



May 14, 2019
Testimony of Daniel Nigro, Commissioner, FDNY
Preliminary Budget Hearing

Good morning Chair Borelli and all of the Council Members present. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 for the Fire Department. I am joined this morning by First Deputy Commissioner Laura Kavanagh, Chief of Department John Sudnik, Chief of EMS Lillian Bonsignore, and Assistant Commissioner for Budget and Finance Stephen Rush.

First, I would like to recognize a terrible tragedy that befell our city last week when a fire in Harlem caused the death of six family members, including four children. The fire was caused by unattended cooking. Unfortunately, there was no working smoke alarm present in the apartment where the fire occurred. The next day, we had another fire in Manhattan where, again, there was no working smoke alarm. We have for several years now worked aggressively to spread the word about the importance of having working smoke alarms in one's home or apartment. In November 2015, we launched a campaign called "Get Alarmed NYC" that committed to distributing and installing 100,000 smoke alarms throughout the city. Thanks to help from the City Council and City Hall, along with other partners, this initiative has so far resulted in more than 200,000 smoke and combination smoke/CO alarms being distributed to New Yorkers, many of which were installed in homes by Red Cross volunteers. The latest shipment of alarms – more than 60,000 – have just been delivered to the Department and we'll



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continue to distribute them and install them in homes in areas of the city where incidences of fires and fire deaths continue to occur. We will be contacting elected officials, community stakeholders, clergy leaders, and partner organizations to coordinate distribution events. I look forward to working with the councilmembers here today and with your colleagues to get these alarms to the people who need them.

One other update I'd like to share with you is a recent change in senior leadership at the Department. Following the retirement of Chief James Booth, last week I appointed Lillian Bonsignore to the position of Chief of EMS. Chief Bonsignore, who has 28 years of service with FDNY, is the first woman in the history of the Department to serve as the highest ranking officer in EMS. She is also the first open member of the LGBT community to hold the post. Along with Chief Bonsignore's appointment, Alvin Suriel has been promoted to Assistant Chief of EMS – the second highest uniformed rank in EMS. Chief Suriel, who has 30 years of service with the Department, is the first Hispanic member appointed to the role. In addition to the distinguished work that they will do on behalf of the people of New York, I am proud that Chief Bonsignore and Chief Suriel will also serve as examples of diverse leadership as we continue our mission to build a Fire Department that reflects the diversity of the city that we protect.



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I am happy to report that the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 funds the Fire Department at levels that will enable us to effectively protect life and property, improve the services that we provide, and expand our efforts to educate the public.

This budget provides \$43 million over two fiscal years to fund an expansion of the Fly Car pilot program. Under this system, we send an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Fly Car, which provides paramedic-level care, and a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance, which provides EMT-level care, to each potentially life threatening emergency. Whichever unit responds first is able to immediately begin providing care. The ALS unit provides an advanced life support level assessment and the BLS unit transports the patient to the hospital. The ALS unit only accompanies the patient to the hospital if the patient needs ALS-level care, which happens on less than half of all responses. This frees up the ALS crew faster, allowing them to respond to the next call and streamlining our ability to get the appropriate level of care to each patient. Beginning in October 2019, the Fly Car program will be extended to cover the entire borough of the Bronx. With this additional funding, we'll transition the rest of our ALS ambulances in the Bronx to Fly Cars. As we begin the expansion of the program this fall, we will add 17 additional Fly Cars, resulting in a total of 27 Fly Cars across the borough during our busiest hours.



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Other EMS funding in the Executive Budget includes \$2.6 million to enable the Department to take over six ambulance tours that were previously run by Montefiore Medical Center. This includes funding 28 positions and it will increase the percentage of tours in the 911 system that are operated by municipal units to 67%. The budget also funds 16 new positions in Emergency Medical Dispatch. These positions will be used to support the creation of a quality assurance team and to maintain span of control within emergency dispatch.

