

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY

----- X

DECEMBER 13, 2018  
Start: 1:15 P.M.  
Recess: 1:58 P.M.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: PETER A. KOO

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ROBERT F. HOLDEN  
BRAD S. LANDER  
ERIC A. ULRICH  
KALMAN YEGER

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

JEFF BROWN, New York City Chief  
Information Security and Head of  
Cybercommand

2 SARGEANT AT ARMS: Sound check for the  
3 Committee on Technology. Taking place Committee Room  
4 City Hall, scheduled for 1 p.m. uhm December 13,  
5 2018, being recorded by Israel Martinez.

6 CHAIR PETER KOO: (gavel pounding). Good  
7 afternoon. I am Council Member Peter Koo. I am the  
8 chair of the Committee on Technology and I want to  
9 welcome all of you to our hearing. At today's  
10 hearing will focus on four Bills, Intro 1152, a local  
11 law in relation to requiring an online payment grace  
12 period in the event of an electronic system security  
13 breech. Intro 1153, a local law in relationship, in  
14 relation to be requiring a penetration testing  
15 protocol. Intro 1154, a local law in relation to  
16 encrypting website exchange or transfers and then  
17 lastly Intro 1297, a local law in relation to  
18 codifying an office of cyber command. Ensuring the  
19 security in Cyberspace to our promoting prosperity  
20 and protecting your City's critical infrastructure  
21 and the privacy of our residents. The internet has  
22 become an important component of all aspects of  
23 lives. The internet has changed businesses paths,  
24 education, Government, healthcare and even the ways  
25 in which we interact with each other. We now use the

2 internet to transfer of funds from bank accounts,  
3 check bus time tables, book car service, pay parking  
4 tickets, check weather and remote in regular room  
5 temperatures in our homes and even it to upload to  
6 get medications. All of this requires providing  
7 personal and private information and really to make  
8 sure that the information is secure. Therefore, both  
9 our critical infrastructures and our daily lives rely  
10 on computer driver interkinetic information  
11 technologies. It is the fact that in Cyberspaces new  
12 vulnerabilities have been revealed and new tracks  
13 continue to emerge. It is part of our mission to  
14 keep our Cyberspace safe and secure and these four  
15 Bills hope to accomplish just that. Okay. I look  
16 forward to hearing from the panels today and I would  
17 like to thank the Technology Committee Staff for  
18 putting together this hearing. I would like to  
19 recognize the Technology Committee Members which they  
20 are on the way and thank you and I look forward to  
21 hearing on the testimony on these Bills today and we  
22 have Mr. Jeff Brown, New York City Chief Information  
23 Security and Head of Cybercommand. Welcome to our  
24 Committee.

2 COUNSEL: Do you affirm to tell the  
3 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and  
4 answer honestly to Committee questions?

5 JEFF BROWN: I do.

6 COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you. Okay.

8 COUNSEL: You can start.

9 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah, you can start  
10 now.

11 JEFF BROWN: Good afternoon, good  
12 afternoon Chair Koo and members of the Committee on  
13 Technology. My name is Jeff Brown and I am New York  
14 City's Chief Information Security Officer and Head of  
15 New York City Cybercommand. I am here today to speak  
16 with you about the important issue of Cybersecurity.  
17 Specifically, with respect to issues associated with  
18 the Committee's consideration of four distinct pieces  
19 of proposed Legislation. Intro 1152, Intro 1153,  
20 Intro 1154 and Intro 1297. At New York City  
21 Cybercommand we believe that thoughtful Legislation  
22 and regulation at the Federal, State and local levels  
23 plays a critical role to enhance our collective and  
24 increasingly interdependent Cybersecurity posture.  
25 This is our first time to appear before the Committee

2 and we see today as a welcome opportunity. Before we  
3 turn to the proposed Legislation, I would like to  
4 take a moment to provide some context on New York  
5 City Cybercommand and the perspective we offer today.  
6 I would be remiss if I did not mention at the onset  
7 the important work protecting the City from Cyber  
8 threats that pre-dates the creation of New York City  
9 Cybercommand. This work was performed by the  
10 Department of Information Technology and  
11 Telecommunications as well as Technology and Security  
12 Teams within the Agencies themselves. These teams  
13 continue today and are our strongest partners.  
14 Recognizing the importance of Cybersecurity to the  
15 City and its residents, visitors and businesses. The  
16 Mayor built a distinct standalone Cybersecurity  
17 function that would have the appropriate  
18 responsibilities and authorities to apply uniform  
19 consistent approach to Cybersecurity across all City  
20 Agencies including Do It as a core technology  
21 services Agency. Our planned foundation rested on  
22 the premise that it continued to be the world's  
23 leading City, New York must remain the safest and  
24 most security City. As a first step, we needed to  
25 establish a mechanism for the City to have a

