays stem not only from agency foot-  
dragging but from systemic dysfunction. FOIL  
departments are under-resourced and technologically  
outdated. Many agencies still treat FOIL as a paper-

1 based process. Most don't log or track basic request  
2 data. As a result, watchdogs and oversight bodies  
3 can't assess agency performance or help agencies  
4 improve their processes. And without a centralized  
5 document repository, requesters may duplicate  
6 efforts, wasting time on already-filed requests.  
7

8 Thanks to already-implemented and readily  
9 available tech, it is now easier and more affordable  
10 than ever to create a system where agencies can  
11 process, track, and publish records requests  
12 efficiently. Today, nearly all agencies accept  
13 electronic FOIL requests. And our city's Open Records  
14 portal is the most advanced FOIL platform in the  
15 country. Yet, despite the existence of these tools,  
16 which drastically grow our government's capacity for  
17 transparency, our city agencies have not taken  
18 advantage of them. For example, the DOC has stopped  
19 using the portal.

20 Intro 1235 will finally bring FOIL into  
21 the 21st century. It codifies and expands the Open  
22 Records portal, creating a centralized system that  
23 reduces delay, increases accountability, and enables  
24 citywide oversight. It will give New Yorkers,  
25 oversight bodies, and journalists comprehensive

access to both public records and the data behind how  
those records are processed.

S.T.O.P. supports this Intro as written.

We have one minor recommendation: A brief delay  
between providing a requestor with a responsive  
record before publishing it on the portal. (TIMER)  
This delay will allow journalists to request a record  
for their reporting without fear that its publication  
will undermine their ability to break news.

Overall, Intro 1235 is one of the most  
significant things the Council can do to improve  
government transparency.

And while I have the Committee's ear, I  
would like to draw attention to some concerns with  
Intros 540 and 1...

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Can you please  
wrap up?

SARAH ROTH: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

SARAH ROTH: Thank you.

LAURA MORAFF: Hi, I am Laura Moraff. I am  
a staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society, and I want  
to thank the Chairs and the Committee Members for  
allowing me to testify today.



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I have submitted more detailed written testimony, but I just wanted to emphasize a couple of points about 1235, and one is that this bill is really crucial to allow us to use FOIL to serve our clients. We need to know what government policies and practices are in place so that we know when, why, and how our clients are facing certain issues, and so that we know what kind of discovery should be available in criminal cases, and so that we know what kinds of policies to push for to make New York a safer and freer place for the clients that we serve. And our clients really deserve better than the system that we have right now, which doesn't allow us to access the records that we need when we need them.

I outlined a few examples of the kinds of delays that we deal with routinely in my written testimony, so I won't go into much detail on those, but just to give you a sense, there are special expense budget contracts we requested more than four years ago; facial recognition records that we have been waiting on since last November. There are so many of these examples, and these endless delays have become the rule rather than the exception.

I also just wanted to highlight the point that Intro 1235 will really cut down on duplicative work, time, and costs for everyone. If released records were made available through the centralized portal as mandated by 1235, we wouldn't need to submit new requests for records that have already been released to someone else. And agencies wouldn't need to spend their time compiling those records again and sharing them with us directly. And along those same lines, making the records requests and release records searchable is necessary to make the portal useful to us to see what has already been released, so that we don't have to ask the agency again to use its time to produce records that have already (TIMER) been produced by someone else.

So, Intro 1235 is really a common sense measure; it's necessary for FOIL to work; it's necessary for us to be able to serve our clients. Thank you for your time today and for your work on this bill.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much.

ALEX SPYROPOULOS: Good afternoon, Chair Gutiérrez, Chair De La Rosa, and Members of the

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Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Alex Spyropoulos, and I am the Director of Government Relations at Tech: NYC, an organization representing more than 550 companies in New York. Our membership includes hundreds of innovative startups as well as some of the largest tech companies in the world. We are committed to ensuring that the tech sector remains a leading driver of the City's overall economy and that all New Yorkers can benefit from innovation.

I'm here today to express our support for Intro 540, which would require the Office of Technology and Innovation to conduct an assessment of a cloud-first policy for technology systems. We commend the Council and Council Member Brannan for considering this crucial bill, which will help ensure that our city government operates with efficient, effective, and secure technology.

Cloud computing is no longer just an option. It's a fundamental driver of productivity and economic value across all sectors. Independent research shows that cloud services generate billions of dollars in gross value added for US businesses, with companies representing over 37 million jobs

1  
2 stating that their model would not be possible  
3 without it. Cloud users reported 50% IT costs and  
4 savings, and software developers reduced development  
5 time by 25%. During COVID-19, 63% of businesses  
6 collaborated easily due to cloud tools, and 10% said  
7 that they couldn't have operated without them.

8           The case for cloud in government is  
9 equally compelling. It makes government more  
10 efficient and effective and offers a significant  
11 budgetary savings. As we saw with New Jersey's court  
12 system during the pandemic, the cloud investment  
13 allowed them to stay fully operational even with 99%  
14 of staff remote.

15           The cloud lets agencies pay only for what  
16 they need, eliminating costly physical hardware and  
17 saving capital costs. This is critical given the  
18 uncertainty surrounding the potential impact of  
19 federal decisions on the City's budget moving  
20 forward.

