

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH COMMITTEE ON SMALL
BUSINESS WITH COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND THE COMMITTEE

1 ON MENTAL HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND ADDICTIONS 1

2 CITY COUNCIL
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

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5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE
8 ON YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON
9 SMALL BUSINESS JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON MENTAL
HEALTH, DISABILITIES AND ADDICTION

10 May 16, 2019
11 Start: 10:16 a.m.
12 Recess: 3:12 p.m.

13 HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

14 B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM
15 Chairperson

16 DEBORAH L. ROSE
17 Co-Chairperson

18 MARK GJONAJ
19 Co-Chairperson

20 MARK LEVINE
21 Co-Chairperson

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23 Co-Chairperson

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

3 Bill Chong
4 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
Youth and Community Development, DYCD

5 Jagdeen Phanor
6 Chief Financial Officer of the New York City
Department of Youth and Community Development,
DYCD

7 Darryl Rattray
8 Associate Commissioner for Youth Services and
Strategic Partnerships of the New York City
9 Department of Youth and Community Development,
DYCD

10 Susan Haskell
11 Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services of the New
York City Department of Youth and Community
12 Development, DYCD

13 Andre White
14 Deputy Commissioner for Youth Workforce
Development for the New York City Department of
Youth and Community Development, DYCD

15 Gregg Bishop
16 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
Small Business Services, SBS

17 Jackie Mallon
18 First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City
Department of Small Business Services, SBS

19 Oxiris Barbot
20 Commissioner of the New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene, DOHMH

21 Demetre Daskalakis
22 Deputy Commissioner of Disease Control at the New
York City Department of Health and Mental
23 Hygiene, DOHMH

24 Corinne Schiff
25 Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Health of
The New York City Department of Health and Mental
Hygiene, DOHMH

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

3 Sandy Rozza
4 Deputy Commissioner of Finance of the New York
City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
DOHMH

5
6 Hillary Kunins
Executive Deputy Commissioner for Mental Hygiene
Of the New York City Department of Health and
7 Mental Hygiene, DOHMH

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2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Alright, good
4 morning and welcome to the City Council's eighth day
5 of hearings on the Mayor's executive budget for
6 fiscal 2020. My name is Daniel Dromm and I Chair the
7 Finance Committee, we are joined by the Committee on
8 Youth Services Chaired by my colleague Council Member
9 Debi Rose. We're also joined by several of my
10 colleagues Council Member Margaret Chin, Minority
11 Leader Steve Matteo, Council Member Keith Powers,
12 Council Member Adrienne Adams, Council Member Mathieu
13 Eugene and I know others will be joining us later.
14 Today we will hear from the Department of Youth and
15 Community Development, the Department of Small
16 Business Services and the Department of Health and
17 Mental Health... Mental Hygiene. Before we begin I'd
18 like to thank the Finance Division staff for putting
19 today's hearing together including the Director
20 Latonia McKinney; Committee Counsels Rebecca Chasan,
21 Noah Brick and Stephanie Ruiz; Deputy Directors
22 Regina Poreda Ryan and Nathan Toth; Unit Heads Eisha
23 Wright and Crilhien Francisco; Finance Analyst
24 Michele Peregrin, Aliya Ali and Lauren Hunt and the
25 Finance Division Administrative support unit Nicole

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2 Anderson, Maria Pagan, Lattina Brown, and Courtneigh
3 Summerrise who pull everything together. Thank you
4 all for your efforts. I'd also like to remind
5 everyone that the public will be invited to testify
6 on the last day of budget hearings on May 23rd
7 beginning at approximately two p.m. in this room. For
8 members of the public who wish to testify but cannot
9 attend the hearing you can email your testimony to
10 the finance division at finance testimony at council
11 dot NYC dot gov and the staff will make it a part of
12 the official record. Today's executive budget hearing
13 starts with the Department of Youth and Community
14 Development. We are pleased that there is an
15 agreement to restore 5,000 slots in the summer youth
16 employment programs or SYEP and 6,000 slots in the
17 comprehensive after school system or COMPASS.
18 However, there are approximately 500,000 students in
19 kindergarten through 5th grade enrolled in DOE
20 schools but DYCD has slots for only nine, nine
21 percent of these students in COMPASS. In our
22 preliminary budget response, the Council called on
23 the administration to invest 90 million dollars to
24 redesign and expand the COMPASS elementary program
25 from 47,000 to 100,000 slots. We called for the

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2 introduction of a sliding scale fee based on family
3 income to support program expansion and help
4 diversify the mix of programs offered during after
5 school hours. We also called on the administration to
6 ensure that in the new contract the price per
7 participant is raised to support the full cost of
8 services. At our preliminary budget hearings, we
9 asked DYCD where demand for COMPASS elementary
10 programming was greatest and we were told that while
11 providers collect application data DYCD didn't have
12 that information. Failing to collect information
13 about demand for services doesn't make that unmet
14 demand go away. We call on the administration to get
15 serious about identifying and funding unmet need
16 committing 90 million dollars would be an important
17 start. Similarly, the Council is frustrated that the
18 administrators... that the administration didn't
19 baseline 19 million dollars for the Work, Learn and
20 Grow employment program. Our frustration continues
21 with the administration's failure to include 15
22 million dollars to fund Schools Out New York City or
23 SONYC for middle school students in the summer.
24 Parents of middle school aged children don't have a
25 seasonal need for after school care. Programs for the

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2 city's kids should not be used as a bargaining chip
3 in our annual budget negotiations, its extreme bad
4 faith. While we're hopeful that the administration
5 will ultimately add this money back by adoption, this
6 delay will wreak havoc on providers who again will
7 have mere weeks to implement quality programs for the
8 city's middle school students. Before we begin, I'd
9 like to remind my colleagues that the first round of
10 questions for the agency will be limited to three
11 minutes per Council Member and if Council Members
12 have additional questions, we will have a second
13 round of questions at two minutes per Council Member.
14 I will now turn the mic over to my Co-Chair, Council
15 Member Debi Rose for her statement and then we will
16 hear from DYCD Commissioner Bill Chong.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you Chair
18 Dromm and good morning. Good morning to everyone, I
19 am Council Member Debi Rose, Chair of the Committee
20 on Youth Services and I'm really pleased to be joined
21 here by my fellow Council Members who have been
22 acknowledged by Chair Dromm. I'd also like to
23 acknowledge the young people that are here today,
24 thank you for being here. We will hear today from
25 DYCD Commissioner Bill Chong, Associate Commissioner

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2 Jagdeen Phanor along with the agency's team of
3 program specific Deputy and Assistant Associate
4 Commissioners, thank you all for joining us. When we
5 were here last, we discussed the shortfalls in DYCD's
6 755-million-dollar preliminary budget for fiscal year
7 2020. The executive budget totals 779.2 million
8 dollars, approximately a 24-million-dollar increase.
9 The executive budget includes two new needs, 26
10 million dollars for the upcoming census 2020 work and
11 the other a two-million-dollar baseline increase for
12 NYCHA community center maintenance. Additional
13 funding for programmatic support came from the Office
14 of Economic Opportunity for the newly launched
15 advance and earn program formerly the youth... the
16 young adult internship program or YAIP and the young
17 adult literacy program, YALP. The agency was tasked
18 with hitting its 11.5-million-dollar PEG target of
19 which they landed on 12.1 million for this PEG,
20 600,000 dollars above the target from OMB. Chair
21 Dromm touched on the fiscal 2019 one shot
22 restorations, one for 6.2 million dollars supporting
23 approximately 6,000 COMPASS elementary slots and the
24 other 11.9 million for 5,000 additional SYEP slots.
25 This was encouraging since the executive budget

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2 included a combined PEG savings of 5.5 million from
3 SONYC and COMPASS programs. Overall though this
4 leaves summer SONYC unfunded at 15 million dollars
5 and the Council's Work, Learn, Grow program without
6 19 million dollars in funding for fiscal year 2020.
7 Both issues raised at our last hearing and in the
8 fiscal 2020 preliminary budget response in April both
9 of which we stated were a priority for the Council.
10 For the thousands of children and working families my
11 colleagues and I each represent the services we
12 consistently fight for at these hearings; SYEP,
13 COMPASS, SONYC, and runaway and homeless youth are
14 crucial to their daily lives. This administration may
15 try to dismiss summer programming as secondary, but
16 its benefits stretch beyond the short-term aid they
17 provide to working parents and caregivers who need to
18 know that their children are safe and healthy during
19 the day. Even a few hours a day of structured
20 activities can reduce the effects of summer learning
21 loss for students and this administration puts a lot
22 of money in the value of early childhood learning and
23 for it to not be reciprocated at the adolescent end
24 of the range is something that I, I just can't fathom
25 when we have documented proof that, that there is

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2 learning loss during the summer and that's why we as

3 the city have a responsibility to reach as many

4 children as possible through our public summer

5 programs. Before we begin I would like to thank

6 Christine Johnson, my Chief of Staff; Isa Rogers, my

7 Legislative and Budget Director; Christian Ravello,

8 my Legislative Aid; Michele Peregrin, Financial

9 Analyst to the Committee; Eisha Wright, Unit Head;

10 Paul Sinegal, the Counsel to the Committee; Kevin

11 Kotowsky, Policy Analyst to the Committee; and

12 Elizabeth Arts, our Community Engagement Liaison.

13 Thank you again Chair Dromm and I look forward to a

14 productive conversation at today's hearing.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much,

16 I'd also like to thank my staff member Robin Forst

17 for sitting through this with me all eight days so

18 far and I'd like to announce that we've been joined

19 by Council Member Barry Grodenchik and with that I'll

20 ask Counsel to swear in the panel.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you affirm that your

22 testimony today will be truthful to the best of your

23 knowledge, information and belief?

24 [panel affirms]

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, you may
3 proceed.

4 BILL CHONG: Good after... good morning.
5 Before I give my formal remarks, I do want to make a
6 few comments about Lew Fidler since is the first
7 hearing since his passing and when I became
8 Commissioner in 2014 I had an opportunity to talk to
9 Lew in an event in Brooklyn and walked across a
10 crowded room of people wearing my eye patch, you know
11 and... because I wanted to say something very important
12 to him and I said that if it wasn't for Lew Fidler I
13 would not have an agency to be in charge of because
14 without a doubt he kept DYCD alive for him to... almost
15 single handedly fight to restore 40 percent of our
16 budget for several years with this board of former
17 Speaker Quinn is truly remarkable, I mean there were
18 hundreds of programs that depended on that money,
19 there were thousands of young people who would not
20 have had services to... for homeless youth would not
21 have had beds or young people who would not have had
22 after school programs or young people who would not
23 have had summer jobs if it wasn't for Lew Fidler. So,
24 I think we all owe him a debt of gratitude that, you
25 know history hopefully will judge him as truly the

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2 savior of DYCD and for young people and he kept us
3 alive on life support so we could thrive under this
4 administration. I just couldn't let this moment pass
5 without, you know saying this because I think, you
6 know we all knew it, but I think it has to be for the
7 record. So, good morning Chairman Dromm and Chair,
8 Chairwoman Rose and members of the Finance and Youth
9 Services Committee. I'm Bill Chong, Commissioner of
10 the Department of Youth and Community Development.
11 I'm joined by Jagdeen Phanor, DYCD's Chief Financial
12 Officer; Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner for Youth
13 Services; and Andre White, Deputy Commissioner for
14 Youth Workforce Development. Thank you for the
15 opportunity to testify today on DYCD's fiscal 2020
16 executive budget. As you knew... as you know, due, due
17 to uncertainty in our economic future, last month the
18 Mayor announced the administration's first ever
19 mandatory savings program. Working closely with the
20 Office of Management and Budget, we have carefully
21 crafted a strategic savings plan totaling 12.3
22 million that is fiscally responsible and does not
23 include any cuts to core services funded by DYCD.
24 Although approximately 94 percent of DYCD's budget is
25 dedicated directly to contracted services, we're able

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2 to achieve more than half of our savings target from
3 outside our program budget. Our savings plan
4 includes; 1.23 million in rent savings from the
5 consolidation of office space to two locations, 500,
6 591,000 from a reduction in nine vacant positions
7 across the agency, 250,000 in savings from office
8 supplies, equipment and other AOTPS expenses and 4.7
9 million in revenue in prevention... in prevention
10 funding through a partnership with the Administration
11 with Children's Services. On the program side, we
12 achieved 2.49 million in savings by right sizing the
13 elementary summer wraparound program. One other... our
14 other program savings are three million in funds used
15 to open new SONYC programs. DYCD's fiscal 2020
16 preliminary budget stands at 70... 779.2 which does not
17 include the 26.1 million in funding added following
18 the, the release of the executive budget. Thanks to
19 the recent negotiations between the Council and the
20 Mayor's office, the summer youth employment program
21 will receive an additional 11.9 million which will
22 allow us to serve 75,000 young people this summer
23 with a total budget of 162.3 million. Our, our, our
24 195 new SYEP contracts awarded through the recent
25 request for proposals has begun and providers have

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2 been getting the... have been laying the groundwork for
3 a successful summer program. This includes staff
4 training in a variety of areas such as workforce
5 development, project-based learning, and program
6 implementation. We are also offering extensive
7 technical assistance on any issue that may arise.
8 Additionally, we are pleased that eight million was
9 added to the adult literacy to enable us to continue
10 to offer much needed English language and civics
11 classes, basic literacy instruction in reading,
12 writing and math, and a high school equivalency prep
13 courses. These funds will also support strengthened
14 professional development and teacher training as part
15 of our efforts to build capacity in our providers.
16 And 6.2 million was added to continue to provide
17 COMPASS services. To help address the cost of repairs
18 at Cornerstone community centers in NYCHA
19 developments, the executive budget included two
20 million. When added to the 1.9 million already in our
21 budget, the funding available for Cornerstone repairs
22 will be... also... almost doubled to 3.9 million if FY
23 '20. We appreciate the Council's strong advocacy to
24 help ensure that NYCHA community centers are in good
25 condition and can be... fully support the programs

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2 operated by the Cornerstone providers. The financial
3 plan allows us to continue our remarkable, remarkable
4 growth in services to run away and homeless youth. In
5 March, we reported 625 open beds with 128 remaining.
6 Today we are reporting 33 additional beds since
7 March, for a total of 658 online with 95 remaining.
8 We are on track to have all 753 beds online within
9 the next few months, which will fulfill the Mayor's
10 total commitment of 500 new beds for ages.. young
11 people ages 16 through 20. We also.. we also would
12 like to report that our progress towards the goal of
13 serving homeless young adults, ages 21 to 24 in the
14 run... the new runaway and homeless youth program...
15 residential programs. Responding to the new funding
16 in the adopted budget, DYCD issued and RFP for
17 homeless youth adults' programs in August and also..
18 and all 60 beds have been awarded to providers in the
19 fall. Four new programs have been contracted and all
20 will be online as soon as state certification is
21 completed. Finally, the budget adds 26 million to
22 assist the city efforts to ensure that every New
23 Yorker is counted in the 2020 census. We look forward
24 to supporting the efforts by providing administrative
25 back office and procurement support to the census

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2 office and lending our expertise to the city's
3 outreach strategies as they roll out. Under the
4 leadership of Deputy Mayor Thompson and Director of
5 the Census Julie Menin, the funding will be, be, be
6 used to encourage every New York resident to
7 participate in the upcoming 2020 census. As an
8 accurate census count will ensure that New York
9 receives its fair share of education, health care,
10 housing and infrastructure funding and its proper
11 electoral representation in Congress. Have you... as
12 you have heard in my testimony today, despite budget
13 uncertainties, FY... the FY 2020 executive budget
14 continues to place DYCD in a very strong position to
15 fund quality programs that improve lives and create
16 opportunities to advance socioeconomically. We look
17 forward to continuing to work with the City Council
18 to support New York City's young... youth, families and
19 communities. Thank you again for a chance to testify
20 today and we're ready to answer any questions.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very
22 much Commissioner and thanks for your salute to Lew
23 Fidler as well, I think we, we all agree on that. In
24 our fiscal 2020 preliminary budget response the
25 Council called on the administration to baseline... to

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2 baseline money or restore the fiscal 2019 one shot
3 for core programs that otherwise get funded on a
4 year... one basis through the annual budget dance. For
5 fiscal 2020 we asked for 11.9 million for 5,000
6 summer youth employment program slots and 6.2 million
7 for 6,000 COMPASS elementary slots. While funding
8 restorations were announced immediately prior to our
9 hearing with OMB, still outstanding are the unfunded
10 needs of 15 million dollars for summer SONYC and 19
11 million dollars for Work, Learn and Grow. We all
12 recognize the importance of these programs and the
13 Council expects to see these funds included and in
14 the adopted budget. So, what are your recommendations
15 as an agency for how we might avoid delayed funding
16 again in the future so as to protect the interest of
17 youth, families and providers?

18 BILL CHONG: Well let me say first of all
19 thank you for getting an early decision on the adult
20 literacy and the COMPASS programs and SYEP, you know
21 early is always better and I've said that about all
22 our core programs, early is always better. I
23 understand the importance of the SONYC summer
24 services as well as the Work, Learn and Grow, I
25 expect that it will be... continue to be part of the

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2 conversations as we move towards the adopted and I
3 always... as I've said early is always better for core
4 programs. We understand the challenges of late
5 funding and we'll continue to; you know advocate for
6 those going forward.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, I'll tell you
8 off... you know one of the number one priorities for
9 the Council moving forward is summer SONYC, that has
10 always been and, and I'm not going to give away any
11 secrets about what we talk about in BNT but it is
12 definitely one of our top, top priorities so we look
13 forward to continuing those negotiations with the
14 administration.

15 BILL CHONG: And we appreciate your
16 support.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.
18 There are approximately 500,000 students in
19 kindergarten through fifth grade enrolled in DOE
20 schools but DYCD has slots for only nine percent of
21 those students in COMPASS leaving many students
22 without after school services. In our preliminary
23 budget response, the Council called on the
24 administration to invest 90 million dollars to
25 redesign and expand the COMPASS elementary program

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2 from 47,000 to 100,000 slots. This recommendation to
3 expand the program was not included in the executive
4 budget. During the preliminary budget hearing for
5 DYCD the Associate Commissioner testified that DYCD
6 knows what the scaling inputs are, who the partners
7 are and all of the stakeholders, can we expect to see
8 a completed cost analysis by the close of the fiscal
9 year?