Another commitment in this budget is \$2.6 million in FY 20 for improvements at the EMS Academy at Fort Totten, in addition to \$8 million in capital funds in FY20 and \$50 million in capital funds in FY21. This will fund physical improvements and allow the Department to hire additional instructors, which will enable the Department to increase class sizes so that we can train more EMTs and Paramedics. Another major commitment in the Executive Budget is \$3.2 million in FY20 for technology products.

I am pleased to provide the Council with a few updates on education and outreach matters that we've previously discussed here. The Department is working with the Administration of Children Services and the American Red Cross to train approximately 3,000 frontline child welfare staff throughout 2019. ACS workers learn how to examine homes for potential fire



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hazards and refer families to the American Red Cross for smoke alarm installations. As of the end of April, over 400 workers have already been trained.

We have also continued our partnership with the Department of Youth and Community Development. On April 24th, our two agencies carried out the 2nd Annual Youth Firehouse Initiative. More than 2,400 K-5 students from the DYCD COMPASS afterschool program visited more than 50 firehouses, meeting with members of the Departments and receiving fire safety education instruction. We are also looking forward to another round of our very popular citywide Open Houses in the Fall.

I thank the Council for your partnership and ongoing support as we carry out the mission of protecting the lives and property of the people of New York. I would be glad to take your questions at this time.

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES ON FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FISCAL YEAR 2020 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

Good afternoon Chairs Dromm and Koo, and members of the City Council Committees on Finance and Technology. My name is Samir Saini and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, also known as DoITT, and New York City's Chief Information Officer (CIO). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about DoITT's Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget. With me are John Winker, Associate Commissioner for Financial Services; and Michael Pastor, our General Counsel.

Today it is my pleasure to update the Committees on the work that DoITT has been doing, and the many exciting things to come in the next year. I'll begin with a summary of DoITT's Fiscal 2020 Executive Budget. Following that, I will explain how we have re-aligned our strategic priorities to deliver the best services to our agency customers, and in turn, New Yorkers.

DoITT's Fiscal Year 2020 Executive Budget provides for operating expenses of approximately \$684 million; allocating \$173 million in Personal Services to support 1,840 full-time positions; and \$511 million for Other than Personal Services (OTPS). This includes \$142 million in intra-City funds transferred from other agencies for services provided. In total, intra-city funding represents approximately 21% of our total budget allocation. Telecommunications costs represent the largest portion of this intra-city expense, which is projected at \$102 million for Fiscal 2019. DoITT also generates upwards of \$190 million in revenues through our franchise portfolio.

I am proud to share that we have identified savings of \$14 million for Fiscal 2019 and approximately \$7 million in savings for Fiscal 2020. This meets and exceeds the Mayor's call for a Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG). This is largely a result of savings associated with the hiring freeze, as well as across-the-board OTPS accruals and reductions.

For Fiscal Year 2020, DoITT's budget appropriation decreases by approximately \$4.6 million as compared to the Fiscal 2020 Preliminary Budget. This decrease is associated with savings that DOITT and OMB identified during the Executive Financial Plan process.

What I have described so far are simply the changes to our budget, but I want to emphasize how our streamlined appropriation will support all the important work in our purview, including managing technology projects, architecting complex IT solutions, and administering citywide IT service contracts, to name just a few of the dozens of services that more than 100 governmental entities rely upon every single day to keep New York City running.

Last year, I briefed the Committees on strategic objectives that framed a transformative agenda to improve DoITT across the board. I am proud to say that, in working with DoITT staff and our agency customers, we have expanded these objectives and have been working every day towards implementing them.

We have been laser-focused on improving customer experience for our agency partners with whom we collaborate to deliver the technology that keeps this City running. As Citywide CIO, I am committed to **revising DoITT's offerings to better meet agencies' needs** by ensuring the delivery, support, and continuous improvement of all services available in the Service Catalog. We are working toward refining our service offerings and tailoring Service Catalogs for each agency customer. This streamlined approach will help other City agencies achieve their missions and deliver services to New Yorkers in a more efficient way.