21           Many States and even the federal  
22 government have successfully implemented a cloud-  
23 first policy. We believe it is time for New York City  
24 to fully embrace (TIMER) this common sense approach.  
25

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
today.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all so  
much for being here.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: I have one  
question, and thank you all so much for your support  
and your testimony.

For, uh, Rachel, for example, and the--  
what do you think about the response that DORIS gave  
regarding like, yes, there's like a billion FOIL  
requests? And obviously, Council Member Brewer's bill  
is a really seamless way of centralizing everything.  
But what do you make of the response being like hands  
in the air?

RACHAEL FAUSS: (LAUGHTER) In terms of  
cutting down the time and whatnot.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Mm-hmm!

RACHAEL FAUSS: I mean, I think, you know,  
we are involved in work at the state level to fix the  
Freedom of Information Law, but you can't fix what  
you-- when you don't know what the problems are. We  
don't even have the basic reporting to know exactly  
how long each agency takes, because they don't all  
use the portal. If they did, we'd be better able to

say, okay, well, Mayor's Office, maybe you need to staff up a little bit. Maybe you have to be more proactive in releasing these records that people keep asking for over and over again.

I think the other sort of response to your question about when agencies--are they posting records that are public records? Our experience is that they're not. And the report we released earlier this year, we looked at a very common request, organizational charts for agencies. It was easy for us to search for that. We know it's a public record. It was, you know, only a handful of agencies out of about 20 that actually published those. So that means somebody else, another reporter, is going to ask for the same thing over and over again. I think, you know, that's a waste of time for everybody.

So, the bill, by mandating agencies use it and mandating they publish these records proactively, lets the public, it lets us, hold them accountable better for those response rates. And with the publishing, it makes sure that, you know, we're doing things in the most efficient way possible. So those are just two points on that question.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, thank  
you to this panel.

The next panel is Malek Al-Shammary from  
the Independent Budget Office. And I apologize again  
if I mispronounce your name.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, you may  
begin.

MALEK AL-SHAMMARY: Hello, good afternoon,  
Chair De La Rosa, Chair Gutiérrez, and Members of the  
New York City Council. I am Malek Al-Shammary from  
the New York City Independent Budget Office.

As you know, IBO is a nonpartisan,  
independent government agency mandated by the New  
York City Charter. Our mission is to enhance public  
understanding of New York City's budget, public  
policy, and economy through independent analysis.

Access to data is one of the foundational  
elements of understanding the impacts of public  
policy. That access provides governments, external  
stakeholders, and the public with the ability to  
solicit a wide range of perspectives and ideas for  
how to improve government. Without access to data,  
the iterative process that is public policy and the

perspectives that help shape that process become limited. It not only leads to a lack of transparency in government practices, but it stymies the effectiveness of government by limiting the policy dialogue.

Transparency in data accessibility is an integral part of better informing the public and understanding the impacts of policies in order to refine them.

IBO is supportive of efforts to strengthen, expand, or improve access to data and strongly supports efforts to make government more transparent for all New Yorkers. Thanks, and I'll take any questions... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.  
Council Member Brewer does have one question.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much for your testimony. So that means that you're in support generally of Intro 1235, or am I missing something?

MALEK AL-SHAMMARY: Generally, we--so, as you know, we are policymakers. We don't make any recommendations. We don't support or endorse any piece of legislation. But generally speaking, we do



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support all efforts that are intended to improve government transparency and just access to data in general.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: All right, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: That was a great question.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Yeah, thank you so much for being here.

The next panel is Davon Lomax, Richie Lipkowitz, Liliana De Lucca, Rafael Espinal, and Nadira Pittman. Please approach the dais.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, you may begin.

DAVON LOMAX: Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairwoman De La Rosa and Chairwoman Gutiérrez.

My name is Devon Lomax, I'm the Political Director at District Council 9 Painters and Allied Trades, representing over 11,000 hard working men and women in the finishing trades industry, and we're here to express strong support for maintaining and

expanding a comprehensive examination process for  
both written and practical for civil service  
painters.

While education and experience are  
important for background information of a candidate,  
they do not fully qualify a candidate for the  
specific role of civil service painter without proper  
vetting and testing. This dual assessment system will  
play a vital role in ensuring that only the most  
qualified, knowledgeable, and skilled individuals are  
entrusted with maintaining and improving the lives in  
our public housing, shelters, as well as workspaces  
and infrastructure of the agencies serving our city.

First, the written examination is  
essential for assessing foundational knowledge.  
Professional painters in civil service roles must  
understand not just how to apply paint, but they are  
expected to have a solid grasp of safety protocols,  
surface preparation techniques, environmental  
regulations, proper use and disposal of materials,  
and an understanding of lead and mold safe protocols,  
all of which are crucial for ensuring public safety  
and regulatory compliance. The written exam evaluates  
this core knowledge in a fair, standardized way.

Second, the practical examination ensures hands on competency. Painting in public schools, public buildings, hospitals, and other city facilities is not as simple or a uniform task. Different surfaces, materials, and tools require different techniques. Quality workmanship is essential to the longevity of the work and the safety of structures involved. A practical exam provides an objective way to verify that candidates are capable of high quality work, properly prepping services, applying paint evenly, following safety standards, and demonstrating precision in their trade.