2 Cybersecurity conversation as it appeared to be  
3 Technology conversation and with the Agencies  
4 delivering critical services each and every day to  
5 New Yorkers. In support of this effort, the Mayor  
6 signed Executive Order 28 on July 11, 2017. It is a  
7 concise but thorough document that sets for the  
8 intent, direction and authority of the City's unique  
9 approach to Cybersecurity with a clear mission to  
10 make New York City a Cyber secure place to live,  
11 visit and do business. Under the Executive Order, we  
12 are charged to undertake the following activities  
13 with regard to City-owned and managed systems, ensure  
14 compliance with information security policy and  
15 standards, mitigation Cyber threats and direct  
16 incident response, mandate deployment of technical  
17 and administrative controls, review Cyber-related  
18 spending and collaborate with Federal and State  
19 Government Agencies and private-sector organizations.  
20 In addition to Cybercommand specific mandates under  
21 the Executive Order I would also like to highlight  
22 just one example of how New York City Cybercommand  
23 help define the role of City Government in  
24 Cyberspace, the New York City Security Initiative.  
25 NYC Secure re-conventionalizes the role of the City

2 in Cyberspace under the principal that Cybersecurity  
3 is a public safety issue and an essential need of all  
4 New Yorkers and Cybersecurity for New Yorkers should  
5 protect and respect New Yorkers Privacy. I am proud  
6 to remind the Council that in support of the NYC  
7 Secure Initiative, New York City Cybercommand  
8 released a free mobile threat detection app. This  
9 App embodies our NYC Secure Principals. It reduced  
10 the risk of malicious activity when it is sought on  
11 mobile devices and it was built under the concept of  
12 Privacy by Design. We developed the App to ensure  
13 that privacy principals were embedded into the Apps  
14 code. Similarly, New York City Cybercommand is also  
15 working with the Agencies to deploy a privacy centric  
16 Wi-Fi Security Solution in the locations where the  
17 City provides free Wi-Fi. The creation of New York  
18 City Cybercommand was a critical step to protect our  
19 City and prepare in its future. It is a future in  
20 which New Yorkers expect our City to rapidly adapt to  
21 new ways in engaging in commerce and culture through  
22 technology and this future must be secure. The  
23 complexity of Cybersecurity coupled with the  
24 challenge of preparing to defend against future  
25 unknowns is daunting. This Committee knows that

2 Cyber threats have evolved and are evolving in  
3 concerning ways. Cyberthreats do not respect  
4 international boundaries. Cyberthreats do not  
5 respect national boundaries. Cyberthreats do not  
6 respect state boundaries and cyberthreats do not  
7 respect local boundaries and since the inception of  
8 New York City Cybercommand, we have routinely dealt  
9 with and are currently handling a variety of  
10 Cybersecurity matters related to the City Government  
11 Ecosystem. But I say with confidence that New York  
12 City is setting a new standard on how a City  
13 addresses these threats. We cannot eliminate  
14 cyberthreats but we can take decisive action to  
15 mitigate the risks that these threats will harm the  
16 ability of City Agencies to deliver critical services  
17 and we can respond quickly to minimize their impact  
18 if they do. Accordingly, today presents an  
19 opportunity to work together as a City on additional  
20 measures to assist our City's preparation. We  
21 welcome this and all opportunities to work with the  
22 Committee on thoughtful Legislation that will advance  
23 our shared objectives for a safer City. We  
24 appreciate the overall objective of the proposed  
25 Legislation to enhance the Cybersecurity of our City.

2 I make the following brief observations with respect  
3 to each of the proposed Bills and will be delighted  
4 to discuss them further and in greater detail  
5 following the hearing today. Intro 1152, we agree  
6 with the premise that people should not incur late  
7 fees associated with a system outage. We will work  
8 with Council to identify the appropriate agencies  
9 that should also be a part of this discussion. Intro  
10 1153, this proposed Legislation outlines four  
11 important Cybersecurity objectives. The first, NYC  
12 Cybercommand referred to as voting management. The  
13 second we will refer to it as education awareness.  
14 The third we would refer to as compliance and the  
15 fourth we would refer to as incident response  
16 reporting. While we will continue to support  
17 strengthening, education and awareness throughout the  
18 City's workforce we are concerned about certain  
19 aspects of the proposed Legislation, particularly the  
20 concept of an immediate reporting requirement during  
21 incident response. As currently written, the Bill  
22 would require us to divert resources from responding  
23 to an attack to brief the City Council in a matter  
24 outside of the traditional hearing and oversight  
25 processes outlined in the Charter and it may force