10 BILL CHONG: Let me first sort of restate
11 what I said at the preliminary budget, in the perfect
12 world if the funding was there I think everyone would
13 agree that a universal after school would be great
14 but the funding is not there so that is obviously one
15 big challenge that, that we face. When you talk about
16 universal it's, it's complicated, it's how you define
17 it, so is it a program in every school, is it a
18 program... a, a program seat for every young person who
19 wants it? So, the cost of how you calculate that are
20 going to be challenging, I'm not sure we can do that
21 analysis because there's 1.1 million young people in
22 the school system. How many would want an after-
23 school seat, that's... some, some of that is going to
24 be speculative. We will have a better sense going
25 forward, we're launching this summer our universal

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2 application which will allow the public for the first
3 time to apply in one location online for all the
4 different programs that we fund, eventually... it's
5 going to be an 18 to 20 month roll out and so one of
6 the features in this new online application, we call
7 the Discovery DYCD, is people can be put on multiple
8 waiting lists for different programs. So, at some
9 point in the future, I don't know exactly when but
10 sometime before the end of this administration we can
11 actually have real data as to how many people on
12 waiting lists because in the past we couldn't do it,
13 we didn't have a system to do it so moving forward
14 we'll be in a better position to under, understand
15 what the true need is because otherwise it is truly
16 speculative, schools, school... some... we've seen in the
17 SONYC programs which are universal that the
18 participation levels vary from school to school
19 depending on what else is happening in that school,
20 what other things are happening in that community so
21 my goal is before I leave as Commissioner is to be a
22 position where we can better understand what the true
23 need is and hopefully the money will be there at that
24 point.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, it seems to me
3 that you're saying we're not going to be able to
4 expect getting a report by the end of the fiscal year
5 but that with the introduction of this new portal I
6 guess we would get a better feel for what you think
7 the need is?

8 BILL CHONG: I think... you know the...
9 we're, we're planning for the future because you know
10 at some point hopefully the economy will be more
11 stable, we'll have more certainty and whether it's
12 under my tenure or in the next Commissioner's tenure
13 there will be at least the, the, the kind of
14 objective data that I think you need to make... to... you
15 need to have, you know firm budget decisions made so
16 we're planning for the future, I can't really commit
17 to anything at... by the end of the fiscal year because
18 it's all speculative at this point.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, when do you think
20 you'll have the results of the online applications?

21 BILL CHONG: I would say sometime in the...
22 we're launching it this summer so sometime during...
23 yeah, maybe at the end of FY '20 we'll have a sense
24 on the after school because we have 46 different
25 programs that we fund so we're, we're integrating

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2 different programs on a... on a quarterly basis over
3 the next 18 to 20 months so the after school programs
4 are the first ones to come online this summer and so
5 I'm hopeful that we'll have the waiting list data
6 more clear by the end of the fiscal year.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, alright. So, we
8 look forward to getting that information and working
9 with you on that. Let's talk a little bit about the
10 census, while we usually have focus on the youth
11 services side of DYCD I'd like to just pivot and
12 discuss the involvement of the agencies, community
13 development arm in the census 2020 especially given
14 the national political climate this census is make or
15 break for the city, it really is and my district in
16 particular was undercounted I'm sure of it, we can
17 see areas where we know that people were living and
18 they just marked them as vacant buildings and it's
19 just not true. So, the outreach to communities is
20 vitally important. The executive budget includes 27
21 million from fiscal 2019 through fiscal 2021 for DYCD
22 role in the census 2020. Of this funding 22 million
23 is for contracts and the remaining five million is
24 for 55 positions. Which city agencies are partnering

25

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2 on the census and who is taking the lead, since the
3 money is in your budget is it DYCD?

4 BILL CHONG: Okay, so I'll give you a two
5 part answer, I can talk about what DYCD is doing for
6 the census and then the money in our budget really is
7 because we're a fiscal agent for the census office
8 and so any sort of policy questions, citywide policy
9 questions I'd suggest that the Council meet with
10 Julie Menin, I know a meeting has been offered with
11 her and Deputy Mayor Thompson so you can dig in more
12 into the citywide issues. We're just administering
13 the money, providing office space, providing, you
14 know the back up support so we're the fiscal agent
15 back office operation with that 26 million. I can
16 tell you a little bit about our plans at DYCD which
17 don't necessarily require more money but just being
18 smart organizers. So, since the beginning of the year
19 we've had the census bureau come and do presentations
20 to all our contractors to look... to talk about the job
21 opportunities that are out there as the numerators
22 and other positions so that our... the constituents of
23 the programs that we fund know about these jobs and
24 they can apply for these jobs. Starting in the... in
25 July there will be many worksites in the summer youth

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2 employment program that will focus on census outreach
3 and we hope to have a, a census action day at the end
4 of the summer to get young people to kind of really
5 make a big push for the census even though its not
6 till next spring and then we're starting a planning
7 process looking at our community centers to see which
8 ones might be census application places because as
9 you know for the first time the census will be done
10 online. So, we want to make it as easy as possible
11 for people in, in underserved communities that would
12 be most at risk from being under counted to have
13 access to online... to be able to apply online at a... at
14 a... whether it's a Cornerstone or, or Beacon so those
15 are some of the preliminary things we're looking at
16 without any additional funding and then we're, we
17 still haven't figured out yet how we want to do a
18 social message... social media messaging next spring to
19 the young people who apply for the summer youth
20 employment program because as you know for the last
21 ten years or more it's been an online application and
22 so we have email addresses for many young people so
23 we want to make sure... and young people have no
24 problem doing anything online these days so we want
25 to make sure we tap into that resource as well for

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2 census so that's our plan for DYCD, anything else
3 outside of DYCD I suggest you... Julie and the Deputy
4 Mayor Thompson can give you more a sense of the
5 city's plans.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, Commissioner one
7 of the things in, in, in your... in your answer that
8 does concern me a little bit is the fact that I don't
9 believe that non-citizens can apply for those... most
10 of the jobs that the census bureau offers and, and so
11 for us the community outreach piece of it is vitally
12 important and then the, the funding that goes to
13 community or CBOs is also really important because
14 they're the ones who have to have direct access into
15 their own communities. So, do you know how that
16 contracting process is going to work, will that go
17 through your agency and how will those groups be
18 selected?

19 BILL CHONG: So, we're going to end up
20 doing the procurement but the specifics haven't... yet
21 to be worked out with the census office but... because
22 we do procurement fairly well, would be mindful of
23 the whole universe of nonprofits that work with
24 groups that historically have been underrepresented
25 so... but I can't... they don't have anything more

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2 detailed this year but we certainly are in
3 conversations with Julie Menin and her staff about
4 the details.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. I think that
6 there will still be a question on the census, maybe
7 you don't know, I'll ask Julie this but... that will
8 ask about same sex couples but not single LGBT folks,
9 you don't know? Yeah, okay. Has DYCD onboarded the 15
10 census positions for which you've recently received
11 new funding for fiscal 2019?

12 BILL CHONG: Jagdeen can you answer that?

13 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Hi, we've onboarded
14 five.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Five of the 15?

16 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And when do you
18 expect the... to bring the others on?

19 JAGDEEN PHANOR: We're working with DC...
20 with... we're working with the census to, to finalize
21 getting the other 15 on.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And what are those
23 positions?

24 JAGDEEN PHANOR: We definitely don't have
25 the details. Again, like the Commissioner said we are

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2 back office, we help facilitate if they have postings
3 and different things, the five that are currently
4 onboard were hired before they moved to DYCD so those
5 positions have not yet been transferred to us so we
6 definitely don't have those details.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Would Julie Menin
8 have that?

9 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, alright, thank
11 you. So, do you know the timeline for the actual work
12 for the census when it starts and when it closes, no,
13 okay. Alright, let me.. let me go to NYCHA community
14 centers. In fiscal 2020 the executive budget adds two
15 million dollars in a baseline increase for NYCHA
16 Cornerstone centers, how will this new funding be
17 allocated among the 93 Cornerstone NYCHA community
18 centers?

19 BILL CHONG: So, and I may ask Darryl to
20 come up if I have... if you want more details but I
21 think as many as... the initial 1.9 million was added a
22 year or two ago because there are certain basic
23 maintenance requests that we get from the nonprofit
24 providers, it might be painting, it might be
25 plastering, it might be plumbing issues that are not

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2 capital related types of repairs and so we work with
3 the Housing Authority, we flag these on a case by
4 case basis so they're not allocated to any particular
5 center and as the need comes in we identify it to the
6 Housing Authority, they make the repairs and then we
7 reimburse them so what the additional two million
8 will do is it will allow us to fast track even more
9 of these repairs so that the Housing Authority can
10 focus on the repair work and then we'll reimburse
11 them as, as it goes on so it's not like we have a
12 plan and this group gets X amount, it comes... it's a
13 day to... it's a day to day, week to week, month to
14 month as, as challenges come in we identify them. We
15 have a dedicated staff person who works every week in
16 flagging these and I get a, a report, in fact... well
17 the senior staff get a report about progress of
18 repairs at different centers.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Who determines the
20 priority for the repairs, is it you or is it NYCHA?

21 BILL CHONG: You want to... you have to
22 identify yourself.

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: Darryl Rattray,
24 Associate Commissioner for Youth Services... [cross-
25 talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I don't... I don't
3 think your mic is on.

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Testing...

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yeah.

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, Darryl Rattray,
7 Associate Commissioner for Youth Services and
8 Strategic Partnerships. I need to be sworn in.

9 BILL CHONG: Oh, I'm sorry.

10 [off mic dialogue]

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: That's honest.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay, do you affirm
13 that your testimony today will be truthful to the
14 best of your knowledge, information and belief?

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: I do, yes.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you.

18 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, it's, it's a
19 combination, of course on the ground we have our
20 nonprofits who are at the centers, based on what
21 needs to be repaired it may be something that's a
22 pending violation for DOH so that quickly comes to
23 us, we assess it relatively quickly and then we
24 actually prioritize it for NYCHA.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And that relationship
3 with NYCHA is working well or...

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Its coming along.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Its coming along,
6 okay. Is there, is there a backlog of repair
7 requests?

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: There are, I would say
9 and answering that two fold, one of course everyone
10 knows about the ticket repair system so there are
11 small items that are within that system and then the
12 priority items like the large items so hypothetically
13 if there's a leak in the roof and part of the ceiling
14 caves in that's a priority item, we work with NYCHA,
15 they get a vendor to come out and make that large
16 repair but is there a backlog, certainly, there are
17 items that... small items that are within that
18 ticketing system that we're working on.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, this... can this
20 new maintenance money be applied to some of the
21 backlog or how does that work?

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: I believe it can, we,
23 having sat down with NYCHA yet to go over how we are
24 going to strategize around the new funding but
25 absolutely it should be able to.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are there any
3 restrictions on it, do you know?

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Not that I'm aware of
5 and right... and, and as of right now we... well capital...
6 anything capital isn't covered within that funding
7 but any small or larger repairs that are within the
8 realm of the center should be able to be covered.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: About how many
10 providers contract with DYCD to do this type of work?

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, we have 94
12 Cornerstone locations that is roughly 39 contractors,
13 I need to confirm that for you.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: 39?

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Providers.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are there plans to
17 bring on more providers?

18 DARRYL RATTRAY: No, there are no plans
19 to add any additional Cornerstone sites.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Would you... do you
21 think that... [cross-talk]

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: Actually, you know what,
23 I'm sorry, let me clarify that, with the exception of
24 Marcy is being currently renovated, the creative
25 community center at Marcy and that may be a Corner...

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2 that will be a Cornerstone site when it comes on
3 board, in addition Gowanus is slated to be renovated
4 and when that comes online that will be a
5 Cornerstone.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. Does
7 DYCD anticipate that the four million dollars
8 budgeted will be sufficient to cover the annual
9 maintenance cost?

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: As of right now we
11 believe it will but of course we're continuously
12 assessing whether or not the funding meets the need
13 and we will definitely request additional if needed.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And you're the point
15 person on that?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: I... well I have a point...
17 I'm the point person for Cornerstone, I do have a
18 point person for repairs and as all hands-on deck.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. I think that's
20 all I have, I'm going to turn it over to my
21 colleague, Chair Rose but before I do, we've been
22 joined by Council Member Andy King, thank you.

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you so much
25 Chair Dromm and I too want to acknowledge and thank

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2 you Commissioner Chong for, for bring.. for reminding
3 us about the vital role that Lew Fidler played here
4 and I think it would only be fitting if we took a
5 moment of silence to, to recognize and acknowledge
6 his, his impact and his passing. A moment of silence
7 please.

8 [silence]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

10 Commissioner it's good to see you back and in
11 response to summer SONYC which there's a common theme
12 here as, as the priority of the Council, both these
13 programs summer SONYC and Work, Learn, Grow costs
14 approximately 35 million to restore, 15 million for
15 22,800, 800 summer SONYC slots and 19.7 million
16 dollars for 4,350 Work, Learn, Grow slots. The city's
17 total fiscal 2020 expense budget is 92.5 billion,
18 this 35 million is literally a fraction of the total
19 cost at three thousandth of a percent of the total
20 expense budget or five percent of DYCD's total fiscal
21 2020 executive budget or even 11 percent of the total
22 fiscal 2020 budget for COMPASS. So, let's assume for
23 the sake of argument that through the budget
24 negotiation process the Council and the
25 administration reach an agreement to restore 22,800

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2 SONYC slots for this summer that are currently
3 unfunded, could you just walk us through the steps
4 that DYCD and its program providers would need to
5 undertake to get programming up and running for the
6 summer with potentially a month's notice?

7 BILL CHONG: So, Susan will go into the
8 detail.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

10 SUSAN HASKELL: Yeah, on the.. on the.. on
11 the positive side we have some experience getting
12 this money out later in the year and, and so do our
13 providers so we have traditionally gone out
14 immediately after the funding is secured and
15 confirmed with a survey that we'll ask providers hey
16 this... there's additional money for summer services
17 who has the capacity to do this, who, who has young
18 people, you know demanding services for middle school
19 summer, we give them a couple of days to kind of take
20 an assessment, get back to us to the number they'd
21 like contracted, we see how that combination of
22 responses fits into the available funding. In the
23 past we've been able to do a pretty good job of, of,
24 you know getting to the demand that providers have
25 brought back then we'll give them confirmation about

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2 getting their funding and we'll immediately start
3 working with finance to get the contracting going.
4 We, you know we've had funding for SONYC summer at
5 various points during the spring and we've sort of
6 got a plan for whenever it does come.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: With that timeline
8 in mind what share of the newly added SONYC programs,
9 summer slots would you estimate providers would be
10 likely to fill?

11 SUSAN HASKELL: We've seen... you know
12 we've seen the overwhelming majority of those seats
13 be contracted and utilized by young people so we have
14 seen a pretty good uptake considering the challenges
15 of funding it that late, I'm confident we... you know
16 we have a history of making the best out of that
17 funding.

18 BILL CHONG: And just sort of a key point
19 is that the way the SONYC program is designed it's
20 very flexible, it's not a daily program, it's 108
21 hours over four weeks so if the money comes in later
22 the programs may start in mid to late July and run
23 through the end of August so we... one of the things
24 we've learned in listening to the nonprofits was
25 young people in middle school in the summer time want

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2 flexibility in their schedule, they're not going to
3 show up every single day like an elementary program
4 from eight in the morning to six at night which is,
5 believe it or not, how we used to do those programs
6 and there are very few 12 and 13 year olds who I know
7 who want to be anywhere at eight o'clock in the
8 morning in the summer time so in response to that
9 feedback we designed a program that's more project
10 based, 108 hours... 108 hours over four weeks so that
11 gives us flexibility to start a SONYC summer program
12 later than let's say the first week of, of July so
13 again we've done this three years in a row, four
14 years in a row so there's a lot experience.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Would you say that
16 this is the most efficient way to, to actually do
17 this?

18 BILL CHONG: Well, as I said in the
19 preliminary budget hearing, you know my preference is
20 to have stable funding for core programs.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: If the existing
22 programs are full day, if a partial summer SONYC
23 program costs 15 million for 22,800 slots, how much
24 more would it cost to match these programs to the
25 longer programs offered in Beacons and Cornerstones?

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2 BILL CHONG: We'd have to get back to you
3 on the cost, you know but, but... you know I, I don't
4 think we have a number but the, the way the SONYC
5 program was designed was because this is what the
6 nonprofits told us, an all-day program wouldn't work
7 because young people wouldn't be showing up from
8 eight in the morning to six at night and even I think
9 the, the programs in the Beacons don't operate a
10 whole day, they, they also have flexibility because
11 again when you're a young adolescent and you have no
12 school you're going to want to spend time with
13 family, with friends, with other activities in the
14 community so we want... so the 108... the 108 hours
15 wasn't pulled out of the thin air it was based on a
16 lot of feedback that we got from providers at what
17 made the most sense in the summer for young
18 adolescents.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, will you... will
20 you work to get that... [cross-talk]

21 BILL CHONG: Sure... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...number for us?

23 BILL CHONG: Sure.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Alright, thank you.

25 With Work, Learn, Grow since implementation of Work,

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2 Learn, Grow over the last four years the average
3 number of participants has been 5,781 and at the same
4 time the number of applicants has averaged about
5 15,112. As you can see the demand for year-round jobs
6 has outpaced the number of enrollees. Last year,
7 through budget negotiations the administration picked
8 up the programs as a one shot for 19 million dollars.
9 Given these facts, why hasn't the program been
10 restored for fiscal 2020 and can we expect to see the
11 program restored at adoption?

12 BILL CHONG: I'll... as I said earlier
13 obviously it's an important program and I'm certain
14 that in the conversations between now and the adopted
15 budget this will certainly come up again and you know
16 we're... you know as with the SONYC summer our
17 workforce staff are extremely prepared and
18 experienced in making sure this happens, we have a
19 little bit more time because the program doesn't
20 really start until October so it's less of a time
21 pressure situation so it's a larger question about,
22 you know the back and forth negotiations that will
23 happen between now and adopted and so I'm sure this
24 will come up.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Why was it cut and
3 the demand for Work, Learn, Grow clearly outpaces,
4 you know the, the enrollment outpaces...