Third, a dual exam process promotes professionalism and accountability. By both requiring written and practical demonstrations of skill, the City reinforces the message that civil service jobs are earned through merit and fitness. This not only improves public confidence in our workforce but also boosts morale among employees who know their peers have met the same rigorous standards.

Finally, it supports equity in transparency in hiring. (TIMER) The civil service system is founded on the principle of fair competition, and using a standardized written

practical exam minimizes the influence of personal  
bias or favoritism.

Maintaining both written and practical  
examinations for civil service painters is not just  
about testing for skills. It's about upholding  
standards, ensuring public trust, and preserving the  
integrity of our civil services system.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

DAVON LOMAX: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much.

RICHIE LIPKOWITZ: Good afternoon. I am  
sure that, between the incisive questions by the Tech  
Chair and by Council Member Brewer, and others, you  
will help shape how AI is used and its impact upon  
the workforce. You will not be questioning-- well,  
you might be, but you should not be questioning at  
the end, that they did not respond quickly enough.  
You will help shape it.

My experience with AI was at the Queens  
tech incubator. We were offering, online, a mentoring  
component about networking. I found they made it more  
accessible and more tolerable. I don't know if this  
could have been done by individuals or through AI. So

it can be a friend, not a monster, if we embrace it.

Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

RAFAEL ESPINAL: Good afternoon, Madam  
Chairs and the Members of the Committee. My name is  
Rafael Espinal; I'm the Executive Director of the  
Freelancers Union, and we represent over 80,000  
members here in the five boroughs of New York.

I know the majority of today's hearing  
has been focused on the city agencies and their  
workers, but I'd like to broaden the scope just a  
bit.

AI represents one of the greatest  
disruptions to our city's workforce in recent  
history. Across industries, we have seen governments  
and corporations rapidly adopt AI tools, resulting in  
significant layoffs and increasing job insecurity.  
Unfortunately, these decisions often prioritize  
profits and savings over the welfare of workers and  
communities.

I also had a chance to review the  
Committee's report, and I realized that one group has  
been left out of this conversation—freelancers and  
creative workers who contribute over \$31 billion a

year to New York City's economy and consist of more than 1.3 million New Yorkers.

Independent workers are already on the front lines of AI's impact. Writers, designers, drivers, content makers, you name it, are watching their work get replaced by AI and automation or being asked to create machine-made content for a fraction of what they used to earn.

Freelancer's Union is in support of the bill introduced by Council Members Williams and Brewer. And I agree with you that the City must ask for data and force the City to make these reports more transparent so that New Yorkers have a true understanding of how AI is impacting them.

But as a former member of this Body and an everyday New Yorker, I say this with all respect—Today, at this point and time, we have to go beyond reporting bills, because the negative impacts are already happening. By the time we're looking at future reports, the damage will already be done.

We need protection. We need policies that hold government agencies and corporate companies accountable when they use AI to cut jobs. We need to safeguard creative rights so AI doesn't rip off the

work of independent artists. And we need to build real support systems for all workers who have no safety net when that time comes.

If we think the affordability crisis is bad now, wait until thousands more are underemployed because the machine took their job. This isn't about stopping progress; (TIMER) it's about making sure people aren't left behind in the process. So let's not wait until it's too late. Let's lead with policy that will blunt the negative impacts of AI on our city's workers. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you for that feedback, thank you.

NADIRA PITTMAN: Thank you. Hello, my name is Nadira Pittman.

I'm just here to state that I am in support of 1066 due to the ethical nature I have witnessed of AI being used wrongfully. As he said, it can be a friend or it could be a monster. I have seen the monster aspect of it, that these government agencies are utilizing it in the wrong way. They're tapping into, you know, utilizing people's voices, and yeah, so it's really becoming warfare-type usage on individuals.

So I definitely wanted to state that it's very dangerous. It could definitely alter minds, uh, the mindset. It's kind of torturous if it's used incorrectly.

So I definitely want to state that 1066 will uphold government with their ethics and how they, you know, carry out day-to-day usage of AI or any technical usage or technology. Because a lot of people are getting impacted by this new rise of AI, it is definitely-- they can tap into phone lines, they can, again, like I said, they can take your voice, utilize your voice, and use it again. They can go into, uh, what I've experienced is them tapping into the MTA, uh, cameras and utilizing AI that way on the speakers.

I have proof of all of this. This is not just something I noticed. I have proof of it. So it's definitely dangerous to us as individuals, and it's wrong, and we shouldn't accept it at all. It's unacceptable. (TIMER) So thank you so much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much. If you could just, yeah, there you go.



LILIANA DE LUCCA: Hello, my name is  
Lilianna DeLuca. I wanted to come to this meeting to  
point out the efforts of Columbia University  
Professor, Rafael Yuste, to stop illegal uses of  
technology and neurotechnology.