1 the public exposure of information that would make  
2 the City an easier target of Cyberattack. Intro 1154,  
3 website encryption is important and our partners at  
4 Do It have made significant progress toward this end.  
5 HTTPS has already been implemented on NYC.gov and we  
6 support the Committee in moving more City-maintained  
7 websites to HTTPS. Intro 1297, we support  
8 centralization of authority within City Government to  
9 manage Cyberthreats. Our organization with the  
10 authority to salvage technical controls with  
11 oversight ability and the resources to engage and  
12 educate across City-government is the most effective  
13 approach to address the Cyberthreats that we face.  
14 Executive Order 28 clearly defines the powers and  
15 duties of New York City Cybercommand, acknowledges  
16 the unique importance of Cybersecurity of critical  
17 infrastructure and underscores the need to organize  
18 around this important issue in a way that best  
19 protects all New Yorkers and the services that they  
20 rely on each day. Today's Committee hearing is a  
21 signal to New Yorkers that our Government is in firm  
22 agreement about the critical importance of  
23 Cybersecurity. It is a signal to New Yorkers that  
24 their government recognizes that partnership can  
25

2 strengthen New York City and that New York City can  
3 set an example for others to follow. In the spirit  
4 of our shared responsibility to protect and defend  
5 the people of New York City I want to once more thank  
6 Chair Koo and the Committee on Technology for the  
7 opportunity to speak today and I welcome the  
8 discussion.

9 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Mr. uhm before we start questioning it should be  
11 one to acknowledge uhm our Committee Members who  
12 would just join us, Council Member Ulrich, Council  
13 Member Holden and Council Member Yeger. So, thank  
14 you for your testimony. Uhm first all, I want to  
15 congratulate you on your success in monitoring NYC  
16 Secure to have. I am sure that we all would like to  
17 learn more about your success in protecting New York  
18 City and our residents from Cyberattacks. So, uhm  
19 Executive Order 28 requires New York City  
20 Cybercommand to set Security Policies and Standards.  
21 How is the process going?

22 JEFF BROWN: Thank you for the question  
23 Chair Koo. The process is going quite well. I would  
24 reiterate to the Committee that the Department of  
25 Information Technology and Telecommunications

2 predating the creation of NYC Cybercommand has a  
3 standard of policies and associated standards for the  
4 security of IT systems. New York City Cybercommand  
5 has been working diligently with the Department of  
6 Information Technology Telecommunications and  
7 Agencies, learning from those Agencies, experiences  
8 with the existing policy has begun the process of  
9 rolling out new policies. Those new policies include  
10 incident response and others to come in coming  
11 months. Uhm these policies are meant to make sure  
12 that the authority of NYC Cybercommand to do things  
13 like deploy defenses and conduct incident response is  
14 in tight, tight coordination with the Agencies  
15 themselves and is also making sure that our City has  
16 the standards that are industry standard and industry  
17 leading to protect our systems from any type of Cyber  
18 event.

19 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you, can you put  
20 the mic a little bit closer to you.

21 JEFF BROWN: I'm sorry, yeah. Thanks.  
22 Better?

23 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah, yeah.

24 JEFF BROWN: Okay.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: Yeah thank you. So,  
3 these policies tailor to a specific agency or uhm  
4 they are applied to all City Agencies?

5 JEFF BROWN: The policies are meant as an  
6 umbrella for all City Agencies. The policies are  
7 followed, will be followed by standards and are  
8 followed by standards that give more precise guidance  
9 on technical controls but I would like to highlight  
10 is agencies themselves have different functions and  
11 different technical environments so we are very, very  
12 mindful in working with the agencies to make sure  
13 that the umbrella applies appropriately and helps  
14 guide them into a better standard but then we need ot  
15 be mindful of the different technical environments  
16 and associate guidance to them on how to best to  
17 defend their individual systems.

18 CHAIR PETER KOO: Okay, thank you. Uhm  
19 Executive Order 28 also required New York City  
20 Cybercommand to ensure compliance with the policies,  
21 is there a mechanism in place to ensure compliance?

22 JEFF BROWN: There are mechanisms to  
23 ensure compliance. Some mechanisms are technical and  
24 some mechanisms are Administrative. New York City  
25 Cybercommand is working with the Agencies to make

2 sure that they take advantage of the most secure ways  
3 of, uhm of building and maintaining their technical  
4 systems.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: What other consequence  
6 Agencies didn't comply with the Executive Order?