5 BILL CHONG: Well as you know
6 Commissioners don't make decisions on what gets cut
7 in their budget or what's not, not in... baselined it's
8 a larger conversation that I think you have to have
9 with OMB because I think every agency... if the... if I
10 was given the authority to fund what I wanted to fund
11 obviously it'd be something but it's a larger
12 conversation about what, what can the city afford
13 given the fiscal uncertainty so I'm sure this will be
14 part of the ongoing conversation between now and the
15 adopted budget and we appreciate the support of the
16 Council in making this program happen year to year.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And I appreciate
18 hearing that the conversation is going to be ongoing
19 because I know you recognize the value of this
20 program continuing and the, the restoration of a one
21 shot for this program. Summer youth employment, the
22 summer youth application deadline closed on April
23 25th, 2019, can you provide the committee with the
24 updated number of people who have applied per the new
25 category under the special initiatives programs area

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2 which 27,000 slots had been earmarked for including
3 vulnerable youth both older and younger, NYCHA MAP or
4 MAP both older and younger, general NYCHA both older
5 and younger, cure violence both older and younger and
6 justice involved and foster care youth?

7 BILL CHONG: So, Andre will give you the
8 answer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay...

10 ANDRE WHITE: So, in total we did
11 receive over 146,000 applications for the special
12 initiative option for vulnerable youth, older youth,
13 we've received over 1,675 applications so far, for
14 younger youth 473, for NYCHA MAP 1,569 older youth
15 applications, for younger youth 752, SYEP for NYCHA
16 for older youth 535, for younger youth 220, for the
17 center focus option we've received 466 applications
18 that's only for young people over age 16 so there's
19 no younger youth component, for cure violence we've
20 received 73 older youth applications and 19
21 applications for, for younger youth.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you and
23 likewise for the general population program area
24 which includes 43,000 slots within the new RFP can

25

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2 you provide this committee with those numbers who
3 have applied?

4 ANDRE WHITE: Absolutely, absolutely, for
5 older youth 90,543 young people have applied and
6 3,645 young, young, younger youth.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And will all the
8 unfilled slots be rolled into the general lottery
9 pool of slots if not filled under the school based or
10 special initiative category?

11 ANDRE WHITE: That's the plan, yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, so all of
13 those slots will be filled?

14 ANDRE WHITE: Correct.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Great. The
16 administration announced the, the restoration of
17 5,000 slots for a cost of 11.9 million dollars
18 reflecting last years fiscal 2019 one shot of ten
19 million point three... ten million point three dollars
20 plus the increase for minimum wage adjustments, will
21 these 5,000 slots be added to general lottery, the
22 recent renamed community based division within SYEP's
23 program area?

24

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, the additional 5,000
3 slots will be allocated to the community.. [cross-
4 talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: To the general..
6 [cross-talk]

7 ANDRE WHITE: ...based option.. [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay.. [cross-talk]

9 ANDRE WHITE: Only to the community-based
10 option.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Only community
12 based and with the disbursement of these 5,000 slots
13 model the citywide distribution as outlined in the
14 preliminary plan?

15 ANDRE WHITE: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, will these
17 slots be allocated for older youth or young youth or
18 a combination of both and what will the allotments
19 be?

20 ANDRE WHITE: Our thinking currently is
21 to only allocate to the older youth portfolio. As you
22 know for the younger youth portion those young people
23 are going to be engaged in projects and providers
24 need at least two to three months to really plan and
25 execute their projects, we're not sure if providers

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2 could take on additional younger youth slots because
3 there might not be enough time to plan the additional
4 projects that they might have to offer the young
5 people. So, the thinking now is community based older
6 youth but if there are some younger youth providers
7 that might be able to develop additional projects for
8 younger youth, we might consider that as well.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Have all of the
10 baselined 70,000 slots been filled? At preliminary
11 there were approximately 3,600 unfilled slots so
12 circling around, you know back around on these, you
13 know specifically... [cross-talk]

14 ANDRE WHITE: Uh-huh. Yes, so once the,
15 the awards were made for the RFP we're actually what
16 we, we're in the amendment process right now so
17 essentially what we're doing we are talking to
18 providers to determine capacity and based on the
19 capacity responses we are getting in terms of the
20 number of slots they could take on we are allocating
21 those additional 3,000 slots that you're referring
22 to.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Have you added any
24 additional contracts?

25 ANDRE WHITE: No.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: No, what are the
3 total number of contracts that you have to date?

4 ANDRE WHITE: 195, 195 contracts... [cross-
5 talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: 195... and you are
7 working towards increasing the contracts, the number
8 of contracts?

9 ANDRE WHITE: We just awarded as you
10 know, we just released the RFP last year, these
11 contracts will be in place for three years with an
12 additional renewal, renewal option for three years.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay. Advance and
14 Earn or the bridge programs and I see we have some
15 supporters here for the bridge programs. DYCD, DYCD
16 released the Advance and Earn RFP on May 1st, 2019
17 after many shifted release dates the pre-proposal
18 conference was yesterday actually, right?

19 ANDRE WHITE: Correct.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, the budget
21 for Advance and Earn is just over 13 million dollars
22 for 900 slots which covers a robust continuum of
23 services. In the RFP and concept paper this program
24 is described as a bridge program, correct?

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: With bridge elements,
3 correct.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay. In the
5 Council's fiscal 2020 preliminary budget response we
6 called on the administration to increase their
7 recommended funding level from 60 million annually to
8 70 million in fiscal 2020 for bridge programs, is
9 this allotment of funding a portion of the so-called
10 funding for bridge programs?

11 ANDRE WHITE: The Advance and Earn
12 funding is actually... it's actually through New York
13 City Opportunity, they're the ones who work closely
14 with us to design the model and fund the actual
15 program.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And so, the
17 advocates are, are calling for an increased level of
18 slots to align with the service level in fiscal 2019
19 between the young adult literacy program and the
20 intern and earn programs which this sort of replaced,
21 did it not?

22 BILL CHONG: Well as you cited in your
23 initial test, testimony the money for Advance and
24 Earn was added on an annual basis as it has been for
25 the last ten years by the Office of Economic

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2 Opportunity so we can pass on your request to find
3 out where the remaining funds that were represented
4 of the combined young adolescent literacy and intern
5 and earn... [cross-talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
7 talk]

8 BILL CHONG: ...and, and whether that money
9 is available to expand Advance and Earn, we can't
10 answer that question because the money is not in our
11 budget, its add, added in the executive on an annual
12 basis so they have a budget, so we'll pass on your
13 request to them.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: What number of
15 participants did you have for these combined
16 programs, we had about 2,400?

17 BILL CHONG: 2,200 young people.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: 2,200 and how much
19 funding for capacity building is in each Advance and
20 Earn contract, how many contracts can, can the
21 current funding provide and how can you envision a
22 scaled-up number of contracts through an increase in
23 funding?

24 ANDRE WHITE: So, right now we have
25 allocated 250,000 dollars towards TA and that's not

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2 per contract that's for the entire portfolio. As you

3 know with any new model you have to do strong

4 assessments to see exactly what the need is going to

5 be and what resources providers might be so... might

6 need, sorry, so once those awards are made, we are

7 going to start that process.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And given that

9 young adults out of school, out of work rates and

10 service providers are not evenly spread between

11 neighborhoods how do you plan to implement this

12 program in a way which expands these services into

13 high needs, additional high need areas?

14 ANDRE WHITE: As, as you know most of

15 DYCD programs are actually located in communities

16 where there are high needs, right, with, with this

17 particular program what is important to us is to make

18 sure that we're developing trainings for young people

19 that will lead to a career pathway. So, initially

20 when we're thinking about what those streams are

21 going to be, we were thinking about what supports we

22 might have to put in place so we're not necessarily

23 thinking about the location of the program, right, so

24 for... [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
3 talk]

4 ANDRE WHITE: ...example a young person
5 might live in Brooklyn and there's an amazing
6 training program in Manhattan so we thought of what
7 resources that young person might need to get to that
8 location and we're going to be... we're going to be
9 providing metro cards to those young people to
10 travel, to get to the training programs, we're going
11 to provide, providing food because we know that's one
12 of the issues that we are seeing in our other
13 programs where young people show up and they tell us
14 they're hungry, they can't focus so we're going to
15 make sure whatever resources young people need to get
16 to the program, to get the training that they require
17 so they can get the good job we're going to make sure
18 that those things are in place.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: But you're not
20 looking at the, the area of need locally and funding
21 programs within that, that area, that... [cross-talk]

22 BILL CHONG: So, given the fact it's a
23 model program and... [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
25 talk]

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2 BILL CHONG: ...that... our focus is
3 quality, impactful programs so we want to make it
4 easy for young people to travel because we know and
5 our... this has been our experience that the young
6 person who wants a good job or a, a skill will
7 travel. There was for many years we had a program
8 with the sheet metal worker's union out in... zone in
9 Queens and it was amazing, it was the best attended
10 program we ever funded because young people would
11 travel from around the city because it meant that
12 this led to a job so in all the focus groups we did
13 with young people we learned that they will travel if
14 they... you give them the metro card, if you give them
15 money... food and so we want to make sure that with the
16 limited amount of money and this new model we fund
17 the best possible program; if it's in Manhattan, if
18 it's in Brooklyn, if it's in Queens we want quality...
19 because if it... if it's... if... this program works and
20 it's the first of its kind in the nation so I... you
21 know and it took two years to, to get to this point
22 with a lot of feedback from the... our agency nonprofit
23 partners. If we... if it works and it's proven and
24 evaluated over time we want to scale it up, we want
25 to make sure it works and so that's why our focus is

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2 on quality providers and the supports to help young
3 people access these services.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, thank you.
5 There was a technical issue within the budget and the
6 budget function analysis as related to new budget
7 codes for Advance and Earn, will this change be
8 reconciled in the adopted budget?

9 JAGDEEN PHANOR: So, Michelle and I
10 spoke, it's the way that OMB categorized it so as you
11 guys know you guys look at budget functions and in
12 the budget function under literacy it could appear
13 that literacy funding was held... whole but I explained
14 to Michelle that it is... Advance and Earn was
15 categorized in that budget function, we can certainly
16 work with OMB to change it into a different function
17 if wanted but I think we clarified what that increase
18 that you saw was.

19 [off mic dialogue]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, we, we will
21 have a follow up question about that.

22 JAGDEEN PHANOR: Sure... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...offline, okay,
24 thank you. And I know... well my colleague... oh, I know
25 my colleague especially Margaret Chin has a question

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2 so I, I will now step back because I know she has
3 somewhere to go and I will continue with my COMPASS
4 question and runaway and homeless youth, Council
5 Member Chin, I'm sorry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes, thank you
7 Chairs and thank you Commissioner and especially for
8 acknowledging Council Member Fidler because I think
9 Council Member Rose and I we served with him when we
10 started in the City Council and I know that the
11 budget for DYCD has grown in the last ten years and
12 especially in every area of service, you know we see
13 the growth of COMPASS, SYEP but we still got a way to
14 go and I think that it's great that we see the number
15 of beds for homeless and runaway youth and I think in
16 your testimony you talk about the Mayor's commitment
17 adding 500 new beds that's great, we need a new
18 commitment because whatever the number is right now
19 it's not enough to serve the needs out there and
20 we're glad that you increased... put in, you know the
21 budget for the beds for young people, homeless youth
22 that are over, you know 21 and, and that's a
23 beginning so we want to continue to work with you to
24 increase that because we just cannot say oh, we meet
25 the goal and that's it because the need is so great

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2 out there. I just wanted to go back to the COMPASS,
3 the summer program and the after-school program
4 especially after school programs. I know the Mayor
5 is, you know investing in Pre-K and K-3, a lot of
6 those kids need after school programs too and I don't
7 know why that DYCD don't have the data in terms of
8 the needs out there. First of all if you ask the
9 providers they have waiting lists, there are waiting
10 lists for after school programs, I mean if you work
11 with them at least that's a number to start with and
12 then working with DOE, I mean maybe... this is also a
13 program that DOE needs to take responsibility of,
14 they need to help provide after school programming in
15 every single school because to keep... the children,
16 our children needs that additional time in terms of
17 learning and also parents especially parents that
18 work, immigrant parents that are not proficient in
19 English needs help for their kids so that's a goal
20 that in the Council especially the women's caucus
21 we're pushing for universal after school programs
22 because we see the needs out there. So, I think going
23 forward just like the way we did with summer youth
24 jobs that we're pushing for a goal and every year we
25 try to push for more and the same thing I think with

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2 the summer... I mean the summer program and also with
3 the after-school program we need to continue to grow
4 those programs, yes, quality is important, but we can
5 have both, we can have quality and quantity because
6 we need that for our kids to be successful. So, I
7 just want to really work with DYCD and let's, you
8 know look at the budget needs that we have and work
9 towards universal after school programs.

10 BILL CHONG: So, we appreciate the
11 support and the partnership, I think, you know when
12 we designed the initial after school program 14 years
13 ago, unfortunately I was around 14 years ago, the
14 data system didn't allow us to track waiting lists.
15 This new data system, Discover DYCD will allow us to
16 track waiting lists not only in after school programs
17 but eventually over all 46 programs that we support
18 throughout the city so I think data is important to
19 make a decision on what the need is and so we look
20 forward to working with you to better identify the
21 needs and again each budget year is different, we
22 don't know what the fiscal situation will look like
23 next year whether it's better or worse that's to be
24 determined but, you know as I said in the perfect
25 world if funding wasn't an issue obviously we'd want

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2 to expand services but obviously in this environment
3 where we've had to make cuts it was a difficult
4 decision to be able to, to, to come to but we want to
5 continue that conversation with you and that
6 partnership with you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well when we met in
8 the first hearing, right Chair Dromm with OMB,
9 there's extra revenue coming in, their projection is
10 much lower than the council's projection but there
11 are more revenues coming in so we do see putting
12 those monies into critical programs for our kids and
13 I hope that we'll be working together to make sure we
14 fight for that money, thank... [cross-talk]

15 BILL CHONG: Thank, thank you... [cross-
16 talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...thank you Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council
19 Member King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good morning, thank
21 you both Chairs Dromm and Rose and thank you
22 Commissioner and your team, I know you've done a
23 wonderful or strive to do a wonderful job and being
24 our Commissioner with all the different agencies that
25 fund money through you to help service the children

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2 in New York and all New Yorkers. My question to you
3 is pretty much an open-ended question for you to plug
4 it in anyway you like. As someone who is a youth
5 developer who spends time on the ground helping young
6 people one of things that we always do we pat our
7 children on the back for the wonderful things that
8 they do but in order to help them improve and grow we
9 got to tap into the challenges of their everyday
10 existence and whatever that might be, so, while we
11 have these reports that you've been able to
12 accomplish so much for after school programs, summer
13 youth jobs I'd like to know in your mind and in your
14 own world if... what will be the biggest challenge that
15 you're having right now with the cuts that you have
16 to administer as well as continue to deliver for our
17 children, that was my only question to open it up and
18 figure out how we in the Council can take your
19 conversation to improve and help you manage before
20 adoption?

21 BILL CHONG: Well you know fortunately I
22 think thanks to the creativity of Jagdeen and her
23 staff, the cuts have really not impacted our core...
24 existing core services so I don't see any major
25 challenges, we're fortunate in the respect that we're

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2 able to take most of our reductions in
3 nonprogrammatic expenses so, you know obviously... you
4 know if new funds become available we'd always be
5 able to adapt to whatever the need might be whether
6 it's... you know some of things that end up in the
7 adopted budget, by this point, you know we're focused
8 on quality. We know that in order to grow any program
9 we have to show it works, I mean that... to go back to
10 the Advance and Earn program, after a three year
11 evaluation of our Intern and Earn program or young
12 adult internship program we came to the conclusion
13 that even though we felt it worked after three years
14 of data it showed it really didn't move the needle on
15 the dial as far as earnings for young people who went
16 through the program so we, we strive for scale but we
17 always strive for quality because for us to get to
18 scale we always have to make the case the programs
19 make a difference and so we're always learning and so
20 as we learned and the... more money becomes available
21 we're trying to apply it to the best possible
22 programming because the young people deserve the best
23 possible programming.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I thank you for
25 that and just one follow up, as you assess programs

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2 that work and don't work, I appreciate you saying
3 okay, we're going to move this money, shift it over
4 here, end that program, what happens to the students
5 as we talk about summer youth employment, 75,000 jobs
6 you're looking to maintain, we know there's more than
7 75,000 children in the city of New York, so is there
8 a plan or what is the goal to engage those who may
9 not meet the qualifications of a summer youth program
10 or engaged in any type of training program that you
11 have?

12 BILL CHONG: So, Andre you want to...

13 ANDRE WHITE: Sure, yeah. I think it's
14 important to understand although we do serve 75,000
15 young people not every young person actually gets
16 selected from the lottery takes a job offer, right,
17 so it's a full 75,000 jobs, last year we made over
18 120,000 offers. What we do, we talk to our providers
19 to encourage young people to look for other
20 opportunities, volunteering opportunities outside of
21 summer youth employment program. At DYCD we have a
22 very active social media unit and they provide
23 volunteer opportunities, on the job opportunities
24 that young people could tap into, we encourage our
25 providers to also provide any additional trainings

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2 that young people might have an interest in that
3 falls outside of SYEP. For example, we offer other
4 workforce programs within our unit with owner
5 division and we make sure that the providers are
6 aware of those, those different programs that they
7 could talk to young people about.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you for your
9 commitment and your effort, thank you Commissioner,
10 thank you Chairs, thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
12 Council Member Rosenthal and we've also been joined
13 by Council Member Gjonaj.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
15 much Chairs and thank you Commissioner for all your
16 hard work. I want to ask about the Advance and Earn
17 program. How many youths are currently served, is it
18 900?

19 ANDRE WHITE: So, it's a brand-new
20 program, we're... we've just released the RFP, we
21 expect to serve 900 young people, yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And is that
23 what you had always... I had thought the number was
24 much larger than 900?