Professor Yuste heads the Neurotechnology  
Department of Columbia University, and he's also the  
Director of the NeuroRights Foundation. He advised  
the United Nations Secretary General to include the  
UN's highest priorities worldwide. There were five of  
them, including the banning of neurotechnology abuses  
and biotechnology abuses. He agreed with (INAUDIBLE),  
the UN's Special Rapporteur on torture, who wrote  
numerous reports to stop electronic torture attacks  
against civilians, which he named "cyber torture".  
And defined it for the world in his first  
comprehensive report dated March 20, 2020. He said  
this was a new form of torture through illegal uses  
of electronic technologies. And that this crime  
against humanity had to be completely eradicated from  
the world.

When heading Columbia University's  
Neurotechnology Department, Professor Yuste wrote

down (TIMER) five important neural rights that all  
human beings should have a right to access.

These neural rights include the right of  
people to have independent thinking and freedom of  
thought in connection with a person's civil liberties  
of freedom and independence.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: If you could just  
wrap up, please.

NADIRA PITTMAN: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

NADIRA PITTMAN: The right to protect  
intellectual property; the right to privacy without  
intrusions into the brain and neural system of a  
person for profit.

These rights have been adopted by the  
Organization of American States, the Human Rights  
Council, and UNESCO. And the Human Rights Council is  
incorporating them into international treaties like  
the...

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, okay, we  
are going to have to limit the testimony now...

(CROSS-TALK)

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NADIRA PITTMAN: (TIMER) civil and  
political rights and the Universal Declaration of  
Human Rights.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. You  
can submit the rest of it for the record. Thank you  
so much.

NADIRA PITTMAN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Just, I know, I  
just wanted to make a comment. Rafael, welcome back  
to the Chamber. It's nice to see you.

RAFAEL ESPINAL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: It's nice to have  
you back. I would love to sit with you offline and  
discuss how we can bake in some policy protections  
based on your viewpoint with the Freelancers. And I  
know that Jen had a question.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, and  
welcome back also.

RAFAEL ESPINAL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: For the  
membership, can you confirm if any of the freelancers  
in your membership are they currently contracted with  
any city agencies right now in their capacity?

1  
2 RAFAEL ESPINAL: I'm sure we do have some  
3 members. We haven't looked at how many, but we do  
4 have teaching artists. We have folks who work in IT  
5 who have done work with the City.

6 CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Excellent. Do you  
7 know, I know you gave some examples in your testimony  
8 —do you know if in those instances were any specific  
9 threats to AI tools, for example, supplementing the  
10 work that they're there to do?

11 RAFAEL ESPINAL: Yeah, you know, we've  
12 seen that members have seen on average about a 30%  
13 decrease in the amount of work they're getting.  
14 Right? And a 30% decrease in work means a 30%  
15 decrease in the amount of income they're bringing  
16 home. And because of that, it is making it much more  
17 difficult for them to be able to afford a cost of  
18 living here in the city. And they're scrambling.  
19 They're trying to figure out how to pivot. And I know  
20 there's a lot of conversation, and there's a lot of  
21 advice that's being given that you have to become an  
22 expert at the AI tool in order for the AI tool not to  
23 take your job. But when you have corporations  
24 figuring out, or government agencies figuring out how  
25 to use these AI tools without having to hire new

people, it makes it really difficult for those folks to find work.

CHAIRPERSON GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. Yeah, I think something that we try to address here is what the City is doing to track those instances. And obviously, the administration came with nothing, but it is very much top of mind. So thank you all for your testimony today.

RAFAEL ESPINAL: Thank you. And I guess I'll just end off by saying that this is one of the most powerful legislative bodies in the world. And you all have an amazing opportunity to really set the tone with how governments across the world start tackling the issues of AI. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. More work to do. Thank you all for being here and for providing testimony.

PANEL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Our final in-person panel is Faisal Lalani, Norma Simon, Adam Wandt, Michele Anne Blondmerville—sorry if I messed up your name; please correct it for the record—Foluso Ogundepo, and William Medina. And please

correct all of the names that I messed up for the  
record.

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Okay, so two  
people are missing, okay, there we go. You can just  
sit here, and the microphone will be passed. You can  
join. You're William?

(PAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, we  
can begin. Let's start on this side. If you could  
just pull the microphone over, we can begin.

WILLIAM MEDINA: Good afternoon, Chair  
Carmen De La Rosa and Council Member Jennifer  
Gutiérrez. My name is William Medina; I am an  
organizer and leader from the Workers Justice  
Project. Thank you for the opportunity to testify  
today on behalf of the Workers Justice Project, which  
was organized in support of deliveristas.

We want to highlight how technology is  
radically transforming the working lives of these  
workers. While digital platforms provide a source of  
income for thousands of people, most of them are  
immigrants and essential workers. They have also  
introduced new forms of labor precarity. The

1 algorithms that govern delivery apps determine how  
2 much workers earn, which orders we will receive, and  
3 all without transparency or the ability to adjust the  
4 appeal process in case of having our accounts  
5 deactivated.  
6

7 This has created an ecosystem where  
8 deliveristas have very little control over their  
9 working conditions. On top of that, constant  
10 surveillance through GPS tracking, customer ratings,  
11 and delivery times creates high levels of stress and  
12 psychological pressure.

13 At Workers Justice Project, we work  
14 directly with this community. We hear their stories  
15 every day. Deliveries in extreme weather. Accidents  
16 with no medical coverage. Account suspended without  
17 explanation. Many workers are forced to choose  
18 between their safety and the daily income that feeds  
19 their families.