7 JEFF BROWN: We are in an active  
8 conversation with the Agencies about what is really  
9 the intent of our Cybersecurity conversation today  
10 and that intent is to make sure that we defend those  
11 systems against what really is the consequence of  
12 concern and that is the disruption of a system or the  
13 stewing of data and that is the, are the consequences  
14 that we are always are mindful about protecting  
15 against.

16 CHAIR PETER KOO: Uhm in general, can you  
17 tell us what are the targets of Cyberattacks?

18 JEFF BROWN: So, in general, the, if you  
19 think about New York City's City Government Systems.  
20 They are not necessarily unlike a highly complicated  
21 but very large enterprise environment. So, the types  
22 of threats that we see today are not unlike the type  
23 of threats that enterprises have to deal with each  
24 and every day. That is something that our team is  
25 incredibly focused on. Some of those threats that

2 are the most common are things like fishing events  
3 uhm that I think is a prevail and attack factor but  
4 there are many others so we have a defense in-depth  
5 strategy to make sure that we are taking a look at  
6 things that happen at other enterprises. Learning  
7 how to take those learning from the events of those  
8 other enterprises and learning to apply that learning  
9 against our own defenses to make sure they are  
10 enriched each and every day.

11 CHAIR PETER KOO: Not, yeah. Okay. So,  
12 you had mentioned in your testimony a privacy  
13 sensitive Wi-Fi Security Solution. Uhm what are the  
14 risks associated with using public Wi-Fi, so if I use  
15 Wi-Fi in this room, is it safe?

16 JEFF BROWN: No, so the Wi-Fi in public  
17 spaces, uhm there are two components of the NYC  
18 Secure Approach. One of the components is in any  
19 place where the City Government in New York is  
20 providing public Wi-Fi. We are configuring that Wi-  
21 Fi to take advantage of a non-for-profit what is  
22 called DNS Security Solution. The reason why we  
23 chose this DNS Security Solution it is just like the  
24 app, privacy by design. This solution, if a user  
25 connects to that public Wi-Fi terminal will only

2 prevent the user from connecting to a website that is  
3 specifically on the internet, placed by the internet  
4 to steal something from that user. It doesn't  
5 collect any of the browser information from, from  
6 that connection. So, we wanted to provide a very  
7 strong security solution to take a major piece of the  
8 attack factor off of the table when someone connects  
9 to a Wi-Fi, uhm that's one of the measures that we  
10 brought to bear the NYC Secure Initiative. The other  
11 is app, I'm happy to speak to that measure as well.

12 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm, will any  
13 information be collected from the users. Are you  
14 collecting any information from there?

15 JEFF BROWN: No, no it doesn't, for the  
16 Wi-Fi solution, again it is a DNS security solution.  
17 The name of it is Quad 9. The thing that I find very  
18 interesting about the solution is that isn't just  
19 something that can be deployed at the places where  
20 the New York City Government provides public Wi-Fi,  
21 any individual who wants to education themselves  
22 about this initiative could take this home and  
23 configure their home advice to use the same piece of  
24 protection. It does not collect the browser history,  
25 it only interacts with uhm the domain name system in

2 a way so that the internet connection is successful.  
3 Uhm what is, what is very important to know is that  
4 the only thing it will block are sites that are only  
5 put there by criminal and advisories in order to  
6 compromise the device. It is the only thing, it's  
7 the only action it takes. And again, I think that  
8 this is a wonderful opportunity to speak with the  
9 Council about this, about this initiative because in  
10 many ways we want to inform New Yorkers, educate New  
11 Yorkers because this is a tool, they can bring home.  
12 They can use this tool in the day-to-day life and  
13 they would be safer and it would not be invasive in  
14 their privacy.

15 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm so is the Wi-Fi  
16 use in all agencies the same? Or say is in library  
17 we have Wi-Fi too. In the New York City Public  
18 Library...

19 JEFF BROWN: So...

20 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, are they using the  
21 same systems as yours?

22 JEFF BROWN: Different Agencies, the  
23 Library and other Wi-Fi providers in the City, from a  
24 technical perspective they are all different systems.  
25 Uhm we've been working with the Agency to make sure

2 where they are providing public Wi-Fi, this solution  
3 is enabled. We are also working with other places in  
4 New York City that provide public Wi-Fi to enable the  
5 solution as well, like the Libraries. Uhm I don't  
6 have the Data right in front of me but I know my team  
7 has had many conversations with the public Wi-Fi... uhm  
8 with the public libraries and some of the have  
9 availed themselves of the solution to protect New  
10 Yorkers when they access their, their free Wi-Fi.

11 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, uhm, recently I  
12 ride on the subway, I see ads on the new NYC Secure  
13 App in the subways.

14 JEFF BROWN: That's right.

15 CHAIR PETER KOO: You are advertising for  
16 it, yeah, so, can you tell us something about it? Is  
17 it available for both Apple and Android uhm systems?