25

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2 ANDRE WHITE: Yes, it's less, we're
3 actually combining two programs, the young adult
4 literacy program that currently.. [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: The young...
6 [cross-talk]

7 ANDRE WHITE: ...serves... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Sorry?

9 ANDRE WHITE: Young adult literacy..
10 [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Got it..
12 [cross-talk]

13 ANDRE WHITE: ...program that serves
14 currently 520 young people and the Intern and Earn
15 program that serves roughly 1,600 young people on an
16 annual basis so yes, there's a reduction.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So, 1,600 and
18 500 would be 2,100 and you're knocking it down to
19 900?

20 ANDRE WHITE: Correct.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Was that
22 listed in the... in the PEG program as a reduction?

23 BILL CHONG: Well no, actually in the
24 concept paper which was released I think in the
25 spring it was made clear that because of the feedback

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2 from the nonprofit community who wanted a more robust
3 and high reimbursement rate, we knew that there would
4 be fewer young people served but better programs...
5 [cross-talk]

6 ANDRE WHITE: Right... [cross-talk]

7 BILL CHONG: ...and that was part of a two
8 year process of, of focus groups with young people
9 that Jobs First helped organize and other focus
10 groups with providers and the concept paper that we
11 had to make a choice with finite amount of money do
12 we do a better program that serves fewer young people
13 or do we do a program that as I said the young
14 adolescent... young adult internship program was the...
15 was evaluated over a three year period and it
16 basically showed it didn't work in the long run so...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I mean I...
19 here's... I... [cross-talk]

20 BILL CHONG: So, it wasn't a cut... [cross-
21 talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...understand
23 your... [cross-talk]

24 BILL CHONG: ...it was a choice of... [cross-
25 talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...thinking...

3 [cross-talk]

4 BILL CHONG: ...of, of better programs for...
5 with fewer young people.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: A thousand
7 percent agree, you want the better program, I think
8 that reflects a misunderstanding of OMB and the Mayor
9 more importantly, the Mayor committed to good
10 programs, right, in making that statement and calling
11 and aging for model budgeting by definition it costs
12 more and I think it's disingenuous to say we wanted a
13 better program so therefore we're serving fewer
14 people, that, that can't be said in a sentence, you
15 want the better program. This is the whole fight
16 about the human service contracts, we want excellent
17 programs but if that means that we're serving far
18 less people there's a serious disconnect in the
19 messaging so I, I just Chair want to... want to make it
20 clear that this is really outrageous that, that we
21 could land here, I'm, I'm very disappointed with OMB
22 and I'm very disappointed with the Mayor.

23 BILL CHONG: So, I understand your point
24 and let me just say for the record that has our
25 budget has more than doubled every single program has

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2 a higher reimbursement rate than five years ago..

3 [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Good.. [cross-
5 talk]

6 BILL CHONG: ...and we're still serving
7 more people than five years ago..

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Good.. [cross-
9 talk]

10 BILL CHONG: So, the Advance and Earn is
11 sort of a unique situation because it's a program
12 that we... its not in our baseline budget, it comes
13 into our budget for the last 12 years in the
14 executive budget formerly from the Center for
15 Economic Opportunity and now the Office of Economic
16 Opportunity and so there... I can't really speak to why
17 we're not fully funded here; we'll pass on the
18 request to the Office of Economic Opportunity and
19 they can get back to you about why the combined
20 funding isn't reflected in the Advance and Earn RFP.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Again, that's
22 really not... giving mumbo jumbo about how the process
23 works and you... even using the word OMB or baseline
24 budget doesn't satisfy the need of New Yorkers, thank
25 you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you and
3 we're going to Council... Chair, Chair Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Well... I'm going to
5 be really brief because we've extended our time but I
6 just wanted to circle back to Council Member Chin's
7 remarks about, about the data for COMPASS, clearly we
8 don't need to wait for, you know the portal or the
9 application to, to be functional to, to discern what
10 the need is, the need is very clear, the providers
11 can tell us that so, you know in the absence of
12 having this mechanism to collect the data how, how
13 did you arrive at the data for universal SONYC? How
14 was that collected and determined?

15 BILL CHONG: So, I, I don't think we've
16 given... at the preliminary budget hearing we just gave
17 a back of the envelope analysis of what it would take
18 to have a program in every elementary school that
19 didn't have a program so that really is back of the
20 envelope, that doesn't even... universal to me implies
21 every young person who wants an after school program
22 gets an after school seat, that's a very... that's
23 something we really need real data on so it was
24 really back of the envelope, we looked at how many
25 programs we had in the schools that served elementary

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2 students and how many don't and then we just did a,
3 a... literally back of the envelope, is there anything
4 else to add?

5 JAGDEEN PHANOR: There's nothing else to
6 add, as we indicated in the prior hearing we're
7 working with OMB, there's always conversations, I
8 think this is a larger conversation than us. Our role
9 is to implement whatever priorities the Mayor or OMB
10 has so we continue to have conversations.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, do you still
12 expect to release a, a COMPASS concept paper and
13 what's the timeline and what's the goal for the
14 release of this concept paper?

15 BILL CHONG: There's no plan in the
16 immediate future, as you know the Mayor's Office of
17 Contract Services is convening a series of focus
18 groups to get feedback and so once we have the
19 results of those focus groups we can then start the
20 process for a concept paper but there's nothing
21 planned in the immediate future.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, is there a, a
23 timeline for the focus groups and how long... [cross-
24 talk]

25

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2 BILL CHONG: You'd have to speak... [cross-
3 talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...you're going to
5 do that... [cross-talk]

6 BILL CHONG: ...you'd have to speak... you
7 have to speak to the Mayor's Office of Contract
8 Services since they're leading those focus groups.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, the Council we
10 still expect to be a part of this conversation when
11 it occurs, and we are anticipating our invitation
12 because we did ask in the fall of 2018 to be a part
13 of that process.

14 BILL CHONG: We'll pass on the request to
15 them.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, I want to
17 enforce the fact that we're very serious about being
18 a part of that conversation. Thank you. And I'd, I'd
19 just like to know how many individual touches did
20 DYCD make with runaway and homeless youth individuals
21 in fiscal year 2019 and you receive the information
22 from providers daily, right, on runaway and homeless
23 youth?

24 SUSAN HASSELL: We have a data system
25 that tells us how many young people are in our

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2 runaway and homeless youth beds on a daily basis,
3 yes.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, so then this
5 information should be available to pass on to my
6 committee staff because when they want to brief me on
7 these statistics often times these numbers are not
8 available so if you get them on a daily basis we
9 should be able to get them... [cross-talk]

10 BILL CHONG: I believe they're report...
11 they're reported in the legislation that's required,
12 is it every six months? So... and you know so, anything
13 is a snapshot, but I think in the most recent reports
14 will show that there's always vacant beds on any
15 given night.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
17 talk]

18 BILL CHONG: So, so, you know we, we're
19 working on trying to do better education of all our
20 network of providers so they know how to locate a bed
21 so if a young person shows up at one program and that
22 program is fully occupied there's always beds
23 available that are appropriate for that young person...
24 [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
3 talk]

4 BILL CHONG: ...somewhere else in the
5 network of programs and the number of vacancies will...
6 our capacity will grow more as we add the remaining
7 98 beds so I don't think we're, we're in a situation
8 where at any given night any young person will be
9 turned away under the age of 20 and 21.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Well how, how would
11 we be able to resolve the conflicts in the PMMR?

12 SUSAN HASKELL: I, I... your question... the
13 Council questions were shared, and I think they're...
14 we really need to dig into that, and I think we're...
15 I'm happy to do that, I... we... I think... I believe I
16 understand your questions and I think there is some
17 miscommunication there that we would be happy to walk
18 through it's, it's pretty detailed for this
19 conversation here but I do want to add that
20 responding simply to the question of how many young
21 people have been served in a crisis or TIL program to
22 date wouldn't be difficult to... for us to get to you
23 so if that's the question we can get you that
24 information pretty... [cross-talk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

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2 SUSAN HASKELL: ...easily... [cross-talk]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...and we'll... and we
4 will have an offline conversation about this, this
5 process and so do you have your new youth tally that
6 was taken in the youth count that was taken in
7 January?

8 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay.

10 SUSAN HASKELL: Bear with me one second...
11 this is actually posted publicly on the CIDI website...
12 [cross-talk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
14 talk]

15 SUSAN HASKELL: ...the New York City youth
16 count 2018 numbers and there's a nice info graph...
17 [cross-talk]

18 BILL CHONG: Yours is 2018 so she asked
19 about the one in 2019... [cross-talk]

20 SUSAN HASKELL: In 2019... Oh... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: 2019, have you...
22 [cross-talk]

23 BILL CHONG: Yeah, we haven't done that...
24 [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...tallied them yet...

3 [cross-talk]

4 SUSAN HASKELL: I can get back to you on
5 2019, we should be able to have preliminary numbers
6 for you... [cross-talk]

7 BILL CHONG: Yeah... [cross-talk]

8 SUSAN HASKELL: ...although it's not like
9 beautified into a report we can give you some... the
10 preliminary numbers... [cross-talk]

11 BILL CHONG: Yeah, because CIDI does the
12 numbers crunching and so there's nothing officially
13 reported but we can give you a preliminary readout
14 from, from 2019.

15 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, could you
17 just make sure that we get those numbers?

18 SUSAN HASKELL: Yes... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...when you have
20 them, okay, thank you Chair Dromm, I am... okay, that
21 concludes my questions for today.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Okay, very
23 good. So, we're going to say thank you to this panel
24 and we have another panel, Small Business Services

25

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2 coming in and we'll take a five-minute break and then
3 reconvene for that Committee. Thank you... [cross-talk]

4 BILL CHONG: Thank you... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...very much
6 Commissioner.

7 [gavel]

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, we will now
9 resume the City Council's hearing on the Mayor's
10 executive budget for fiscal 2020. The Finance
11 Committee is joined by the Committee on Small
12 Business chaired by Council Member Mark Gjonaj. I
13 don't believe we have any other colleagues with us
14 right now, maybe some will come. We just heard from
15 the Commissioner of the Department of Youth and
16 Community Development and we will hear from Greg
17 Bishop, the Commissioner of the Department of Small
18 Business Services. In the interest of time I will
19 forego an opening statement but before we hear
20 testimony, I will open the mic to my Co-Chair,
21 Council Member Gjonaj.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you Chair
23 Dromm. Good morning everyone and welcome to today's
24 budget hearing. My name is Mark Gjonaj and I am the
25 Chair of the Council's Committee on Small Business.

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2 Today we will be hearing from the Department of Small
3 Business Services on their fiscal 2020 executive
4 budget that totals 189 million dollars. New funding
5 has been added to the executive budget for programs
6 related to career pathways and NYC at work
7 initiative. Conversely funding has been reduced for
8 initiatives such as the school bus grant program and
9 the green jobs program. It is the Council's
10 responsibility to ensure that the city's budget is
11 fair, transparent, and accountable to New Yorkers.
12 Hence as the Chair of Small Business Services, I will
13 continue to push for accountability and accuracy and
14 ensure that the budget reflects the needs and the
15 interests of the city. In the fiscal 2020 preliminary
16 budget response the Council urged the administration
17 to temper the expansion of personal services, PS
18 spending through hiring freezes and vacancy
19 reductions in recent fiscal years including 70 vacant
20 positions of the Department of Small Business
21 Services among others. In the fiscal 2019 the
22 agency's actual head count every month has been
23 overstated creating a slush fund of over 100
24 positions and has been consistently below planned
25 head counts for the past... for the last several years.

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2 I am happy to see that the executive budget, that the
3 agency reduced the planned head count from 360 to
4 283, a total of 77 positions that shouldn't have been
5 on the books to begin with. Currently, the planned
6 head count of 283 positions is 19 more than the
7 actual head count of 264. I'd like to see this
8 applied to all agencies and I don't want to take the
9 credit for this Commissioner but it's the consistent
10 reminders that of the head count difference that has
11 made this adjustment and I'm looking forward to
12 applying the same to every agency so we can actually
13 be as transparent and open to New Yorkers on how we
14 spend their money rather than create slush funds, the
15 budget shouldn't be a three card Monty, I think New
16 Yorkers deserve better. It is essential that the
17 budget we adopt this year is transparent, accountable
18 and reflective of the priorities and the interests of
19 the Council and the people we represent. This hearing
20 is a vital part of the process and I expect that SBS
21 will be responsive to the questions and concerns of
22 the Council Members. I look forward to an active
23 engagement with the administration over the next few
24 months to ensure that the fiscal 2020 adopted budget
25 meets the goals that the Council has set out. I'd

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2 like to thank Commissioner Bishop and I say this
3 behind closed doors and in the open you really are a
4 good partner and I know your hearts in the right
5 place, your head is certainly there and I think we
6 can do a lot more with less restraints. You truly
7 have a passion and a commitment to making small,
8 small businesses survive, creating an environment for
9 them to thrive, understanding and you have your
10 finger on the pulse. I just wished this
11 administration would give you the leeway and control
12 of the reigns that you so rightly deserve and can do
13 such a great job at. With that in mind I want to
14 thank you for today and for testifying and I'd like
15 to thank your staff which is wonderful at times who
16 have consistently been responsive to our many
17 requests and I would like to be able to analyze the
18 city's budget without your cooperation this wouldn't
19 be possible so thank you and I'd like to thank both
20 my staff and the staff and the staff of the finance
21 division for their help in preparing for this
22 hearing. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you and I'm
24 going to ask Counsel to swear the panel in.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you affirm that your
3 testimony today will be truthful to the best of your
4 knowledge, information and belief?

5 GREGG BISHOP: I do.

6 JACKIE MALLONKIE: I do.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Please begin.

9 GREGG BISHOP: Alright, so thank you very
10 much for those kind words Council Member Gjonaj and,
11 and certainly I know we share equal passion for our
12 small businesses and, and, and the fact that we're
13 both immigrants and we have created an opportunity
14 here is a testament not only to the great city of New
15 York but the great country of America and I thank you
16 for... as, as sometimes as, as challenging as it could
17 be your, your passion towards making this city a
18 great place for our small businesses. Good morning
19 Chairs Dromm and, and Gjonaj and, and members of the
20 Committees on Finance and Small Business. My name is
21 Gregg Bishop and I'm the Commissioner of the New York
22 City Department of Small Business Services. I'm
23 joined by SBS First Deputy Commissioner Jackie Mallon
24 and my senior leadership team. At SBS we aim to
25 unlock economic potential and create economic

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2 security for all New Yorkers by connecting them to
3 quality jobs, building stronger businesses and
4 fostering thriving neighborhoods across the five
5 boroughs. Today I will share updates on our efforts
6 to achieve this aim since my last testimony and after
7 my testimony I'm happy to take your questions. First,
8 I'd like to give you an overview of our agency
9 budget. From there I will discuss the services made
10 possible through this funding. SBS's fiscal year 2020
11 executive budget is 189 million with a head count of
12 327 employees. The executive budget includes pass
13 through funding that is not spent or managed by SBS
14 but is used as a conduit funding for other city
15 entities. Of the 189 million, 38 percent or 72
16 million is pass through funding which includes 35
17 million for the New York City Economic Development
18 Corporation, 20.7 million for NYC and Company, 14.9
19 million for Governors Island and 1.4 million for the
20 Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation. The
21 remaining 116.9 million or 62 percent of the fiscal
22 year 2020 executive budget is allocated for SBS's
23 programs. This funding supports SBS's mission of
24 economically empowering New Yorkers through our work
25 force, business and neighborhood services. And now

1 I'll talk a lot about our support for businesses
2 because they are essential to the local economy and
3 character of our neighborhoods, they provide
4 opportunities for individuals to strength, strengthen
5 their own economic security and provide jobs for
6 members of their communities. SBS operates a network
7 of seven NYC Business Solution Centers that provide
8 free, high quality services to help small businesses
9 not only start but operate and grow in New York City.
10 These centers are at the core of our business support
11 strategy and offer services including access to
12 capital, which we know many small businesses need,
13 MWBE certification, navigating government
14 regulations, and workforce recruitment. In fiscal
15 year 2018, SBS's NYC Business Solution Centers served
16 almost 10,000 unique businesses and our capital
17 access services have connected small businesses to
18 over 50 million dollars in financing. We connect
19 business owners to financing through capacity
20 building courses, matching business owners with the
21 right lender for their needs and business profile,
22 assisting them with packaging their applications and
23 creating projections in order to present their
24 information to lenders in the best light. To assist
25

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2 industrial and manufacturing businesses, SBS
3 contracts with nine industrial business service
4 providers and in fiscal year 2018, the IBSPs
5 connected more than 400 unique businesses to nearly
6 800 services. This spring we've announced the launch
7 of a new culturally competent business education
8 courses tailored to the needs of immigrant
9 entrepreneurs. These new business education
10 opportunities offer multiple sessions, including a
11 five-course introduction to entrepreneurship series
12 and a six course digital marketing series because as
13 you know technology is very important for our small
14 businesses to adapt. The new business courses will be
15 available to entrepreneurs in multiple languages
16 including Spanish, mandarin, and Russian. Along with
17 improving our in-person course offerings, earlier
18 this month we also announced the first online
19 business course series offered by the city for
20 entrepreneurs across the five boroughs. Through this
21 new initiative, entrepreneurs can now apply to be
22 connected to upcoming courses on topics including
23 business operations, development, human resources,
24 financing, marketing, and management, those are areas
25 we know that small businesses especially if you don't

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2 have a strong back office struggle with so we wanted
3 to make sure we provided the resources for them. We
4 are confident that these new online offerings and
5 culturally competent business education courses will
6 help more New Yorkers build and grow their small
7 businesses at their convenience. To date, SBS
8 business education programs have already served more
9 than 59,000 entrepreneurs and we look forward to
10 working with Council to reach more New Yorkers. SBS
11 also continues to develop targeted programs to meet
12 the most pressing challenges faced by New York City's
13 business owners. Our commercial lease assistance
14 program provides eligible businesses with legal
15 services on topics including lease negotiations,
16 formalizing oral lease agreements and landlord
17 harassment. Of the more than... of, of the more
18 business owners served through the programs, 80
19 percent are minority owned, 60 percent are immigrant
20 owned and nearly half are owned by women. SBS also
21 plays a key role in the city's minority and women
22 business enterprise program. The BWBE program aims to
23 support the growth of minority and women owned
24 businesses through city procurement, ensuring that
25 our vendors reflect the diversity of our city. SBS