20 That is why today we urge the City  
21 Council to invest more resources into programs that  
22 protect and empower this workforce. We need an  
23 increased budget to (INAUDIBLE) existing labor laws,  
24 support community resource centers like Los  
25

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Deliveristas Unidos, and fund education, legal  
defense, and workplace safety programs.

New York City has the opportunity to live  
with justice, ensuring that technology is not used to  
exploit, but to dignify work. Deliveristas are not  
just a symbol of a modern economy. They are human  
beings, parents, neighbors, and they deserve fair,  
safe, and transparent working conditions.

Thank you for your time and for your  
commitment to labor justice.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much. (TIMER)

NORMA SIMON: Good afternoon, Committee,  
Chair De La Rosa.

My name is Norma Simon. I'm a former  
employee of Health + Hospitals. I didn't know  
beforehand that the Agenda would include AI, but I'm  
glad that it does because, as it pertains  
specifically to me, I've been forced to use AI to  
represent myself before the Office of Labor  
Relations. This is because union representation is an  
act of charity, not altruism. It is funded through  
member dues. While DC37 and Local 420, in particular,  
specifically President Carmen Charles, Health and



Professionals Division Director, Marianella Santana,  
Counsel Steven Sykes, and (INAUDIBLE) Rep Carl Jones  
publicly promote solidarity, privately, the actions  
are taken behind the scenes undermine their members  
such as myself, especially when faced with questions  
about accountability, lack of representation and  
transparency.

The Local 420 in particular exploits the  
collective bargaining agreement to absolve itself  
from responsibility at will, often to the detriment  
of those they are elected and appointed to protect.  
In doing so, the actions of DC37 and Local 420 serve  
the interests of the employer rather than the  
workforce, with consequences that contribute directly  
to job loss and homelessness.

What's more bothersome is that,  
specifically, these named individuals within Local  
420's leadership cannot be trusted to act in the best  
interest of their members. If union representatives  
are forced to represent themselves with the use of  
AI, pro se, by abandonment, shouldn't they be allowed  
a refund of their dues? Because my file was  
submitted for arbitration (TIMER), it was empty of  
evidence that represented me. And then I was told

that my file lacked merit for them to represent me,  
and that it was from the Office of Labor Relations.

So now I'm being forced to use AI, which  
I don't know specifically, because I'm not a lawyer.  
My degree is a master's in psychology, child and  
adolescent development. And now I have to use AI  
after paying into a system for over a period of nine  
years, instead of being represented by appointed and  
elected officials. That's not fair.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you for  
your testimony, and we can speak offline after the  
hearing on the specifics. Thank you.

NORMA SIMON: Thank you.

FAISAL LALANI: Hi, thank you for having  
me. My name is Faisal Lalani, and I am the Head of  
Global Partnerships for the Collective Intelligence  
Project. We are a nonprofit that focuses on building  
democratic alternatives to traditional AI models, and  
we work with governments around the world and civil  
society on AI safety wings.

I am here independently, though, to talk  
about more general considerations that I think the  
City should take when considering responsible AI.

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First, you've heard a lot today about AI literacy. Take it from someone who's done AI literacy sessions all around the world, a lot of the time you're met with tumbleweeds instead of people, because most people are very busy or they just, you know, don't have the time and effort. So instead, I recommend embedding AI literacy within institutions, within curricula, and within the context of organizations.

Second, I highly recommend democratizing the understanding and scrutiny of AI. This can be done by one, building a taxonomy of different types of AI, allowing, uh, building mechanisms that allow the public actually to evaluate AI systems within the context of their work.

And then third, actually measuring the efficacy of accountability measures, not just having policies, but how well they work, and how people can comply with them?

Finally, I highly recommend that the City be more proactive in addition to reactive when it comes to AI governance. That means offering alternatives that prove responsible AI, open source,

transparent, and accessible is far more effective and  
efficient than the current model. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much.

PROFESSOR ADAM SCOTT WANDT: Good  
afternoon, Chairpersons, and Council Members... There  
we go. Good afternoon, Chairpersons, Council Members,  
and members of the public. Thank you for the  
invitation and opportunity to testify today.

My name is Professor Adam Scott Wandt,  
and I serve as Associate Professor of Public Policy  
and Deputy Chair for Technology in the Department of  
Public Management at John Jay College of Criminal  
Justice. A great deal of my academic and professional  
work focuses on the intersection of technology, law,  
and governmental transparency. I'm a licensed  
attorney, Co-Chair of the New York City Bar  
Association's Committee on Technology, Cyber and  
Privacy Law, and a member of the Board of Directors  
of the Association of Inspectors General, where I  
work to increase technology and cyber knowledge of  
levels (INAUDIBLE) inspection and oversight  
professionals.

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My comments are my own and do not reflect  
any official position of any organization I'm  
affiliated with.

I'm here to express strong support for  
two of today's proposed legislative amendments that  
would do two things: 1235 to establish a real time  
tracking system for FOIL requests, and 372 to require  
city agencies to provide real time application  
tracking tools.