18 JEFF BROWN: That is correct, Chair Koo.  
19 It is available for both the Apple and the Android  
20 systems, uhm this app, the NYC Secure App the  
21 important note is that we built this app with Privacy  
22 by Design. So, at the code level this app does not  
23 collect any provide data from a New Yorkers Device.  
24 It is not capable of collecting that data. My  
25 organization does not receive data, any organization

2 does not receive data. It does not send the data  
3 from the device. The thing that the ad does is  
4 really in two categories, one we spoken a little bit  
5 about Wi-Fi security. It could give you a Wi-Fi  
6 alert. What the Wi-Fi alert is saying is that your  
7 device is connecting to an unsecure Wi-Fi. Uhm, as  
8 we know, the internet itself is in many ways not a  
9 secure place, so what we are reminding you in New  
10 York or what we are trying to educate a New Yorker to  
11 do is be mindful when you have those connections with  
12 your device to steer away from sites where you might  
13 want to conduct activity that would be of a private  
14 nature for you. It could be banking, it could be  
15 etc. as we are reminding New Yorkers to steer away  
16 from that and if you do want to conduct that activity  
17 to look for the connection to the HTTPS. That  
18 guidance is given right there for the New Yorkers.  
19 So that's a Wi-Fi we consider that a network type  
20 alert. It is not going to take action on the device,  
21 it is just going to let the New Yorker know. The  
22 other type of alert that comes off the NYCC app is  
23 called a device alert. A device alert might indicate  
24 that unfortunately you may... on a, on a link in a  
25 phishing email, etc. Unfortunately, your device has

2 come across a threat that the intent is to inject you  
3 know unauthorized code on to your device to try and  
4 give an adversary access to it. So, then it will  
5 give the New Yorker some advice, maybe turn off the  
6 phone, maybe reinstall from backup. Again, with this  
7 type of alert, we are also not taking a direct action  
8 on the device, we are alerting New Yorkers. We are  
9 trying to use the app to make New Yorkers more  
10 mindful as they navigate their life you know along  
11 the internet and to steer away from the threats.

12 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, how many people  
13 downloaded this app already?

14 JEFF BROWN: We have crossed the threshold  
15 of 50,000 downloads which is something my  
16 organization is exceptionally proud of. Quite  
17 simply, a number of months ago there were 50,000 less  
18 devices in New York City that were safe and now there  
19 is 50,000 more devices on behalf of New Yorkers that  
20 are safer, we are very proud of this.

21 CHAIR PETER KOO: Any feedbacks from the  
22 users?

23 JEFF BROWN: We have a mechanism through  
24 the website Secure.NYC for people to send us  
25 questions. We've gotten some, some questions about,

2 about the device, uhm about the, about the app and  
3 we've gotten some very positive feedback too I'm  
4 happy to report.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: Thank you. So, what are  
6 the most common threats from the, that the New York  
7 City residents face daily you know in terms of  
8 internet, and cyber you know?

9 JEFF BROWN: So, I think that residents  
10 of the City, visitors, businesses, face many, many  
11 different threats as they conduct their life online.  
12 Research tells us that the most prevalent type of  
13 threat is called you know, a phish, uhm that's a very  
14 prevalent vector of an adversary trying to control the  
15 device, taking control of the device. Uhm there are  
16 some great ways of protecting yourself from that type  
17 of vector and you know we encourage New Yorkers to  
18 avail themselves of those protections.

19 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, in general how do  
20 we protect our systems in their home. We just buy an  
21 internet anti-virus software?

22 JEFF BROWN: So, from a protect systems  
23 at your home, I would point.

24 CHAIR PETER KOO: Uhm, in a small  
25 business?

2                   JEFF BROWN: And small businesses. Uhm I  
3 would point a small business also towards NYC.Secure.  
4 A small business can configure it's Wi-Fi through the  
5 DNS solution, quad 9. A small business can put the  
6 NYC Secure App on its devices. I would also  
7 encourage a small business to research a concept  
8 called multifactorial authentication. That is  
9 another wonderful way of making sure that your email  
10 accounts and the other aspects of your business has  
11 additional layers of security. I would highlight of  
12 course you know in a land in a landscape where the  
13 threats are always evolving. You know, you cannot  
14 eliminate every aspect of this risk but there are  
15 great ways to help add defensive layers, even in a  
16 small business or even at home. We are trying to  
17 make sure that we are engaging New Yorkers in that  
18 conversation.