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2 certifies MWBEs, we also provide essential capacity
3 building services and we also provide technical
4 assistance to help MWBEs not only compete for but
5 also execute on city contracts. To date, we have
6 certified more 7,400 MWBE, more than 100 percent
7 increase since the start of the administration and
8 this year we launched a new online application portal
9 to further streamline the certification process. For
10 certified MWBEs we know cash flow is often an issue
11 and while, while working on city projects so this
12 administration created a contract financing loan
13 fund. This ten-million-dollar revolving fund lets
14 small businesses borrow up to a million dollars,
15 capped at a three percent interest rate. Since the
16 fund launched in 2017, SBS has awarded loans worth
17 more than nine million dollars opening the door to
18 more than 52 million dollars in contracts for small
19 businesses and we are also proud to announce that one
20 of our major annual events for MWBEs and I invite you
21 to come and take a look, is our 13th annual citywide
22 procurement fair which will be held on Tuesday, June
23 11th at Columbia University. The Procurement Fair
24 provides an invaluable opportunity for our certified
25 firms to connect with not only city agencies but also

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2 federal and state, public authorities, private
3 corporations and prime contractors to explore
4 contracting opportunities and other opportunities for
5 growth. SBS provides supports for New Yorkers to gain
6 new skills and connect to living wage jobs. We focus
7 on growing sectors on... in our economy and prepare New
8 Yorkers to seize those opportunities. SBS assists job
9 seekers with a wide range of skill levels through an
10 inclusive growth strategy that ensures community
11 members, employers and education institutions are all
12 aligned to increase the number of local residents
13 prepared for and getting good jobs. Through our
14 network of 18 Workforce One career centers, SBS
15 connects job seekers with employment opportunities,
16 industry informed trainings and a variety of
17 candidate development services such as resume
18 writing, resume development, interview preparation
19 and job search workshops. Annually we connect more
20 than 25,000 New Yorkers to employment and nearly
21 4,000 New Yorkers with the training needed to advance
22 their careers. And through our industry partnership,
23 SBS works collaboratively with industry to invest in
24 local talent in the food service, industrial,
25 construction, health care and tech sectors. Examples

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2 of industry partnership initiatives that are
3 supported by our budget include job quality programs
4 in health... in home health care and efforts to bring
5 skilled tech talent from private industry to teach at
6 local CUNY colleges. For example, tech talent
7 pipeline, the city's tech industry partnership,
8 recently developed a new program to prepare New
9 Yorkers with limited tech experience for in demand
10 data analyst... data analysis career. The program
11 called the, the data analyst... I'm sorry, I said... and...
12 the data analyst training accelerator, aims to
13 provide an accessible pathway to data analyst careers
14 for New Yorkers who are underrepresented in the tech
15 economy, including those who are seeking an
16 alternative to a four-year degree. New York City's
17 growing tech ecosystem is made up of more than
18 320,000 jobs across the five boroughs and SBS is
19 working to ensure all New Yorkers can participate in
20 this important sector of our economy. Using the
21 industry knowledge gained from our employers, SBS
22 works with provider partners, including tech boot
23 camps and community-based organizations, to create
24 industry informed trainings across multiple career
25 pathways. And in the health care sector, we support

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2 trainings for workers in home healthcare, medical
3 assisting and nursing, providing a variety of entry
4 points and advancement opportunities for New Yorkers
5 with different levels of experience. We work closely
6 with local community groups to recruit for all 28
7 trainings SBS offers across the many sectors we focus
8 on to ensure residents are easy.. are able to easily
9 access, access these opportunities. In alignment and
10 support of the administration's vision of equity of
11 opportunity, we have developed bridge programs and
12 tailored employment services. For example, in
13 partnership with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant
14 Affairs and community-based organizations, we created
15 unique employment and training services tailored to
16 the strengths and needs of immigrant New Yorkers.
17 These programs include bilingual medical assistant
18 training, bridge to tech, and preparation for nursing
19 for foreign trained nurses. We have also worked with
20 youth education partners, including the Department of
21 Education's Career and Technical Education and
22 district 79 to create a suite of employment and
23 training services to support young adults. These
24 efforts include colocation of our west farm workforce
25 one career center in the Bronx that, that allows

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2 young adults to combine work and school and access

3 programs... and access bridge programs in

4 transportation, healthcare and tech. Now I'll talk a

5 little bit about support for commercial corridors.

6 The expertise of local on the ground partners is

7 essential to addressing the unique challenges faced

8 by New York City's diverse neighborhoods and

9 businesses. SBS oversees the largest network of

10 business improvement districts in the country with 76

11 BIDs delivering more than 159 million dollars in

12 services to 93,000 businesses throughout the five

13 boroughs. The vital work of the city's 76 BIDs is

14 highlighted in our recently published fiscal year

15 2018 BID trends report. SBS provides the BID network

16 and other community development organizations with

17 technical assistance, grant opportunities and

18 capacity building services further strengthening the

19 direct connection between our agency and our local

20 small businesses. For example, our neighborhood 360

21 fellows program pairs ten paid, full time

22 neighborhood development specialists with ten

23 community-based organizations. The program not only

24 provides local organizations with dedicated support

25 for commercial revitalizations projects, but also

1 builds a pipeline of diverse talent in the
2 neighborhood development field. SBS also works with
3 community partners to identify the needs of local
4 commercial district and plan targeted solutions
5 through our commercial district needs assessments or
6 CDNAs. CDNAs identify the strengths and challenges
7 and opportunities within a commercial corridor to
8 better inform subsequent investments. To date, we
9 have worked with community partners to establish ten
10 CDNAs and in 2018, SBS shifted the focus of our
11 Avenue NYC grant program from project-based awards to
12 long term commitments. Avenue NYC enables awardees to
13 hire a full-time program manager, conduct a CDNA and
14 implement programming based on findings. Nine
15 additional CDNAs are now being completed through the
16 Avenue NYC grants awarded in 2018 and in April 2019,
17 SBS announced four additional multi year grant awards
18 to help empower community, community-based
19 organizations to strengthen and preserve their
20 commercial corridors. Our agency is dedicated to
21 ensuring that job seekers, entrepreneurs, and
22 business owners and community organizations can
23 connect with our range of free services and together,
24 create a vibrant, diverse New York and of course
25

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2 through the support of Council, our Chamber on the Go
3 initiative allows us to send trained business
4 specialists to canvas commercial corridors and
5 connect with business owners. Since launching iat in
6 December 2015, Chamber on the Go has reached more
7 than 13,000 businesses directly at their doorsteps.
8 SBS also has an additional outreach tool, the Mobile
9 Outreach Unit. equipped with classroom space and
10 computers, SBS staff uses the Mobile Outreach Unit to
11 provide onsite referrals to our free business
12 services, one on one technical assistance with MWBE
13 certification applications, resources during an
14 emergency and recruitment events to connect
15 jobseekers with employment opportunities. I of course
16 continue to look forward to the continued partnership
17 of the Council in building a more vibrant and
18 inclusive economy as we expand the reach of SBS
19 programs to more New Yorkers. Thank you very much for
20 your support and I would be happy to take your
21 questions.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
23 Commissioner. Let me start off with just some
24 questions around the school bus grant program and a
25 matter of fact I don't... didn't see that addressed in

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2 the first slide that you put up, can we put that
3 first slide up again. The fiscal 2020 executive plan
4 does not include funding in SBS's budget for the
5 school bus grant program which was implemented after
6 employee protection provisions or EPPs were removed
7 from the pupil transportation contracts, is this
8 because the DOE released a request for BIDs for pupil
9 transportation services beginning in the 2019 to 20
10 school year that includes EPPs?

11 GREGG BISHOP: So, as... I don't think that
12 they're, they're related, as you know the program... or
13 as it is right now is currently budgeted for two
14 million dollars which will enable our service and the
15 reimbursement to continue to August which is the
16 completion of the school year. It is our hope that
17 either through the state legislature there will be an
18 agreement on the EPP resulting in the fix to the, the
19 contracting challenges that DOE experienced.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, if there's not...
21 because there's... it's been a problem in the past to
22 get legislation passed in Albany on this particular
23 topic, what plan do you have to follow up?

24 GREGG BISHOP: So, we will... so, because
25 we're the conduit we will work closely with not only

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2 OL... the Office of Labor Relations and DOE to ensure
3 that there will be continued support for trained
4 drivers, I mean that, that... we, we are just the, the
5 conduit to reimburse, you know the, the, the employee
6 protections that the companies are paying so we will
7 continue to work closely with the administration in
8 terms of billing and... in, in terms of figuring out
9 what the... a plan B would be but it is our hope based
10 on the change in... on the state level that we will see
11 this resolved.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay and also...

13 [cross-talk]

14 GREGG BISHOP: Before the end of August.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yeah, so also the,
16 the DOE included EPPs in the pupil transportation RFP
17 issued in December 17 or the DOE was prevented from
18 opening those BIDs by a lawsuit which challenged the
19 legality of these employee protections. If DOE is
20 prevented from funding the EPPs in the new contract
21 will SBS continue to fund the bus grant programs and,
22 and did you say... when did you say the... is the
23 decision that you're going to make based on the state
24 legislation or the lawsuit or both?

25

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2 GREGG BISHOP: I think it's going to be
3 both, I mean... so, the, the high level is that we will
4 always be focused on ensuring that our school kids
5 are, are transported by experienced drivers and as
6 you have seen in the past the administration is very
7 much focused on that. Based on where we are right now
8 in this budget cycle, we do have enough money to fund
9 the program through the end of this school year and
10 as I hope there will be a resolution, if there isn't
11 a resolution we will still remain committed and in,
12 in terms of making sure that the, the, the program
13 continues.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And if, if not we'd
15 see that in the November plan, I guess.

16 GREGG BISHOP: Correct.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, alright, thank
18 you for that. The fiscal 2020 executive plan includes
19 a decrease of 17 staff members for the construction
20 safety training initiative, was the reason for the
21 decrease in head count... what is the reason for the
22 decrease in head count and what is the remaining head
23 count for the initiative now?

24 GREGG BISHOP: So, I'll... in, in terms of
25 the, the decrease, you know when we first went to the

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2 drawing board in terms of actually designing the
3 program we... because it's the first time we ever had
4 to figure out how to rapidly train over 60,000
5 individuals we were aggressive in terms of the, the
6 type of resources that we needed as we are now
7 building out the program, working with the local
8 organizations and using technology we've been able to
9 actually save on the personnel side but do... more
10 focused on technology side and depending on our, our
11 local partners so we realized the savings of 17 and
12 the remaining number is now 13.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, how did you
14 select the training providers?

15 GREGG BISHOP: Through an RFP process
16 and, and yeah, yeah...

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Commissioner... okay.

18 JACKIE MALLON: Technically we are the
19 training provider and what we're... we selected were,
20 were partners to help us administer the training and
21 that was through an RFP process.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, I've, I've heard
23 some complaints from the Asian communities about
24 Asian language services being provided, have you
25

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2 heard that and if so, how are you working to change
3 that?

4 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah, we, we have and
5 we've met with those partners and, you know one of
6 the things that we are work... because we're doing the,
7 the training using technology, you know figuring out
8 ways we can address language access and of course one
9 of the other things that we're looking at is using
10 those organizations to ensure that we have
11 penetration in immigrant communities so that way they
12 know that they have... using our system of workforce
13 one centers that they can actually get trained in the
14 language that they're comfortable with.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Particularly with the
16 Asian community.

17 GREGG BISHOP: Correct.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, great. What,
19 what is the, the budget for this program at this
20 point?

21 JACKIE MALLON: It's roughly 62 million
22 dollars over multiple years.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay...

24 GREGG BISHOP: But a bulk of that... those
25 dollars is actually... because the program is built for

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2 small businesses to reimburses their employees once
3 they're trained so a bulk of those dollars is for the
4 reimbursement.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you and
6 what is the role of SBS in implementing the
7 construction safety training initiative?

8 GREGG BISHOP: Go ahead.

9 JACKIE MALLON: So, per the law we are
10 required to make the training available to people who
11 don't have access and so we are responsible for
12 delivering the training to essentially three groups
13 of people; those who are new entrants to construction
14 essentially, we wouldn't want the, the requirement to
15 keep them out, day laborers and the employees of
16 small businesses. So, those are the three aspects of
17 our... of our training.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Do you monitor the
19 program, or do you do any site visits or audits?

20 JACKIE MALLON: We will, it's all in
21 development.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so when will
23 that be done, do you know?

24 JACKIE MALLON: In the, the.. it'll be
25 implemented in stages so the grant program for small

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2 business that... the way that works is they go and get
3 their training wherever they can and wherever it's
4 reasonable and, and makes sense for them and we
5 reimburse them, that should be launched early June-
6 ish...

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay...

8 JACKIE MALLON: ...we are building the
9 online curriculum as the Commissioner said and we're
10 going to deploy that through our workforce one
11 careers centers which should happen later in the
12 summer-ish and that... in that same timing the day
13 laborers will... organizations will be administering
14 that, that program through their sites although they
15 are already doing one component of the training in
16 person as we speak so...

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, then they feed
18 numbers back to you, is that how it would work?

19 JACKIE MALLON: Say... I'm sorry, one more
20 time?

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: They would feed
22 numbers back to you; attendees, registrants for the...
23 [cross-talk]

24

25

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2 JACKIE MALLON: Oh, yeah, it's, it's all...
3 they can access... we have an electronic system that...
4 to support the exchange of data.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.

6 JACKIE MALLON: Sure.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Bridge programs,
8 bridge programs are the on ramp for lower skilled job
9 seekers providing access to education and training
10 programs in a continuum that leads to quality jobs
11 with family supporting wages. The administration's
12 career pathways report recommended that the city
13 spend 69 million dollars annually by 2020 on bridge
14 programs. How much has SBS spent on this program each
15 year since it was implemented?

16 GREGG BISHOP: So, I can... I can start off
17 by saying, you know we know that bridge program is
18 important and of course, you know we're focused on
19 investing and building out our industry partnerships
20 per the recommendation to the career pathways, so
21 far, you know we have... we have offered bridge
22 programming in healthcare, tech and commercial
23 driving with a total of... since FY '17 we've done
24 about half a million in FY '17, half a million in FY
25 '18 and a little bit... about... over 700,000 in FY '19.

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2 I think there's a larger conversation that's
3 happening citywide led by the office of workforce
4 development in terms of the administration's funding
5 of bridge programs but we understand how important it
6 is and we look forward to working with the Office of
7 Workforce Development to figure out how we can
8 actually address the larger conversation.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is the Office of
10 Workforce Development the, the, the agency that's
11 responsible for oversight of the program?

12 GREGG BISHOP: So, yes, the Office of
13 Workforce Development is responsible for all the
14 workforce initiatives across multiple agencies. So,
15 for example, we focus on adult, Department of
16 Education focus, focuses on adult literacy, DYCD
17 focuses on young... on the youth so the Office of
18 Workforce Development is the agency... well the office
19 that coordinates all... the Mayor's Office that
20 coordinates all, all of that.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. In
22 the budget response the Council called upon the
23 administration to provide a comprehensive budget and
24 operations report on all city funded bridge programs

25

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2 with each financial plan, would you agree to provide
3 that information to us?

4 GREGG BISHOP: Sure, we can.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. Let
6 me just talk a little bit about the plaza program and
7 then I'm going to turn it over to my Co-Chair. We've
8 recently heard that a number of business improvement
9 districts that have pedestrian plazas within their
10 boundaries that they are at an impasse with the
11 administration with respect to renegotiating their
12 expired plaza contracts. Under those contracts the
13 BIDs maintain and provide programming for the plazas,
14 while I understand that the plaza program falls under
15 DOT's jurisdiction, I have a few questions for S, SBS
16 because your agency manages the BIDs. What is the
17 status of the negotiations between the BIDs and the
18 city with respect to these agreements?

19 GREGG BISHOP: So, I guess the question I
20 have is what is the... your definition of recently
21 because as of about three or... three weeks ago I met
22 with and had a conversation with the negotiating team
23 that represents all the BIDs and the city and they
24 were in a good place. A lot of their questions and
25 concerns were addressed not only by DOT but by city

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2 law and they were actually pleasantly surprised and
3 they were reviewing the final language so if recently
4 meaning you heard last week that they were at an
5 impasse then that's not what I... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: The case any longer?

7 GREGG BISHOP: Right.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, so... [cross-
9 talk]

10 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...the complaints
12 basically were based on those who felt that the
13 expenses for programming was going to be passed on to
14 the BIDs and that was a way to do an, an assessment
15 and increase in, in what the BIDs had to pay and they
16 had to pick up the cost of that?

17 GREGG BISHOP: So, that is new to me in
18 terms of the expenses for the programming, the issue
19 that was the stick in point was about liability..
20 [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, about
22 liability.. [cross-talk]

23 GREGG BISHOP: ...and, and, and gross
24 liability.. [cross-talk]

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...okay, okay... [cross-
3 talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: ...and what that means and
5 who would be responsible for in terms of, you know...
6 our plaza programs are, are a terrific addition to
7 the city's landscape but we know that New York City
8 tends to be a very litigious city so that is part of
9 the challenge where if someone trips over a
10 cobblestone who actually will be responsible for
11 defending that suit and you know the city and DOT is
12 very committed to ensuring that we continue the great
13 relationship because of our plazas, we do not want to
14 make all the investments that we've been making, the
15 capital investments just to see our plazas
16 deteriorate in terms of quality of life concerns. So,
17 both parties are, are very much at the table and as
18 recently as I... as I, I said three weeks ago, the city
19 sort of... and the law department and DOT worked with
20 the, the BID association to address some of the
21 concerns.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, are these the
23 more larger plazas or... [cross-talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: No... [cross-talk]

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...plazas connected to
3 corporations or... [cross-talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: No, no, no... so, I mean...
5 and that was one of the, the challenges, as we know...
6 so, for example... I mean the, the biggest plaza
7 everyone knows is Times Square and Times square
8 Alliance has the capacity and resources although they
9 may want to use those resources for other things, to
10 handle lawsuits however we have plazas all across the
11 five boroughs in smaller neighborhoods where there
12 may be not even just a BID but a local organization
13 that just has a staff of one or two to get a lawsuit,
14 you know for that organization that will basically
15 shut down the organization because they would have to
16 spend most of their time just working on the lawsuit.
17 So, that was a concern, it was about equity in terms
18 of how can we help the smaller not only BIDs because
19 I think there's a misnomer in terms of all the BIDs
20 are... have the budget of like Times Square and
21 downtown alliance, they don't, the average BID size
22 in terms of budget is about two, 300,000 across the
23 city so we wanted to make sure that we were equitably
24 treating the smaller BIDs and also smaller
25 organizations and that was sort of where the, the,

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2 the conversation revolved around and I think we got
3 to a point where we are now on... all on the same page.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good because I
5 also have one that has no partner and I'm just
6 wondering how that's going to effect it but I'll,
7 I'll check in with DOT and that... [cross-talk]

8 GREGG BISHOP: Sure, and I'd be happy to
9 follow up with you as well... [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Sure... [cross-talk]

11 GREGG BISHOP: ...if, if the recent...
12 [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...its Diversity Plaza.