One important service we offer includes the hosting and safeguarding of many of the City's digital and physical information assets. We strive to **further strengthen the reliability, security, and resiliency of these operational services**. To that end, we have been working to align our core network, storage and computer infrastructure and associated software to industry best-practice capacity planning processes. This will ensure that the City makes best use of these IT assets for years to come.

Another enhancement of our service catalog will **simplify and accelerate agencies' deployment of applications and software services**. We have begun to adopt an "application platform as a service" model that will give agencies direct control over their application build, increasing agility, reliability, resiliency, and responsiveness. It will facilitate more efficient deployment and quality of applications by reducing the time it takes for an agency to design, build, test, and launch.

Additionally, our new data governance program will further **empower agencies to better share data and connect apps internally and across government**. Under the newly formed Data Management and Integration division, helmed by Don Sunderland, DoITT's Chief Data Officer, this program will bring together targeted agency leadership to enable agencies to effectively use DoITT's citywide data platform to seamlessly ingest, store, analyze, share, and act on their data.

While this recent development focuses on how the City may better share information across agencies, our most public-facing data sharing effort, Open Data, continues to thrive. This program is a joint effort with the Mayor's Office of Data Analytics. The Open Data Portal now boasts over 2,500 data assets, and we continue to expand agency participation and compliance with the Open Data Law. We are pleased to collaborate on an Open Data training with City Council staff early next month.

Open Data represents one significant conduit through which New Yorkers interact with the City, but we also recognize the importance of the **improving the digital online experience for New Yorkers**. Core NYC digital products such as NYC.gov, NYC Business and 311 are the digital offerings through which New Yorkers interact with their City government. We aim to prioritize and accelerate enhancement of these products with technologies to better analyze, predict, and deliver recommended services and information to all New Yorkers. Further, we have launched an improved NYC.ID, which allows New Yorkers to use the same account to interact with several different agencies. For example, a New

Yorker can now use the same username and password to update their NotifyNYC alerts or apply for benefits through ACCESS HRA, to name a few. This feature will go a long way to improve how many agencies interface with New Yorkers.

In addition to these strategic shifts, we continue our vigilant work on matters that directly impact New Yorkers through our cable franchises. DoITT has been using every tool at our disposal to ensure our cable franchisees have been remitting revenue payments accurately. At the Preliminary Budget hearing, I advised the Committees about a Notice of Default we issued to Charter Communications on March 6 as the result of an audit that indicated the company failed to pay the City millions of dollars in advertising revenue. I am pleased to announce that as a result of that notice, Charter agreed to pay the City \$4.3 million in 2 years' worth of owed fees. This payment, which was remitted in early April, cures Charter's default. Further, Charter agreed to properly calculate their payments to the City going forward, which will result in approximately \$1.5-3 million in additional annual revenue. DoITT will continue to exercise its franchising authority to ensure that the City receives the payments we are owed from these multi-million-dollar companies, who have the privilege of using public rights-of-way to deliver services to millions of New Yorkers.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to address the recent issue with the City's private wireless network, NYCWiN, and our plan going forward with this network. First, I want to emphasize that at no point was the public at risk, and this did not impact most New Yorkers' daily lives. That being said, on April 6, a GPS rollover resulted in technical issues that took down the network for 10 days. The network has been restored and remains in working condition. Fortunately, the agencies who use the network were able to continue operating certain functions without significant impact to the public. Staff here at DoITT worked tirelessly throughout the outage to get the network back up and running as quickly as possible.

We are focused on moving forward. As we have indicated in previous budget testimonies, we have been in the process of decommissioning NYCWiN and ending the contractual relationship with the vendor, Northrop Grumman. This will intrinsically be a cost-saving measure in the multi-millions, as we have previously announced. This work continues.

Keeping this in mind, Northrop Grumman is still maintaining and operating NYCWiN, since we must ensure that the agencies who use the network are fully migrated to commercial carriers before we shut it down. We are eager to fully decommission, but we must continue to work with the contractor during this transition period. As we move forward with this process, we will keep the Committees informed.

With that, I'd be happy to take questions from the Committees. Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify before you.

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