19                   CHAIR PETER KOO: Thanks. Uhm Council  
20 Member Ulrich you have a question?

21                   ROBERT HOLDEN: Holden yeah.

22                   CHAIR PETER KOO: Holden oh yeah, I'm  
23 sorry, yeah.

24                   ROBERT HOLDEN: He's better looking.

25                   ERIC ULRICH: Not quiet.

2 ROBERT HOLDEN: Alright uhm what, now  
3 just uhm do anybody keep try on how many times we  
4 are, we are attacked. I mean certainly with the City  
5 System but do we have a number on that in your  
6 office? First.

7 JEFF BROWN: The fi...

8 ROBERT HOLDEN: The Cyberattacks. Yes.

9 JEFF BROWN: First, good afternoon  
10 Council Member Holden, uhm I'm happy to be here  
11 today.

12 ROBERT HOLDEN: Alright.

13 JEFF BROWN: We do keep track of these  
14 types of threats. One of the activities within a New  
15 York City Cybercommand is a 24/7 Security Operation  
16 Center. That Security Operation Center is part in  
17 partial of a capability that we call our Threat  
18 Management Function. That Threat Management Function  
19 each and every day is monitoring those City Systems  
20 has a number of ab... has a number of abilities to  
21 understand the amount of attacks, the types of  
22 attacks. Uhm the things that are blocked. The  
23 things that require further investigation and uhm you  
24 know act accordingly. Uhm so that's how we handle  
25 the volume. I would say to a certain extent New York

2 City, City Government Systems is part and partial for  
3 a size perspective of you know other very large sort  
4 of global companies, it is the size, right. Uhm and  
5 so we see accordingly the amount of activity that you  
6 would in that type of environment. I would also uhm  
7 note to Council that if you think about the internet,  
8 the internet itself is continually communicating in  
9 many, many ways so sometimes thinking about the sheer  
10 number uhm can be daunting but it is really the type  
11 of thing that is incredibly important to be mindful  
12 of because if we understand the type then we can take  
13 that type and make sure our defenses are set  
14 accordingly to defend against that type.

15 ROBERT HOLDEN: Yeah. Almost a day  
16 doesn't go by where we don't hear of phishing going  
17 on ab... by somebody. It is probably thousands or if  
18 not millions of people trying to phish and I do have  
19 like uh what is, obviously a lot of it is from  
20 overseas. Uhm do we have a country that is leading.  
21 I think I know the answer to this but in cyberattacks  
22 uhm that we, that we can actually track?

23 JEFF BROWN: So, in my program we think  
24 much less about the who than the how. As I, as I  
25 noted a moment ago, the types of attacks that we see

2 are global and to your point as we look at sort of  
3 new cycles in Cybersecurity, we see all kinds of  
4 different activity. It could be because of a phish,  
5 it could be something is stolen. It could be  
6 something is interrupted so what my program tries to  
7 do is leave the adversary attribution the who to  
8 other practitioners and very much concentrate on the  
9 how. Because once we know the how, we can apply that  
10 to our defenses to make sure that we are safe.

11 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right, and, and certainly  
12 the losses are, tremendous when people are you know  
13 phishing and Cyberattacks. Do we ever catch anybody  
14 uhm I mean I know your office, but not your office,  
15 do we ever find out as a network of scammers that are  
16 out there and you bust them?

17 JEFF BROWN: Uhm or, so I would point the  
18 Council Member to a number of activities that aren't  
19 the prevue of the NYC Cybercommand but uhm Department  
20 of Justice and other entities are involved very much  
21 in the, in the attribution and are working  
22 accordingly against that objection.

23 ROBERT HOLDEN: You know but we don't,  
24 let's say my son just got his identity stolen uhm and  
25 you know we don't know how it happened it just, you

2 know but it, it usually goes to the banks. Does  
3 that, does that go to law enforcement too? Like who  
4 should, if I'm somebody phishing. I'm the victim of  
5 phishing. I, you normally the banks get that  
6 information, do we have an office where we can call  
7 law enforcement?

8 JEFF BROWN: So, you are correct in the  
9 finance service sector, it is incredibly tight  
10 relationship with law enforcement and that type of  
11 relationship also exists with NYC Cybercommand. We  
12 are in close partnership and coordination with NYPD  
13 on almost a daily if not weekly basis and a lot of  
14 that is because not necessarily uh attribution, most  
15 of it is because of information sharing. There are  
16 many different channels in the Cybersecurity  
17 community to understand as I said the how and we want  
18 to make sure that we are connected to every single  
19 one of those channels.

20 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right.

21 JEFF BROWN: We let, the, the who for  
22 them but the how we want to learn from. So, we are  
23 very, very careful to get through those channels.

24 ROBERT HOLDEN: Right I get it, okay  
25 thank you.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: We are also joined by  
3 Council Member Lander.