These are not just upgrades in  
technology; they are reinforcements of the democratic  
principles that are so important to all of us in New  
York City. Transparency tools like those that reduce  
bureaucratic opaqueness, empower residents, and help  
ensure government is responsive, fair, and efficient.  
They harness existing technology to address a core  
civic concern: How responsive and transparent is our  
government to the people that it serves?

Let me begin with FOIL. For too long, the  
public's right to access government records has been  
undermined by a lack of transparency in how those  
requests are handled. Inconsistent timeline, delayed  
responses, and a lack of visibility into an agency's  
workflow have eroded public confidence in the FOIL

1  
2 system as a meaningful access tool. Implementing a  
3 real time tracking system for FOIL requests—similar  
4 to tracking a package online—would offer requestors  
5 updates on the status of their submissions, from  
6 initial receipt to final release or denial. How  
7 confident in a retailer would you be if you were  
8 ordering a package online and not receiving tracking  
9 information? (TIMER) It is the same idea here.

10 Let me close by stressing that this is  
11 not just a matter of administrative convenience; it  
12 is a matter of public trust. In an era where faith in  
13 government is increasingly strained, it is essential  
14 that we take bold and measurable steps to reaffirm  
15 our commitment to transparency, accountability, and  
16 open government. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
18 much.

19 FOLUSO OGUNDEPO: Hello, my name is Foluso  
20 Ogundepo, and I am speaking about 1066, the bill  
21 about AI, and I do have concerns about the use of AI  
22 in government.

23 I've worked in the technology space in  
24 the private sector as a user experience designer,  
25 researcher, and product manager, and I've seen how AI

can negatively impact the workforce in the name of efficiency.

I know this is the public sector, but the risks are definitely still there. Though I'm not a big fan of AI, I understand it's already here, and at the very least, we must do the best we can to ensure it's implemented as thoughtfully and as ethically as possible. This means having a comprehensive understanding of its impacts on the workforce and setting strict rules and guidelines on how and if it can be used.

Earlier during the testimony, I heard the group bring up a bill reference, maybe a budget lawyer potentially using AI in their work, which definitely raised concerns for me because, as you may know, there have been many examples of generative AI making up data or referencing sources that don't even exist. And especially in the public sector, that can have really harmful impacts on real people if the quality of the AI being used is used to make decisions that impact people in the city.

Furthermore, researchers at MIT recently put out a report that suggests AI has the potential to reduce critical thinking skills in adults. That

study is still going through the peer review process,  
so take it with a grain of salt, but the researchers  
did state that they published it before the peer  
review process was complete because they feared A  
lawmaker might come along and say, let's use AI in  
kindergarten, which would have even greater  
ramifications (TIMER) for child development.

All in all, I just hope that we look at  
AI very carefully and implement it as ethically as  
possible.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much.

MICHELE ANNE BLONDMOVILLE: Good morning,  
honorable elected officials, and thank you for this  
opportunity to speak on the topic of technology.

Michele Anne Blondmville; I am a health  
educator for 40 years. I'm a former adjunct lecturer  
at NYU FIT and a health and safety trainer at the  
American Red Cross. Thank you for your servitude in  
these difficult times.

I'm speaking on behalf of everyday  
people who are Havana syndrome or anomalous health  
incident victims, some knowingly and others  
unknowingly. With glaring awareness of the benefits



of our diplomat counterparts, we certainly hold fast to the notion that one day we will too be recognized and compensated. One day, we will be free from torture, pain, and invisibility, and the weaponization of technology.

Havana syndrome includes remote access to the biometrics of a human being. Everyday people, Havana syndrome victims, are compromised and diagnosed, and have been unlawfully experimented on and endure targeting in various nefarious manners.

These heinous crimes include but are not limited to organized stalking, spear campaigns, noise harassment, electronic assaults from directed energy weapons, non-consensual human experimentation socially and technologically, such as V2K Blue-eye technology and AI. They are put on illegal lists unknowingly, which are distributed to various agencies for experimentation, for vindictive reasons, technological research, and political harassment.

We support your Bill 1235-2025, even though these agencies (TIMER) neither deny nor confirm that we are on their list. And we are asking for advocacy and support...

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

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MICHELE ANNE BLONDMOVILLE: and protect  
our neural rights.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

BEVERLY BLONDMOVILLE: Good evening, thank  
you for this opportunity to speak.

My name is Beverly Blondmerville, and I  
have worked for Chase Manhattan Bank for many years,  
from my twenties into my retirement, as a technology  
analyst. I worked on Y2K ATMs, which took us into the  
21st century, to make sure the technology was in  
compliance for entry into the 21st century.

Fast forward to my retirement, where I  
found myself being experimented on with AI and  
various technologies without my consent and without  
any knowledge of what was occurring. I am tortured 24  
hours a day, seven days a week, randomly at the mercy  
of whoever has access to my biometrics. This is  
painful and inhumane. I am asking for advocacy and  
support to protect my rights and the rights of all  
who are in the same position as I am. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you all so  
much for your testimony. Thank you. Okay, thanks,  
thank you all for coming.

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Thank you to all who came here to share your thoughts and experiences today. If there is anyone in the Chamber who wishes to speak, but has not yet had an opportunity to do so, please raise your hand, and fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant at Arms at the back of the room.