14 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah, it... what is it,
15 University Plaza?

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Diversity Plaza,
17 Diversity... [cross-talk]

18 GREGG BISHOP: Diversity Plaza... [cross-
19 talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...Plaza, yeah.
21 Alright, thank you Commissioner, I appreciate it very
22 much. Okay, we've been joined by Council Member Moya
23 and, and excuse me and Council Member Miller and now
24 I'm going to turn to Chair Gjonaj for questions.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you Chair
3 Dromm. I want to piggyback on the question that the
4 Chair just brought up in around these plazas. The,
5 the insurance requirement that was being placed on
6 BIDs. So, I guess the first question is, is SBS's
7 role when it comes to BIDs one that manages, controls
8 or guides?

9 GREGG BISHOP: So, all business
10 improvement districts are independent 501c3, the
11 management is... the, the structure of the BID, the
12 management is left to the board which SBS is part of.
13 In terms of control we are the agency that provides
14 oversight so every BID that becomes verifiable 501c3
15 have to be in compliance with state law for
16 nonprofits and then that is our role. So, for
17 example, and I talked about capacity, there are some
18 BIDs for example the state law requires if you're a
19 nonprofit to have annual meetings, there are some
20 BIDs that have not had annual meetings, there are...
21 there's rules related in terms of what your board
22 structure looks like, there are some BIDs that have,
23 you know unfilled positions so our goal and our focus
24 and part of our work in terms of equity is looking
25 and giving resources to the smaller BIDs and

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2 providing them additional support from our office to
3 make sure that they're in compliance. Then we also
4 have in terms of oversight because our... the funding
5 that they are receiving is actually passed through...
6 it, it comes through the Department of Finance, we
7 have to make sure that those dollars are spent
8 appropriately so based on the district plan the BIDs
9 have a plan in terms of how they should spend their
10 dollars. The, the assessment is just one part of
11 funding, BIDs do not have to just depend on, on the
12 assessment they could actually do their independent
13 fundraising etcetera but that's all based on what the
14 board decides.

15 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I mean that's a
16 great explanation Commissioner and I understand the
17 oversight but why is it that certain funding that you
18 receive where you're the conduit, you take the role
19 as, I'm sorry, I'm just the conduit, I don't know
20 what they really do with that money and how they
21 spend it but in this regard when it's actually a
22 surcharge that tax payers, those small businesses are
23 paying into we have more control, why can't we treat
24 them similar to those conduits where it's your
25 dollars we're just going to make sure... and the

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2 compliance end of it I agree with but give them
3 better control of how they spend their money, who
4 they hire, what marketing techniques they want to use
5 and actually defend them by helping them spend their
6 money more wisely would allow more shoppers to come
7 into their districts to patronize those stores and
8 not use their budgets for city services such as
9 sanitation, such as security, such as insurance for
10 plazas and the maintenance of which they don't even
11 have full control of I believe when it comes to the
12 plaza and the events that are held, there's a
13 partnership there so it's a complicated web that
14 we've created and I do believe SBS is an essential
15 partner statutorily and a good partner in the
16 marketplace for guidance, for compliance but we also
17 don't want SBS to become another branch of government
18 that has a hammer in one hand and a pair of scissors
19 in the other when they say pick and choose... [cross-
20 talk]

21 GREGG BISHOP: We're... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...and I... and I
23 raise... the, the BIDs that I'm involved with many of
24 them have very small budgets and we... I think we'd
25 both agree that we have to expand those budgets where

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2 they can properly function for their intended
3 purposes and a BID under 100,000 dollars is not one
4 that can survive and depend on the commercial
5 corridors and the needs we could better work with
6 them but when SBS has a deciding vote on who the BID
7 director is going to be, it's a little convoluted
8 there when SBS has a vote on how that money is spent
9 and correct me if I'm wrong here, correct SBS has...

10 [cross-talk]

11 GREGG BISHOP: Oh, I will... [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm sorry?

13 GREGG BISHOP: I will.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm sure you
15 will, SBS has voting rights alongside the board, am I
16 correct?

17 GREGG BISHOP: So, so SBS is part of the
18 board.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Right...

20 GREGG BISHOP: Including the comptroller,
21 including the Council Member for that particular area
22 and then including the class A, the building owners...

23 [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And don't forget
25 the Council Member.

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2 GREGG BISHOP: I didn't, I said the
3 Council Member. So, SBS is just one voice and there
4 has been situations where we had underperforming
5 executive directors or we have had hirers where SBS,
6 the... our... my representative we wanted one particular
7 candidate and the rest of the board wanted another
8 and there have been situations where the board sided
9 with SBS and there have been situations where the
10 board said no we're going to go with the candidate
11 that we wanted, we... [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Does that fall
13 under compliance or guidance, what would that fall
14 under... [cross-talk]

15 GREGG BISHOP: It falls under board
16 governance... we... [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Oh, governance.

18 GREGG BISHOP: We, we are just... we are
19 part of the board and the board is the one that
20 ultimately makes the decision on any type of hiring...
21 [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Right... [cross-
23 talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: ...we... you know we... what we
25 will do is if there is something that... because every

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2 BID is... can be audited by the comptroller... [cross-
3 talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Uh-huh... [cross-
5 talk]

6 GREGG BISHOP: ...so if there's something
7 that is operating for example... if a board makes a
8 hire without the due process of going through the
9 proper channels of showing that you, you know
10 interviewed the right candidates, you followed rules
11 etcetera, yes, that's part of our oversight
12 responsibility, we will say you need to follow this
13 process now if you end up with a candidate that the
14 SBS rep, my, my rep we may not have thought may have
15 been the best candidate that's fine it's the board's
16 decision, our job now is to provide support for that
17 particular candidate to be as successful as possible.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm, I'm with you
19 but there's also a belief out there that there's too
20 much control by SBS and... [cross-talk]

21 GREGG BISHOP: That's is an incorrect
22 belief and I think what you're seeing and what you're
23 hearing is that we have over the past three years we
24 have taken a different approach in terms of how we
25 manage our business improvement districts, one of the

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2 things that we're doing is looking at the.. across the
3 board at, at governing's in terms of which of the..
4 which of the BIDs are actually not in compliance with
5 state law and because they're not in compliance with
6 state law we are taking a very aggressive approach in
7 terms of ensuring that those BIDs have the resources..
8 [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Now Commissioner
10 I apologize.. I'm.. [cross-talk]

11 GREGG BISHOP: Yep.. [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...all in agreement
13 with compliance, I'm with you, we have certain
14 requirements that they have to fall.. [cross-talk]

15 GREGG BISHOP: Correct.. [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...under,
17 guidelines, I'm with.. [cross-talk]

18 GREGG BISHOP: Yep.. [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...you, the
20 compliance end of it, I'm talking about outside of
21 the compliance end to make sure that they're meetings
22 are being held and they're transparent, that they..
23 [cross-talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: Yep.. [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...have their
3 annual meetings, that the... [cross-talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: Yep... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...democracy and
6 the majority votes and I'm with all of that and that
7 they comply with the city, state and federal laws...
8 [cross-talk]

9 GREGG BISHOP: Correct... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...I'm with you,
11 I'm referring to the fear that if SBS's candidate for
12 a, a... the manager and they're suggestions and that
13 they have a say on who they bring you're actually
14 training some of the district managers I believe?

15 GREGG BISHOP: So, any executive director
16 has to go through a training through SBS in terms of
17 understanding their responsibilities... [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Prior to the
19 hiring or after the hiring?

20 GREGG BISHOP: After they're hired.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: But don't you
22 also have a program in place now we're actually
23 training some of these executive directors now and
24 then they're also applying for the positions as they
25 become available?

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2 GREGG BISHOP: Oh, do you... so, since...
3 there, there's a neighborhood fellows program which I
4 referred to in my testimony and that is one of the...
5 one of the things we saw was that when business
6 improvement districts are looking for leaders there
7 wasn't a deep bench of individuals who have either
8 like a planning background or understood... you know or
9 saw this as a career path so we wanted to create a
10 deep bench of potential future leaders and yes, if
11 someone graduated from our program and applied for a
12 business... an executive director position, you know
13 depending on the candidate, if the candidate is the
14 right candidate SBS will be supportive.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I, I don't want
16 to make this strictly about business just one segment
17 of the whole budget but I just want to reiterate that
18 we... that there's a belief out there especially small
19 businesses that don't... doesn't view government as a
20 true partner and the fear of big brother now
21 infiltrating, controlling, demanding, managing,
22 guiding is a over step...

23 GREGG BISHOP: Right...

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Especially when
25 it comes to the funding source, this is a surcharge

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2 that is placed on small business owners, property
3 owners that's passed on to tenants and they want
4 greater control, greater say and allow for creativity
5 without the umbrella of or the pressure of SBS which
6 is a branch of government and we'll continue to... I
7 don't want to make this strictly about this...

8 GREGG BISHOP: Our, our intent is to keep
9 people out of jail Council Member so... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm with you, we
11 should keep them out of jail.

12 GREGG BISHOP: So, we... if, if the... if the
13 narrative is different than I'd be happy to work with
14 you to change that narrative so that way people can
15 understand that we are truly a partner...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Then let's be a
17 real partner, BIDs have certain issues that they
18 bring to the attention of SBS and their elected
19 officials consistently and that is please let me use
20 the limited funding that I have for marketing and
21 improving making capital improvements, holding events
22 that will draw in bigger crowds so we can have them
23 patronize our businesses. I do not want to use the
24 limited resources that we have for sanitation
25 purposes...

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2 GREGG BISHOP: Uh-huh...

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...and that is I'm
4 not expecting Department of Sanitation to go out
5 there and start sweeping the streets up, it's not
6 what we're asking for but on garbage pickups which
7 are an issue, on policing or they have to hire their
8 own security which is another city service and
9 allowing them to be as creative as possible because
10 fundamentally there's a real scare and that scare is
11 that small businesses are going to go by the way of
12 the dinosaur because of the internet and there's only
13 so many restaurants that you could possibly have, so
14 many nail salons and hair salons that you can have in
15 a commercial corridor. Our local mom and pop shops
16 are threatened, their future is threatened by big box
17 store competition, by the internet and consumer
18 behavior changes. I really would love for us to focus
19 on short term and long term strategies especially
20 when it comes to their money allowing them to use
21 every bit of creativity that they can and spend every
22 penny as wisely as possible and I know what you're
23 going to say that yes, cleaner sidewalks make for a
24 better shopping experience, which will make for more
25 consumer... I'm with you, there's just areas that we

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2 can work with them and when they're spending upward
3 of on some of these BIDs spend three quarters of
4 their budget or half their budget on city services
5 but let's continue.

6 GREGG BISHOP: Do you want me to respond
7 or...

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Not really.

9 GREGG BISHOP: Okay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Because it'll be
11 a great response, I'm sure but won't address the
12 issue. Given the opportunity Commissioner what are
13 the frustrations that you've had with two significant
14 areas of change that you could make within this
15 budget that we can work on together that you would
16 love... that you would prefer that we start folks on
17 that perhaps hasn't been getting the attention
18 whether through this Council or whether through the
19 administration when it comes to the needs of small
20 businesses, what is that we can do in this budget?

21 GREGG BISHOP: You know I... you know so,
22 I, I would say that we have had a, a good
23 conversation with not only Council but with OMB, we
24 are... you know continuing to do the work that we... that
25 I talked about in my testimony, Council has presented

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2 a package of bills that at the very... at... I'm very
3 happy to see that there's a focus on addressing a lot
4 of the issues that small businesses face, you know
5 your support with, with Chamber on the Go. Again,
6 when I go out to the communities awareness of our
7 services, people understanding that... you know and we
8 have funded as the administration for example our
9 commercial lease assistance program but there are...
10 there are still people out there, entrepreneurs who
11 are signing leases and don't know how to connect to
12 our services. So, if anything I would say just
13 continue funding for Chamber on the Go till, we can
14 actually have more people out in the... in the
15 communities... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Commissioner 50...
17 [cross-talk]

18 GREGG BISHOP: Yep... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...percent of the
20 businesses never make it to year five, they're not
21 even getting to a lease renewal, if you're a
22 restaurant it's as high as 80 percent. What is it
23 that we can do to help... [cross-talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: Well I would... [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...those
3 businesses... I... and I think it's great for those that
4 need the help, many of these small business... many,
5 not all have attorneys... [cross-talk]

6 GREGG BISHOP: Yep... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...that... or have
8 been in business for so long that they know how to
9 negotiate a lease and they may not need that service,
10 those that obviously do, I'm glad that you offer that
11 service. What is it to do... what is it that we can do
12 to increase this tragedy of a statistic that 50
13 percent of small businesses startups never make it to
14 year five, what can we do in this budget?

15 GREGG BISHOP: So, I mean that, that,
16 that's a very... there is... there's a lot we could do,
17 right... [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Sure... [cross-
19 talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: ...and we're doing... we're,
21 we're, we're doing it right now but I want to tell
22 you when I talk to small businesses, right, the, the...
23 there's three major concerns of... there's actually a
24 lot of concerns but there's access to capital, right,
25 there's a lot of businesses and when you talk about

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2 the failure rate of businesses there's so many
3 reasons why businesses fail, it could be a failed
4 business plan, it could be they weren't properly
5 capitalized, it could be they didn't have the right
6 employees, there's so many reasons why businesses
7 fail but I... what I will say is that, you know access
8 to capital... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Uh-huh... [cross-
10 talk]

11 GREGG BISHOP: ...regulations, so, you know
12 and you and I have had conversations about
13 regulations and I, I think, you know we... and part of
14 the package of bills that we talked about and that
15 Council and... that you introduced and you know talks
16 about codifying some of the work that we're already
17 doing in terms of regularly reviewing regulations and
18 how it impacts small businesses so I think we can
19 continue doing that, you know the cost of health
20 care, we have not talked about that and we have had
21 conversations... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I have... [cross-
23 talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: ...with... so, you and I have
25 talked about that but you... I would say that, you know

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2 we have had conversations with health care providers
3 to figure out what we, we can do as government to
4 actually help offset the cost of health care, it is
5 very, very complicated actually more complicated than
6 even our regulatory work but that might be something
7 that we can work together on... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: You mentioned
9 three areas, let's focus... [cross-talk]

10 GREGG BISHOP: Okay... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...capital
12 regulations which also encumbers fines and then
13 thirdly healthcare.

14 GREGG BISHOP: Yep.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Now capital, I
16 brought this up to you before, why aren't we opening
17 up a community bank, not for profit that allows BIDs
18 to borrow money at lower interest rates, that allows
19 BIDs to deposit money and get higher interest rates,
20 that'd be a wise investment? When it comes to
21 regulations and when again it's a SB1, one my
22 favorite topics of discussion, three years, 27
23 million dollars you have not achieved what it was
24 intended to do, I'll let you interpret and third
25 health care because when we empower these BIDs, these

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2 76 BIDS and allow them to buy coverage together
3 they're going to pay lower premiums not only for
4 those BIDS but they can become the premier model for
5 other small businesses to join in to their group to
6 pay lower health care.

7 GREGG BISHOP: So, I... so, let's start
8 with the last part in terms of the health care, it's,
9 it's, it's much more complicated than that and I'd be
10 happy to actually have a conversation with you, it's
11 not just about the volume but it's also the type of
12 individuals, it's also the complexities of our health
13 care laws in what and how it's priced based on who
14 the, the, the individuals that are covered will be so
15 we are... we have... you know we had conversations with a
16 health care provider and we were able to at least
17 recognize about maybe three percent savings to think
18 about like group purchasing, it is a conversation and
19 we will continue working on that and be happy to, to
20 continue with... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We have a lot of
22 questions... [cross-talk]

23 GREGG BISHOP: I would say... I would... I
24 would... I would push back on, on... I, I know you...
25 there's more questions but the last... I'll stop after

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2 this, I disagree that... with your assessment that we
3 have not accomplished anything with SB1, if you look
4 at what we promised with the small business first,
5 the 30 initiatives there is still a lot more work to
6 do but we have accomplished a lot, you may not agree
7 with what... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I believe the
9 whole premise was to remove outdated... [cross-talk]

10 GREGG BISHOP: It was more than just..
11 [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...regulations..
13 [cross-talk]

14 GREGG BISHOP: ...it was more... it was not
15 only reviewing regulations; it was to build and bring
16 transparency to the regulatory environment... [cross-
17 talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Let's talk about
19 the review... [cross-talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: ...it was... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Let's talk about
22 the review and get rid of outdated regulations, how
23 many have those have we done in three years going on
24 your four now, correct?

25 GREGG BISHOP: Correct.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I believe it's 80
3 of the 6,000 rules and regulations which we always
4 have... 5,300, 6,000... [cross-talk]

5 GREGG BISHOP: Right but, but you're
6 also... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And they've been
8 modified.

9 GREGG BISHOP: But you're also... you're
10 also lumping every single regulation together and
11 those... some of those regulations are for example,
12 that you have to keep food at a certain temperature,
13 that you shouldn't have mice and vermin in your
14 establishment so there are regulations that we want
15 to keep on the books, I would hope and there are some
16 that we have worked... [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm okay with
18 regulations, I have a problem with the fines that are
19 associated with those regulations that can... that
20 determine whether or not a small business can
21 survive...