4 BRAD LANDER: Good afternoon.

5 CHAIR PETER KOO: Good afternoon, Council  
6 Member you have questions?

7 BRAD LANDER: Yes, Chair Koo. Thank you  
8 very much and I apologize for coming in late, so  
9 hopefully I'm not trotting ground. Oh, I'm sorry, if  
10 Council Member Yeger was here before me.

11 KALMAN YEGER: Go ahead.

12 BRAD LANDER: Okay. Uhm so hopefully I'm  
13 not trotting ground you already trod but uhm uhm it's  
14 nice to see here you here and thank you for your  
15 work. Can you just, first sort of tell me sort of a  
16 little bit about the org chart. Where you sit? You  
17 know I have been grappling with, you know because we  
18 have a Chief Technology Officer, we got a  
19 Commissioner of Do It. We have you know the Mayor's  
20 Office of Data Analytics which sits at the Mayor's  
21 office of operations. And I am having a little bit  
22 of a hard time just understanding kind of. I mean we  
23 want all of those things and we definitely want Cyber  
24 command and I assume you work with a range of  
25 obviously a whole much broader range of agencies but

2 can you just think, I don't know, who do you report  
3 to and how do you relate to those other key  
4 technology functions?

5           JEFF BROWN: Happy to. Uhm the Executive  
6 Order uhm outlines really the unique place that New  
7 York City Cybercommand has and the reason why that  
8 uhm it was put into I guess existence that way is for  
9 a very concrete reason. The conversation around  
10 Cyber Risk now in the City with the creation of New  
11 York City Cyber Commands allows us to have that  
12 conversation at City Hall as written in the Executive  
13 Order. The organization officially reports to the  
14 first deputy Mayor, we do work exceptionally closely  
15 each and every day with City Hall at the Deputy Mayor  
16 level. Uhm but the conversation about Cyber Risk can  
17 happen there along with as appear to a conversation  
18 around technology strategy and technology risk along  
19 with the conversation represented by the agencies  
20 around the service that they provide. It is within  
21 that context that you can really take a look at all  
22 the different ways that Cyber is a multi, sort of  
23 disciplinary multi-function, multi-technical  
24 conversation that goes beyond just technology. It  
25 goes beyond sometimes just business function because

2 it represents a safety risk. So, to you question,  
3 from a hieratical perspective and organization  
4 perspective, uhm at we now sit in a place where we  
5 can have that conversation as a peer office or to the  
6 agencies providing services or technologies across  
7 the city landscape. Uh and then beyond that so  
8 that's reporting into City Hall, beyond that we break  
9 down very much like any enterprise cybersecurity  
10 program uhm I would be a little hesitant to go into  
11 too much specifics but at a very high level uhm we  
12 have a function as I mentioned a little bit earlier,  
13 a threat management function, you can think of that  
14 as very much the team that does 24/7. They do the  
15 detection and response. We have a function called  
16 security uhm security sciences and that does the  
17 engineer and architecture for our tools and does  
18 advisory services as we try and raise the waters of  
19 the technology across all of the City landscape. We  
20 have a function called urban technology. That is a  
21 very interesting function, that is perhaps not  
22 something that you would normally see in other  
23 enterprises but that is very much a forward looking  
24 function to think about, as the, as the City's, as  
25 the City landscape proliferates with the devices, we

2 have to think very mindfully about what types of  
3 devices the City operates, so that function, from an  
4 urban technology perspective is leading that  
5 conversation and then we have business functioning  
6 and governance functions, just like you would see in,  
7 in any other office here in the City.

8           BRAD LANDERS: Alright so that's very  
9 helpful. And I asked a couple of questions more  
10 about uhm you know how some different functions  
11 relate, uhm so I know we have had a dialog in the  
12 past around the link NYC and how the. And this maybe  
13 about protecting New Yorkers Data Privacy and paying  
14 attention to you know how they are using it.  
15 Obviously, there is a contract and some of that was  
16 negotiated there but and there are all kinds of  
17 things evolving over time. So, is that a  
18 conversation that you are a part of or is that  
19 because I don't know whether it was Do It or DCAS  
20 that actually negotiated the contract with LINK. Uhm  
21 you know was, is that an issue that you guys would  
22 deal with or is that in somebody's else's domain?

23           JEFF BROWN: So, with regard to Link I am  
24 first proud to report to the Committee that they are  
25 adopting the Quad 9 solution.

2 BRAD LANDER: And I love link so this not  
3 like I'm worried about them it just is a place where  
4 these issues exist in, in, in you know in real time.