Seeing no hands in the Chamber, we will now shift to Zoom testimony. When your name is called, please wait for a member of our team to unmute you. The Sergeant at Arms will indicate that you may begin.

We will start with Daniel Wolf, followed by Samantha Sanchez.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

DANIEL WOLF: Good afternoon, Chair Gutiérrez, Chair De La Rosa, and members of the committees. My name is Dan Wolf, and I'm the Director of State Programs for the Alliance for Digital Innovation. We are a nonpartisan alliance of technology companies focused on accelerating change in the public sector through the adoption of commercial technology.

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ADI supports Intro 540 and encourages the Committee to treat this legislation favorably and report it from your committee.

This legislation represents an important step forward toward ensuring New York City can prioritize scalable, secure, and cost effective cloud solutions over aging legacy systems. Cities across the country are leveraging cloud computing to modernize their services, improve their resilience, and enhance their cybersecurity.

This bill is not a mandate to immediately shift all systems to the cloud. Rather, it represents a data-driven evaluation of where cloud can best serve the City's needs and what reforms are necessary to get there. It reflects A pragmatic, measured approach that we believe will position the City to respond nimbly to future challenges and opportunities.

We are especially encouraged that the bill calls for assessing procurement barriers and workforce training needs. Too often, outdated contracting models and skill gaps impede the transition to modern platforms, resulting in a diminished return on investment for government

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agencies. By identifying these issues upfront, the City can ensure that any future cloud strategy is both sustainable and inclusive of its diverse workforce and vendor community.

We encourage the swift passage of Intro Number 540, and our members stand ready to support the City on its modernization journey. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much.

Up next, we have Samantha Sanchez.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

SAMANTHA SANCHEZ: Good morning, Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Samantha Sanchez, and I serve as the Program Manager at Common Cause New York, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to strengthening open, accountable, and participatory government. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of Intros 1235, 540, and 1066. I have also submitted written testimony that goes into more detail.

We strongly support Intro 1235, which will enhance FOIL transparency by requiring the agencies to publicly disclose how they process

requests. This promotes compliance, strengthens open records, and ensures better public access to information at a time when trust in government is critical.

We also support Intro 1066, which establishes the task forces to assess the impact of open AI on civil service rules. We echo the concerns raised today and urge the task force to examine whether AI displaces workers or improves their roles.

We also recommend creating an AI workforce pipeline for vulnerable positions and including an ethical AI advisor to guide the City.

As a good government organization, we are concerned about the inconsistent deployment of AI tools across agencies and commend the Council for bringing these issues to light.

While we do not take a formal position on Intro 540, we applaud the Council's oversight of the City's Cloud First Strategy and urge the inclusion of experts in procurement, data security, and training. Thank you for your time and leadership today.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much for your testimony.

Up next, we have Cynthia Conti-Cook.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

CYNTHIA CONTI-COOK: Good afternoon, and  
thank you to both Chairs and Members of the  
Committees on Technology, Civil Service, and Labor  
for holding this critical hearing.

My name is Cynthia Conti-Cook, and I am  
the Director of Research and Policy at the  
Collaborative Research Center for Resilience, which  
the Surveillance Resistance Lab is now a project of.

Over the past year, we have been learning  
from and empowering union leaders in the public  
sector whose members are confronting automation and  
its impact on their working conditions. I join you  
today to support and comment on Intro 1066.

Public sector workers are uniquely on the  
front lines of protecting the communities they serve  
from technologies and policies that empower policing  
and corporate vendors, and ultimately threaten  
community well-being and diminish democratic power.  
It's in this context that we recognize the unique  
role and responsibility of the workers who stand  
between sensitive government data and functions and  
the forces that seek control over them.

Therefore, we recommend that the scope of the task force described in 1066 be broadened in two ways. And I also echo other calls for more significant action to be taken beyond the continuation of studies and the task force by the City in relation to AI:

First, the task force should not be limited to examining strictly tools that are, quote, unquote, "AI". As said during this hearing, that definition is murky and a marketing industry term. They should be prepared to evaluate digital technologies that involve massive data collection, automation, or the use of large language models.

Second, the task force's scope should go beyond the impact on workers' positions and include more broadly the quality of the public service and municipal liability that could be introduced by the reckless deployment of automated tools in contexts that have protections based on the Constitution and other statutes—the integrity of constitutional and statutory privacy protections (TIMER) community access to government workers... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you for your testimony. Your time has expired.



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CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you. Please  
submit the rest of your testimony. Thank you so much.

Up next, we have Olivia Gonzalez  
Killingsworth.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

OLIVIA GONZALEZ KILLINGSWORTH: Hi, my  
name is Olivia Gonzalez Killingsworth. I'm going to  
be honest, I'm not exactly sure how I got invited to  
this committee hearing, but I'm happy to testify in  
support of Intro 1066 to create a task force on the  
impact of AI on city services and city workers.

I do happen to be a professional actor  
and a rank and file member of SAG-AFTRA for 20 years,  
which, as you may remember, went on a historic strike  
two years ago, after which we won groundbreaking AI  
protections for our members. So I know it's possible  
for our city to develop policies that guide  
automation in the workplace in a way that benefits  
everyone and not just the few. That means investing  
in workforce training and education, updating our  
labor laws, and ensuring consent, transparency, and  
accountability in the use of AI and automation and  
city services.