22 GREGG BISHOP: Right and... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: When you get hit
24 with a 5,000 dollar fine for having an illegal sign
25 which took over a year, a year to get done but...

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2 Commissioner I just want to hit on so many other
3 points, I'm with you we're going to work on it but
4 just for the record there's a lot more that we can be
5 doing. I want to hit on the... besides SB1 on the, the
6 100,000 dollar job plan through CUNY, can you
7 elaborate where we are with the Mayor's commitment to
8 double the number of CUNY graduates with computer
9 science degrees as outlined in New York City Works
10 creating a good jobs report, there was a promise that
11 was made that we were going to double the number of
12 CUNY graduates and these graduates were going to
13 start off with 100,000 dollar jobs, what is the role
14 that you've been playing in meeting this target, what
15 was the target and can you update us on this goal?

16 GREGG BISHOP: So, so the goal was by
17 2022, so we're still very early on, right now we've,
18 we've done a couple of things, we've updated and
19 helped CUNY, the CUNY schools that are participating
20 to add additional faculty to actually teach, it's a
21 tech and residence program because one of the things
22 that the tech companies told our, our, our presidents
23 of the CUNY schools is that the reason why they're
24 not recruiting their students is because their

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2 students are still learning older languages... [cross-
3 talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Uh-huh... [cross-
5 talk]

6 GREGG BISHOP: ...I mean folks are still
7 learning like COBOL and, and pascal etcetera,
8 etcetera where now everyone is looking at like..
9 development, etcetera then there's also the working
10 in groups because... in group projects because that's
11 where a lot of the new tech companies are... that's the
12 type of... that's the environment they have... [cross-
13 talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Yeah, but
15 Commissioner how much money have we put into this
16 program thus far and how many 100,000 jobs have we
17 actually created from this program?

18 GREGG BISHOP: So, they're, they're not
19 100,000 dollars... it... so, it's part of the Mayor's
20 100,000 job plan...

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Okay...

22 GREGG BISHOP: ...but that was for to
23 connect people to jobs that are paying 50,000 or..
24 [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: 50,000... [cross-
3 talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: ...more... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...I'm sorry,
6 right... [cross-talk]

7 GREGG BISHOP: Right... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...100,000 jobs,
9 50,000 or more... [cross-talk]

10 GREGG BISHOP: First Deputy Commissioner
11 Jackie Mallon talk about how much we've invested so
12 far but I just wanted to make sure you understand
13 that we're still early on and we're addressing
14 different issues that the tech companies have, have
15 said to our city education system.

16 JACKIE MALLON: So, just to reiterate
17 it's a... the investment is a combination of multiple
18 things, we're at three schools currently and we're
19 going to be adding others and it's a five-year
20 initiative. So, we're, we're augmenting the schools
21 with, with faculty... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: What's the dollar
23 amount?

24 JACKIE MALLON: For faculty specifically?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: No, total.

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2 JACKIE MALLON: The, the total initiative
3 is what ten million dollars? It's... over five years is
4 ten million dollars, it's a combination of... and
5 federal, like we can get you specifics year by year
6 because we ramp it, it ramps up but it... faculty to
7 ensure that people can get through the, the computer
8 science degree because they're get... they're, they're
9 blocked now they don't have enough people for the
10 core courses, advisement so that they are, are very
11 familiar with what's required to get a job in tech
12 afterward and then as Gregg said the tech in
13 residence where the industry is participating and
14 delivering modern courses so that they can compete
15 and then... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Ten years...
17 [crosss-talk]

18 JACKIE MALLON: ...through our residence...
19 [cross-talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm sorry, how...
21 that was ten million dollars over... five million
22 dollars or ten... [cross-talk]

23 JACKIE MALLON: Yes... [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...million?

25

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2 JACKIE MALLON: It's... I'm sorry, it's 20
3 million... [cross-talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: So, so far... [cross-talk]

5 JACKIE MALLON: ...over five years... [cross-
6 talk]

7 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah, so far, we've spent...
8 [cross-talk]

9 JACKIE MALLON: ...federal... [cross-talk]

10 GREGG BISHOP: ...so far we've spent... we're
11 invested over two million at, at three colleges and
12 the idea of the program as, as we said is that we
13 will add additional schools and right now we have
14 City College, Hunter College and Lehman College and
15 we expend... we, we expect to expand to three
16 additional schools this year and then we will
17 continue adding schools. again the... that's the, the
18 total commitment is 20 million dollars.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Chair I, I want
20 to make sure that we give the other Council Members
21 an opportunity to ask their questions and I'll come
22 back.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good, thank you
24 Chair, Council Member Moya followed... [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Now that I got
3 them ready for you.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council... we have...
5 we've been joined by Council Member Cornegy and
6 Council Member Moya followed by Miller have
7 questions.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you Chair
9 Dromm, thank you Chair Gjonaj, Commissioner always
10 good to see you...

11 GREGG BISHOP: Good to see you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Just a quick
13 question, could you tell me what the overall budget
14 is for the workforce one program?

15 GREGG BISHOP: SBS share of... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Yeah... [cross-talk]

17 GREGG BISHOP: ...of workforce one, we're
18 about... it's... [cross-talk]

19 JACKIE MALLON: Do you mean specifically
20 the, the, the centers?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Yeah.

22 JACKIE MALLON: It's like 30... 27 million,
23 30 million-ish, right? Yeah, 25, 27, depending on the
24 year.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Okay. And in regard
3 to the career paths program do you know what the
4 average wage for careers in the construction industry
5 is?

6 JACKIE MALLON: Construction
7 specifically? You... specifically construction?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Uh-huh.

9 JACKIE MALLON: It's... there's a range of
10 like 16 dollars to 40 dollars an hour depending upon
11 the, the... [cross-talk]

12 GREGG BISHOP: The trade.

13 JACKIE MALLON: ...the, the trade and the
14 type of... [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Do you have a
16 breakdown of... [cross-talk]

17 JACKIE MALLON: We could get it to you, I
18 just don't have it handy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Great, that'd be
20 great.

21 JACKIE MALLON: Yeah.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: And do the funds
23 that are allocated... are allocated for that are they
24 allocated for the metrics of career paths that
25 includes the study of the efficacy of Hire NYC?

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2 GREGG BISHOP: But... sorry, could you
3 repeat the... so, the, the funds that are allocated
4 for... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: The career path...
6 [cross-talk]

7 GREGG BISHOP: ...the career pathways...
8 [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: ...program.

10 GREGG BISHOP: So, for us career pathways
11 was focused on standing up the industry partnerships
12 which has different... and trainings so when you say
13 focused on the... [cross-talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Hire NYC program
15 and... [cross-talk]

16 GREGG BISHOP: So, Hire NYC is, is
17 separate.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, the, the...
19 [cross-talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: And apart.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: ...the funding for
22 career paths doesn't go into anything that has to do
23 with Hire NYC?

24 GREGG BISHOP: So, rumor... so, Hire, Hire
25 NYC was our attempt to address the, the fact that

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2 legally we cannot tell a company to hire locally so
3 using the work... and contracts that either, you know
4 HPD, EDC, or even some of the goods and services we
5 are now telling companies that if you have a contract
6 over a certain percent then you need to tell SBS that
7 you either are hiring or not hiring and if you are
8 hiring SBS will give you... or there will be a first
9 pass in terms of we will give you candidates... [cross-
10 talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Okay... [cross-talk]

12 GREGG BISHOP: ...so it's real... it's really
13 using SBS's workforce one system to actually address
14 the attempt to hire locally.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Got it. How many
16 individuals have applied to jobs through Hire NYC?

17 GREGG BISHOP: So, in terms of... and when
18 you say... so, let me... let me explain to you how it
19 works, so I can tell you so since the start... [cross-
20 talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I, I know how it
22 works I just want to know if you have the numbers of
23 individuals that have applied... [cross-talk]

24 GREGG BISHOP: Right, so we... [cross-talk]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: ...to Hire NYC.

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2 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah, so we've had 700...

3 [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: And Chair can you
5 just indulge me for a few minutes... [cross-talk]

6 GREGG BISHOP: Sorry... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: ...I'll be quick...

8 [cross-talk]

9 GREGG BISHOP: Sorry, so we've had of, of
10 the employer commitments being these are open jobs
11 that employers said that they had, it was about 753
12 and of those we've been able to place 663 into jobs.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, 663 individuals
14 have been employed through Hire NYC?

15 GREGG BISHOP: Correct...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Since when?

17 GREGG BISHOP: Since the start of the
18 program, since 2016.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, since 2016 and
20 we're in 2019 we've had how many hires?

21 GREGG BISHOP: 663.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: 663, do you know
23 how many actually applied?

24 GREGG BISHOP: 753... well there was 753
25 opportunities.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Right, I'm asking
3 how many individuals have applied for jobs through
4 Hire NYC?

5 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah.

6 JACKIE MALLON: Well I don't have the
7 specific number for those jobs but I can tell you
8 typically we see maybe eight or ten people who are
9 interested in a job, who we can determine that like
10 somewhere between three and five are actually a fit
11 for the job and then they are... and they are referred
12 and then... [cross-talk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, so going with
14 that how many individuals have been interviewed or
15 considered... [cross-talk]

16 JACKIE MALLON: I wouldn't know off the
17 top of my head for these specific jobs but our... we
18 are managing our, our, our vendors that run our, our
19 career centers to, to send three qualified candidates
20 and get a, a hire out of it and generally speaking
21 overall in the aggregate they tend to, to meet that
22 goal, if that makes any sense the way I've said it,
23 happy to... [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: How, how many
25 employers have participated in Hire NYC?

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2 JACKIE MALLON: I don't know the specific
3 number of, of employers but there are 1,600 plus
4 contracts that have been... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, we don't have...
6 [cross-talk]

7 JACKIE MALLON: ...enrolled... I... we could
8 get... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: We don't have...
10 [cross-talk]

11 JACKIE MALLON: ...it to you, I just don't
12 have it off the top of my head.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: And what are the
14 wages that are paid to the individuals hired via Hire
15 NYC's program?

16 JACKIE MALLON: Any idea on that?

17 GREGG BISHOP: There's, there's a...
18 there's a range anywhere between 15 dollars to 30
19 dollars depending on the, the, the job and the
20 contract.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: And do we know what
22 the lengths of those employment of the... of the
23 workers are through Hire NYC?

24 GREGG BISHOP: No.
25

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2 JACKIE MALLON: No, they're, they're
3 hiring for full time positions though, but we don't...
4 we... if you're asking do we track subsequent to their
5 being hired how... what happens not on a job by job
6 basis.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Do we know the zip
8 codes?

9 JACKIE MALLON: Yes... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Of the participants
11 of the program?

12 GREGG BISHOP: We do, and we could share
13 that information.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: That'd be great,
15 and this is my, my, my last question. So, Hire NYC
16 has no wage requirement, correct?

17 JACKIE MALLON: What, what do you mean
18 wage requirement, I'm sorry?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: So, the program
20 doesn't have a wage requirement for any contractor or
21 someone that's coming in there to participate and
22 hire an individual through Hire NYC, there's no wage
23 requirement, correct?

24 GREGG BISHOP: Well as a... as an overall
25 for our workforce system we have made a focus on in,

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2 installing a wage floor because we believe that
3 everyone deserves a living wage so we would not...
4 [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: But is there a
6 specific wage requirement that you have with this
7 program?

8 GREGG BISHOP: I mean the, the way the
9 program operates is it's to figure out ways we could
10 actually hire like and connect local individuals to,
11 so no, there isn't a wage requirement but based on
12 the average wages that we've seen it fluctuates
13 between 15 and 30 dollars.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Okay, I, I ask
15 because I... you know how does the city then plan to
16 ensure creating good paying jobs without setting an
17 actual wage requirement?

18 GREGG BISHOP: So, I would say... you know
19 so, the... our Deputy Mayor Phil Thompson is very
20 focused on, on local hiring and... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Is, is a great man.

22 GREGG BISHOP: And, and I would say that,
23 that the city has... [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I'm, I'm looking
25 forward to, to working with, with Deputy Mayor

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2 Thompson on this but I, I'm running out of time and
3 I'm just going to say this, this is the very same
4 questions I asked you during my Inwood rezoning
5 hearing, it's the same questions I've asked every
6 single person from your department for the last three
7 rezonings that I've done, one it happened on Tuesday,
8 I've heard you consistently say you're going to get
9 back to me and every time I ask these questions you
10 still don't have an answer for them and I think it's
11 very troubling that I would have to come here time
12 and time again to ask the simplest of questions for a
13 program that I have both said to you at these
14 hearings and in private when we've met that I really
15 would like to see the information on whether or not
16 this program is being run appropriately and yet every
17 single time we are here there's still no answer to
18 these questions and, and I just find it very, very
19 difficult to take the word of this agency when it
20 can't get these simple answers to someone now going
21 on over a year. I look forward to the opportunity
22 again to continue to work with you but this is just
23 unacceptable, this is effecting many, many New
24 Yorkers, low wage workers in a field of construction
25 that we've seen as an epidemic now in the city of New

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2 York, 69 construction workers have died since 2017
3 and we need to make sure that the funding that we're
4 giving to agencies that the city is running is going
5 to be effective for those that are the most affected
6 by this. So, thank you very much Chair for indulging
7 me with the time, I appreciate the testimony here
8 today, thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council
10 Member Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Chair
12 and to the Co-Chairs. So, I have a few questions and
13 this... and I'm going to forego my... so, Council Member
14 Cornegy is no longer there so I will ask you about
15 the support for MWBEs and, and, and I'll begin there
16 and, and what that looks like and, and the... whether
17 it's the capital program and the other programs that
18 are... have been in effect, it was the overview of, of
19 its impact on the MWBE community, are we seeing more
20 or less folks being able to avail themselves of
21 opportunity be... with, within the city here and it
22 speaks specifically to, to that and the... agency wise
23 and...

24 GREGG BISHOP: So, so, so there's a
25 couple of things, we've seen a number of new

2 opportunities for MWBEs, some, some of it is related
3 to our legislative push. So, for example, the fact
4 that we were able to get the state to increase the
5 discretionary levels up to 150,000 dollars, we see
6 new MWBEs which is also important to us, actually get
7 contracting opportunities, a number of agencies are
8 using that innovative procurement method to connect
9 MWBEs to opportunities. We continue... just yesterday
10 we had... the Mayor talked to, to all the agency heads
11 and, and, and stressed again the importance of doing
12 all we can to connect to... MWBEs to the opportunities,
13 there's been an increase in the amount of awards to
14 MWBEs, we are about 20 percent utilization, you know
15 when the administration started we were hovering
16 about six percent so, you know we're not there yet
17 and we continue to invest in resources to not only
18 build capacity, we are looking at... for example, we
19 talked about the capital access program to make sure
20 that we give university... MWBEs the resources they
21 need to operate on those jobs, we have provided or
22 we've been... the administrations been very generous in
23 supporting our services to MWBEs in terms of staffing
24 and services. So, for example, we provide technical
25 assistance to MWBEs, we are also looking at non-

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2 Mayoral agencies in ensuring that they have a path to
3 increase their utilization of MWBEs. So, overall, I
4 would say that, you know we've done a lot, there's
5 still more to go because we want to make sure that
6 we're breaking down barriers and there are some
7 barriers for example, insurance cost for MWBEs
8 especially in construction that's an issue. We want
9 to make sure that we have more flexibility to create
10 mentorship programs that we because of state law are
11 not allowed to do, so there's a legislative agenda
12 that... on the stateside that we're also pursuing to
13 ensure that we provide every opportunity for MWBEs to
14 be successful.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So, is it... it..
16 so, and I want to be able to, to move on but is there
17 a, a, a particular number that we can get at, where..
18 what was that start number and, and I know we're
19 talking about six percent to 20 percent but what is
20 that start actual number of, of contracts and, and
21 where are we now, are, are we finding that there's a
22 capital infrastructure project or are these in
23 purchasing and, and where are they and what agencies
24 are, are doing better than others? For, for small
25 businesses and my colleague, the, the Chair mentioned

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2 the, the, the enormous amount of regulations that we
3 have here and, and some of the things that the
4 Council has implemented over the past administration
5 and what impact that has had on small businesses in
6 terms of paid sick and, and, and other initiatives
7 and, and the conversations that we have an upcoming
8 hearing on paid annual leave as well, certainly that
9 this has had an impact on, on small businesses, those
10 businesses, five businesses or, or, or more. What
11 specifically in terms of programming and assistance
12 have we provided to small businesses to kind of
13 counteract those initiatives?

14 GREGG BISHOP: Right, so you know there,
15 there's... and we talked about some of the, the support
16 that we're giving, I think what we're looking at is
17 how we reduce expenses in other places. One of the
18 things that we did through our love... for example, our
19 Love your Local program is to test different
20 interventions and figure out where we need to focus
21 our services on so, we sent out trained business
22 advisors to review over 100 businesses that were part
23 of the program and we are now... we have about 40
24 businesses that are, are participating in a
25 reimbursable grant program of up to 90,000 dollars to

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2 address some of those challenges. So, there's,
3 there's areas that we know, and we talked about this
4 earlier in terms of access to capital, you know
5 getting the right employees, looking at health care
6 costs so those are some of the things that we're
7 doing. I would say that, you know when you look... talk
8 to small businesses paid sick is not actually an
9 issue, you know it's, it's really the, the cost of
10 wages so how do we... how do we help businesses and we
11 have talked to businesses and when we advise small
12 businesses if you want good employees you have to pay
13 them a good wage but there are some in the... sectors
14 that we're sensitive to, for example the restaurant
15 sector where you have thin margins and so with the
16 increase of, of wages on one part of the, the, the
17 business it pushes and puts pressure on another part
18 so we continue to work with, you know small
19 businesses to figure out ways we can address that.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So, I... as... listen
21 as, as the Chair of Labor I... any, anytime that we're
22 creating opportunities and, and quality working
23 conditions for, for workers I can absolutely
24 appreciate that but certainly we want to make sure
25 that they have jobs to go to and, and so... and that...