5 JEFF BROWN: That's right, so we work, we  
6 work very closely with Do It on making sure that the  
7 security policy, standards, the principals that we  
8 are bringing across all of the umbrella agency  
9 systems are applied in like all of their business  
10 matters and uhm Link would be inclusive of that. And  
11 it would be the same answer to any technology system  
12 that an agency is uhm looking to adopt. It goes back  
13 to like I outlined, the conversation of Cyber Risk  
14 for Technology Risk and Strategy with business  
15 function. That's the, that is sort of the table  
16 setting of the conversation. We are influential when  
17 it comes to Cyber Risk. The threat management  
18 function does have you know the, the Executive Order  
19 authority to mandate technical controls so that is  
20 another umbrella type cyber defense that, that we are  
21 the, sort of the central recipient and actor on that.

22 BRAD LANDER: Uhm and then I guess my  
23 last question you know the thing that I think of as  
24 paying attention to the data privacy issues for New  
25 Yorkers in relationship to government. You know, we

2 are collecting lots of data, let's say I'm I don't  
3 know what it is, I don't know, you know, I deal with  
4 parking tickets of whatever. I am an Agency that in  
5 one way or another is collecting a lot of New Yorkers  
6 uhm data. Uhm in, you it sounds like you are  
7 definitely working with me on kind of thinking about  
8 the threats that someone might come in and try to get  
9 at that, how about the questions about just how we as  
10 a City ought to be thinking about that and you know  
11 what our algorithms do and where we might expose  
12 people to uhm you know. I am actually pretty happy  
13 right now that the speed camera and red-light camera  
14 data is out there for all to see. I mean it's by  
15 license plate, we don't know the name of the  
16 individual with the license plate, but every one of  
17 those tickets winds up getting aggregating and there  
18 is actually a great twitter bot that you can when you  
19 see a driver do something horrific or obnoxious you  
20 take a picture of their license plate and you tweet  
21 it at How's My Driving and you get back this record  
22 of all of their violations of our cameras uhm and you  
23 know I actually want to use that data to start a more  
24 reckless driver accountability program, but for now,  
25 there is like some public accountability you know but

2 I'm sure there are places people would say uhm you  
3 know, uhm doing that is a form of doxing or, uhm  
4 that certainly is a form of doxing but where is the  
5 line. And so uhm if I'm you know I am a CIO in an  
6 agency are you guys working with me on that set of  
7 data privacy questions or does that sit somewhere  
8 else in the City's Technology Firmament?

9 JEFF BROWN: So, if I may, a number or  
10 brief data points on the question. First, of course,  
11 there are a number of different stakeholders in that  
12 conversation. There is a Chief Privacy Officer.  
13 There is an Agency that is building that technology.  
14 There is a, you know office for the Data Strategy for  
15 the City that is doing it. There is a number of  
16 stakeholders in that multi-faceted conversation, uhm  
17 another brief point, when it come sot data security,  
18 that is a discipline within Cybersecurity so we are  
19 working with agencies to make sure that data and  
20 systems that hold data are identified. Uhm and that  
21 the appropriate controls, encryption and others are  
22 applied to those data sets and then third, when it  
23 comes to privacy, I would really point the Council  
24 Member no further than the NYC Secure Principals.  
25 From a Cyber Security perspective, we have said for

2 New Yorkers that Cyber Security as an essential  
3 service, as something that is a public safety issue,  
4 needs to protect privacy and respect privacy as well.  
5 We have a belief that Cyber Security can uphold  
6 privacy and doesn't in no issue should invade a New  
7 Yorkers privacy. So that's the principals of my  
8 office.

9 BRAD LANDER: That is great. And so, I,  
10 just maybe I should have known we had a Chief Privacy  
11 Officer but I that person sits where?

12 JEFF BROWN: I believe, though I am happy  
13 to get back to the Council on this but I believe that  
14 is within the Mayor's Office of Operations.

15 BRAD LANDER: Okay that might be an  
16 interesting followup hearing for us to talk with the  
17 Chief Privacy Officer about some of the.

18 CHAIR PETER KOO: So, any more questions  
19 members? Seeing none. Mr. Brown thank you very much  
20 for that testimony. I'm sorry I didn't turn on the  
21 mic. So, I want to thank you for your testimony and  
22 thank you for your dedication and your leadership.

23 JEFF BROWN: Thank you Chair Koo and  
24 Council Members for having me today.

2 CHAIR PETER KOO: Are there any more  
3 public participations? Seeing none. This meeting is  
4 adjourned. Thank you. (gavel pounding). You always  
5 come at the right time.

6 BRAD LANDER: This was luck today. I was  
7 actually trying to get here earlier but I got waylaid  
8 on the way in.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date JANUARY 14, 2019