As noted in this Committee's report, the City has not yet adopted a comprehensive framework for AI governance. It has only enacted a few targeted measures, so this task force is very much needed.

Despite the potential benefits in certain areas, automation can have pervasive and harmful impacts on workers and our broader economy. Job displacement is real, widening the economic divide. The financial benefits mostly flow to large corporations, while everyday workers bear the cost and small businesses struggle to compete. Without a path to retraining or reemployment, we risk creating a permanent underclass of workers left behind by technological progress.

When the City can find millions to experiment with AI, but not enough to ensure functioning air conditioning in City workers' offices, yes, I'm talking about (INAUDIBLE). It seems like City leaders already think that some workers have been replaced by algorithms that don't require dignity on the job. And even models that use a human in the loop approach can be risky if decision makers rely too heavily on AI that may be biased or even

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(TIMER) (INAUDIBLE) even if they are trained online  
(INAUDIBLE)... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you for your  
testimony. Time has expired.

OLIVIA GONZALEZ KILLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you so  
much. We value your testimony, and please submit the  
rest of it. We'd love to continue reading it. Thank  
you so much.

Up next, we have Christopher Leon  
Johnson.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: You may begin.

CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: (**\*Transcriber**  
**Note: Poor Zoom Audio/Connection**) Yeah, hello, my  
name is Christopher Leon [Johnson] (LOST AUDIO) at  
(INAUDIBLE), the task force, because, just like you  
heard earlier by Mr. Medina about the deliveristas  
situation, uhm, these guys are slowly getting faded  
out. And I think you guys know about the situation  
with DoorDash, locking out all (INAUDIBLE). Now you  
have Relay (phonetic) doing the same thing, and  
congratulations on them for winning that battle with  
Relay.

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Uhm, I am calling in the City Council,  
starting with these two council members right here,  
uh, Chair Gutiérrez and Chair Carmen De La Rosa, if  
you two really care about the deliveristas  
(INAUDIBLE) Worker Justice Project, you need to  
introduce a bill in this session when it comes to  
protecting these deliveristas from getting locked  
out. I understand that the City Council just recently  
put a bill with Linda Lee--Mrs. Linda Lee and Mr.  
Shekar Krishnan (INAUDIBLE) protect the (BACKGROUND  
NOISE) Taxi Worker Alliance. At the same time, I care  
about the Taxi Worker Alliance, too, but the same  
time, ya'll need to really care about the Worker  
Justice Project and (INAUDIBLE). And if ya'll really  
care, it doesn't matter about the Speaker, 'cause  
she's out the door. Adrienne Adams out the door  
(INAUDIBLE) as the (INAUDIBLE) City Council Member.  
And I understand she got appointed by DoorDash for a  
mayor race, but ya'll need to introduce a bill (LOST  
AUDIO) (INAUDIBLE) because, uhm, they are... Because  
next year (INAUDIBLE) the apps are really gonna fight  
back, and really, unless (INAUDIBLE) wins this  
mayor's race, the apps are really going to fight back  
and lock all these guys and gals out. And it's in

1  
2 their hands. And, like I said, it's up to you two,  
3 because and the Speaker's out the door, you guys have  
4 four years left as members. Do the right thing, and  
5 introduce the bill. I understand it might not go  
6 through, but introduce a bill in this session before  
7 December 31st to say that you care about these  
8 deliveristas, that you care about (INAUDIBLE), and  
9 with William and Gustavo (TIMER) and Alejandro...

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you for your  
11 testimony. Your time has expired.

12 CHRISTOPHER LEON JOHNSON: Thank you so  
13 much, and enjoy your day. Please introduce a bill in  
14 support of those deliveristas. Thank you so much.

15 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Thank you.

16 Making a call for Alex Stein and Armando  
17 Rodriguez, if you are here and wish to testify,  
18 please approach the dais.

19 (NO RESPONSE)

20 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: All right, we are  
21 also making a final call for some registrants who  
22 have not yet given testimony. If you are currently on  
23 Zoom and wish to speak, but have not yet had the  
24 opportunity to do so, please use the Zoom Raise Hand  
25 Function, and our staff will unmute you.

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2 WITH THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY 142

3 (PAUSE)

4 CHAIRPERSON DE LA ROSA: Seeing no hands,  
5 I would like to note that everyone can submit written  
6 testimony to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov) within 72  
7 hours of this hearing.

8 To conclude, I would like to thank  
9 everyone who is working to make our city's adoption  
10 of AI technology more accessible, transparent, and  
11 equitable to city workers, as well as all committee  
12 staff who helped to prepare for this hearing.

13 In addition, I would like to take a  
14 moment to express our thanks to all of the interested  
15 advocates who attended today's hearing.

16 Thank you all so much for this hearing,  
17 and as a point of personal privilege, our daughters  
18 are here: Chair Gutiérrez's daughter, Hazel, and my  
19 daughter Mia (phonetic). They behaved very well  
20 throughout these proceedings. Today is the last day  
21 of school—so working moms in action.

22 Thank you all for being here. This  
23 hearing has concluded. [GAVEL]  
24  
25

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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 23, 2025