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2 needs that we have to... so EDC in the past has, has
3 received business... have, have given numerous
4 subsidies, large subsidies to businesses in, in hopes
5 that they would create jobs, oversight has shown that
6 they have not necessarily met their goals but if in
7 fact that is a model that can be duplicated is that
8 something that you would consider for, for smaller
9 businesses that we can subsidize smaller businesses
10 that are creating these employment opportunities...

11 [cross-talk]

12 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah... [cross-talk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...in shape, form
14 or fashion?

15 GREGG BISHOP: ...right without
16 understanding which particular program because a lot
17 of the programs that EDC has is, you know based on,
18 on performance so it's in lieu of paying for example
19 taxes, in lieu of, of... taxes on equipment, etcetera
20 so it's not necessarily a grant to particularly a
21 large organization, you know we... that's part of the
22 reason why we look at Love your Local to figure out,
23 you know what other services we as a city could
24 possibly build out to help address the challenges
25 that small businesses have, you know one of the

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2 things we found out was a lot of small businesses
3 don't have an inventory management system for
4 example. So, based on, you know what we find out from
5 this program because it is a pilot, one of the... one
6 of the, the, you know recommendations from us could
7 be that SBS provides... you know assistance with
8 getting inventory management systems, I mean that,
9 that could be a possibility but we are right now in
10 the middle of testing those interventions and then we
11 will be able to figure out a course of action in the
12 future.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yep, we'd love to
14 see you step up that assistance. And then finally I
15 want to talk about the head count reduction and, and
16 how is it that we continue to provide these critical
17 services as efficiently as possible when we diminish
18 the human capital particularly as the... my colleague
19 over there just mentioned construction safety and,
20 and, and other areas that we know that, that, that'll
21 be diminished in terms of... [cross-talk]

22 GREGG BISHOP: Right... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...funding and,
24 and, and most importantly the head count, is that...
25 is... has, has the programming not just there but in

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2 other places going away, do we no longer need that or
3 are we creating the extra burden for the workforce
4 that's left there?

5 GREGG BISHOP: So, you know we are... we
6 are, are, are attempting working with, you know OMB
7 and, and Council to make sure that we continue the
8 right level of service and one of the things... and we
9 talked about this a little bit earlier with
10 construction safety when we designed construction
11 safety we had a number of personnel requests but
12 however working and building out the, the tech... using
13 technology and also using partners we've been able to
14 reduce the amount of personnel that we need so that's
15 some of the numbers that you're seeing but we'd be
16 happy to... and you know my, my focus has always been
17 make... ensuring that we continue the same level of
18 services but happy to go... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So... [cross-talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: ...into details with you
21 later... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So, I would
23 submit based on what we've seen, the continue... and,
24 and this is not somebody doesn't show up and
25 something happens we're talking about deaths and

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2 lives here, the fact that it continues at almost the
3 same rate is something that we certainly reevaluate
4 to make sure that we're giving it the, the gravatar
5 that it absolutely deserves, that we can save lives
6 as well as... [cross-talk]

7 GREGG BISHOP: Look... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...the city, the
9 services that it... that are being provided from this...
10 from it's workforce has value, it gives the city
11 values, the reason why 67 million people come here we
12 should take that into consideration when we start
13 diminishing the workforce because then we diminish
14 services and... you know at every level whether it's
15 public safety or in the business sector... [cross-talk]

16 GREGG BISHOP: Right... [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...it doesn't
18 matter, it, it... [cross-talk]

19 GREGG BISHOP: The... yeah... [cross-talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...has an impact.

21 GREGG BISHOP: Yeah, we hear you and, and
22 that is... and we are certainly sensitive to that.

23 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Chair Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Those are some
25 great questions Council Member. I also suggest that

2 we actually begin working on a single certification
3 for our WMBEs for both city and state instead of this
4 city first and state later and the complications that
5 come about that where we have missed opportunities,
6 that would be something that SBS then can really put
7 a feather in their cap on and I wouldn't even
8 challenge. I true... I truly see your agency as a
9 partner or the potential for a partner make a
10 difference in the lives in those business owners but
11 not enough comes out of your agency when it comes to
12 the unfunded mandates that are placed on small
13 businesses whether it be health care, minimum wage,
14 violations, where you're standing up for those small
15 businesses alongside of them and pushing back on this
16 administration or a state imposed mandate that truly
17 undermines their business models. One in particular,
18 yesterday we had a very passionate hearing on fur
19 ban, those are small businesses, I didn't hear SBS
20 take a position. I have not heard SBS take a position
21 on clear curbs, I did not hear SBS take a position on
22 vision zero, the road dieting against major
23 opposition from our small business owners. Can you
24 help me understand how on one end we say SBS is the
25 agency that's going to fight for our small

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2 businesses, on the other hand SBS is silent when it
3 comes to some of the policies whether it comes
4 through the City Council, the administration or the
5 state that you're not vocal enough saying I'm going
6 to take this fight on with you?

7 GREGG BISHOP: So, so I would say that,
8 that it's a little bit unfair to say that SBS.. you
9 have not heard from SBS sometimes, you know there's a
10 lot of conversations that happen behind the scenes
11 and we are at the table, you know the.. for example
12 the fur ban just happened yesterday but we were
13 actually in conversation with all of the necessary
14 parties in terms of what it means and what the.. what
15 the effects would be with.. on small businesses, we
16 talked about this with the road dieting and clear
17 curbs. When we see that there's an impact on small
18 businesses I am one of the first to go to either, you
19 know the administration, my team over.. and the folks
20 over at City Hall or my counterparts at different
21 agencies to talk about what we can do. So, we.. and we
22 will continue doing this.. [clears throat] I'm sorry,
23 we, we have not only established as part of, I know
24 you love this but, you know Small Business First, we
25 have a committee of not only the regulatory agencies

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2 but members of each of the Deputy Mayor's team as
3 part of that committee and that's where we bring up
4 these issues and so we are always... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: So, what... tell...
6 [cross-talk]

7 GREGG BISHOP: We are... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Help me better
9 understand, you bring it up to the administration and
10 then what happens and I'm going to use... [cross-talk]

11 GREGG BISHOP: Well, well I mean let's,
12 let's talk about clear curbs, I mean... you know I've...
13 based on conversations that we heard not only from
14 small businesses but from you, from other Council
15 Members that were effected by it, from the business
16 improvement districts that contacted us about it...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Uh-huh... [cross-
19 talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: ...you know we raised this
21 issue; you know the, the, the... Commissioner
22 Trottenberg was very responsive, you know Deputy
23 Mayor Anglin was very responsive, we went out...
24 actually you went out... [cross-talk]

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Several times..

3 [cross-talk]

4 GREGG BISHOP: ...multiple times, I went
5 out with you and we talked to the business owners, I
6 sent a summary of that conversation in terms of the
7 impact that it has, it was having on business owners
8 and then you saw the result which was dialing back
9 that, that pilot... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Commissioner the
11 damage was done, that was irreversible, businesses
12 actually shut down, they're not coming back, this
13 was... where were we ahead of the implementation and
14 I'll tie that now into the Morris Park road dieting.
15 Over 100 businesses will share a 30-foot section for
16 deliveries, impossible to meet the needs of those
17 small business owners. I work relentlessly with this
18 administration, ask top down, down, up... it doesn't
19 work for this commercial corridor, we have a metro
20 north coming in, it's the only corridor that connects
21 two metro norths coming in plus leads to two major
22 hospitals, hundreds of businesses, I've got some that
23 have received notice from their... one in particular, a
24 window company, said we will not supply you your...
25 you'll have to place your orders with another

2 company, we cannot deliver your product and we're not
3 going to wheel that product down the sidewalks for
4 three blocks, too much liability, zero cooperation,
5 zero willingness to sit down and work. On top of this
6 commercial corridor, the Fire Department and
7 yesterday we had a hearing on the NYPD and the
8 response times that it had compared to the rest of
9 the city, the borough of the Bronx was at the very
10 bottom, what had the high... the longest response times
11 to emergencies. And just for the record that's
12 taking two driving lanes and creating one driving
13 lane leaving virtually no room for double parking,
14 delivering, picking up in a commercial corridor where
15 there is, isn't enough adequate parking to begin
16 with. So, how are we helping small businesses? We're
17 hurting them, not only hurting them we're making sure
18 that if they defeat the odds of box competition, of
19 internet and consumer change we're going to make sure
20 that we're the nail in their final coffin if they
21 could even get through the regulations and the fines
22 that they pay and the real estate tax increases we're
23 going to make sure that we really destroy them. We
24 need a real partnership to be vocal and I know that
25 it's not easy to be that vocal or passionate to the

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2 administration that I truly believe takes the
3 position we know best, we heard you and we're still
4 going to implement what we think is in the best
5 interest. Commissioner this isn't about let's test
6 and see what happens, there is consequences that are
7 paid by our policies that are... that will determine
8 whether or not a small business survives, whether or
9 not they can keep their doors open, whether or not
10 they can keep their employees without making cuts and
11 the scare that we're not even addressing is when we
12 lose this tax base, when we lose first of all these
13 vibrant commercial corridors that make our community
14 such a great place to live and thrive and the ability
15 to walk out of your home to be able to buy products
16 and services so you enjoy and benefit from where you
17 live, when we lose these businesses with that we'll
18 lose an incredible tax base and we won't have a well
19 to make up from it, from that loss that's why I'm so
20 passionate and I need you to be as passionate for
21 them. When you talk to this administration on the
22 effects of their policy and we know what's best, any
23 response?

24 GREGG BISHOP: So, so everybody would say
25 that... so number one we, we are... we share the same

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2 passion, we want to make sure that we, we see our
3 businesses thrive, we want to make sure that, you
4 know our neighborhoods have businesses that are
5 thriving, that are growing, you know we... our voice is
6 one of many as you can imagine in a complicated city
7 as this. When you see actions where there's, you know
8 reconfiguring of roads, etcetera, etcetera there's a
9 balance between pedestrian safety, biker safety,
10 there are many, many different, you know groups that
11 are sharing the same road, our job is to make sure
12 that whatever is implemented does not have a
13 detrimental impact on the small businesses and so we
14 are on the same page. I think the, the, the question
15 and you know there are things that... in terms of if a
16 decision is made our job is to make sure that we
17 provide as much resources and services to those small
18 business to either adapt to that change or to reverse
19 that decision... [cross-talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Great... [cross-
21 talk]

22 GREGG BISHOP: ...depending on, on what it
23 is.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: So, let's, let's
25 talk about that... [cross-talk]

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2 GREGG BISHOP: So, I'm just going to...
3 yes... [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I want to be... I
5 want to be proactive and not reactive, Dyckman
6 Heights you were a part of the conversation when
7 vision zero was applied?

8 GREGG BISHOP: I was not part of the
9 conversation; I was part of the conversation when the
10 businesses with the installation of the bike lanes...
11 [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Right... [cross-
13 talk]

14 GREGG BISHOP: ...and I'm... I continue to be
15 part of that conversation.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Right and there
17 was a reversal that was done.

18 GREGG BISHOP: I, I wouldn't say reversal
19 because the... so, the, the appearance is that there
20 was a reversal, however it's one of those situations
21 where DOT placed the markings for the bike lanes and
22 then there was the normal cycle of resurfacing the
23 road so it seemed that there was a reversal but it
24 was actually that road was teed up to actually get
25 repaved but because of the concerns and because of

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2 what we heard from small businesses there's now a
3 conversation... because typically what happens wsshn
4 you repave a road you just put the mark ins back the
5 way it was but now there's a conversation about it
6 because we've heard from small businesses and we've
7 heard from the community what... should we make
8 adjustments and that's, that's one of the things I
9 was going to say is that, you know our... my sister
10 agencies and, and you know... you know the different
11 agencies that deal with small businesses they are
12 very responsive when they hear about concerns...
13 [cross-talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Alright, stay on
15 that point, you were doing great but it was after it
16 was implemented that we went back to revisit and not
17 enough thought went into the implementation, this
18 cookie cutter aprpaoch, vision zero, take two lanes
19 make it one, put a bike lane... [cross-talk]

20 GREGG BISHOP: It's... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...is where we're
22 headed... [cross-talk]

23 GREGG BISHOP: I don't... I don't think...
24 and, and you know I don't want to make this into a
25 DOT hearing, but I don't think... [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: But it's a small
3 business hearing...

4 GREGG BISHOP: Right, I know but I, I
5 don't think it's a cookie cutter approach, you know
6 when DOT makes a decision they're making the decision
7 based on safety, they want to make sure that lives
8 are saved and I don't think anyone will make an
9 argument that if DOT makes the change to a, a street
10 and we receive a reduction in fatalities, you know ...
11 [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I'm with you...
13 [cross-talk]

14 GREGG BISHOP: ...that, that that is
15 something to be said, right...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I am completely
17 with you on this, we should strive to make things
18 safer and we should be looking at options that we
19 have. Do you know that Morris Park that same
20 commercial corridor, a report came out which deep... by
21 DOT, deprioritized the commercial corridor based on a
22 40 percent reduction, this is their findings and
23 their reporting, deprioritized, I says great now we
24 can sit back and revisit this and try to figure out a
25 balance, do you know what the response was? Nope,

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2 we're moving forward because we know best. I said why
3 don't we take some initial steps ahead of this, let's
4 stagger the traffic lights, seven of them will turn
5 green at the same time, let's slow down those cars,
6 not interested, let's put in speed cameras, not
7 interested, let's use better markings for our
8 crosswalks, not interested. These were suggestions
9 that were made by those small businesses, these were
10 suggestions that were made by the community, the
11 people that live there, these were the suggestions
12 that were made by the community board, these were the
13 suggestions that came out of town hall meetings, it
14 was overwhelmingly opposed to this road dieting plan;
15 homeowners, business owners, residents, unanimously
16 opposed. No willingness to work with the stakeholders
17 so I say to you as the Commissioner of small business
18 services join in this conversation which led us to a
19 lawsuit, could you imagine this? The only.. the final
20 option, the nuclear option had to be to sue New York
21 City to stop the implementation and a judge agreed
22 they put in a temporary restraining order.

23 Commissioner this issue is significant to the
24 wellbeing of that commercial corridor, please join me
25 as we meet with both stakeholders and agency to

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2 devise a plan that can be embraced, that works and
3 doesn't jeopardize the safety of pedestrians at the
4 cost of a vacant commercial corridor, we all have to
5 live and share the same street and the same sidewalk
6 and I believe that we can come up with a... an approach
7 where both sides will be unhappy and that means we've
8 done our job.

9 GREGG BISHOP: So, you have my commitment
10 in terms of... and you had mentioned this at the last
11 hearing, and we will continue our conversation with
12 DOT.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Together.

14 GREGG BISHOP: Together.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: There you go,
16 strength in numbers, thank you Commissioner.

17 GREGG BISHOP: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
19 Commissioner and that will end it here with this
20 panel. We're going to start in about 20 minutes I
21 think or so with, with the Department of Health,
22 thank you very much.

23 GREGG BISHOP: Thank you very much.

24 [gavel]

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good afternoon.

3 We will now resume the City Council's hearing on the
4 Mayor's executive budget for fiscal 2020. The Finance
5 Committee is joined by the Committee on Health
6 Chaired by Council Member Mark Levine and the
7 Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and
8 Addiction Chaired by Council Member Ayala. We have
9 been joined by Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and other
10 Council Members will be coming shortly. We just heard
11 from SBS and now we will hear from Doctor Oxiris
12 Barbot, the Commissioner of the Department of Health
13 and Mental Hygiene. In the interest of time I will
14 forego an opening statement but before we hear
15 testimony, I'll open the mic to my colleague, Council
16 Member... Council Member Levine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Chair
18 Dromm and great to be Co-Chairing this hearing with
19 Chair Ayala and I'm very happy to see the
20 administration. As the Chair mentioned we're going to
21 be reviewing today the Department of Health and
22 Mental Hygiene's 1.7 billion-dollar fiscal 2020
23 executive budget as well as funding requests included
24 in the Council's preliminary budget response. Amongst
25 the most serious public health challenges faced in

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2 this city are an opioid epidemic which is claiming
3 the life of one New Yorker on average every seven
4 hours, an ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS, viral
5 hepatitis and TB, diseases which disproportionately
6 impact low income communities, people of color and
7 immigrants, unconscionable racial disparities and
8 maternal mortality and inadequate nurse staffing in
9 our public schools. The Mayor's executive budget for
10 DOHMH falls short in addressing each of these
11 challenges. The City Council's budget response called
12 for funding of opioid overdose prevention centers, a
13 critical innovative and life saving strategy. We hope
14 and expect that the centers will be authorized soon
15 by the state health department and it's important to
16 have funding in place now to advance this so that no
17 further time is lost. Unfortunately, the
18 administration's executive budget does not allocate
19 any funding for this important strategy to fight
20 overdose deaths. The state budget this year made a
21 devastating and indefensible 60 million dollar plus
22 cut to article VI healthcare funding; a cut directed
23 exclusively to New York City. Thankfully the
24 administration has committed to filling this gap for
25 funding at least that portion directly allocated to

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2 DOHMH. The executive budget however makes no
3 provision for replacing the article VI funding
4 directed to community-based healthcare nonprofits
5 engaged in critical public health work. Unless this
6 shortfall is addressed it will mean approximately
7 four million dollars in painful cuts to programs
8 helping our city in the battle against HIV/AIDS,
9 viral hepatitis, TB and much more. The City Council's
10 budget response also called for an increase in
11 funding to the nurse family partnership, an
12 initiative which amongst other things provides care
13 to low income women during and immediately after
14 pregnancy, an important tool in closing the maternal
15 mortality health gap. Unfortunately, the
16 administration's executive budget does not allocate
17 any additional funding for the nurse family
18 partnership. Finally, our budget response called on
19 the administration to close the salary gap for school
20 nurses, currently there is a substantial pay
21 disparity between school nurses who work for DOHMH
22 and those who work for DOE even though they are doing
23 the same jobs in our schools. The poor pay for DOHMH
24 nurses has resulted in numerous unfilled positions
25 which has meant some schools must, must go without

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2 this vital position on some days. Again, the
3 executive budget made no provision for closing this
4 pay gap. I look forward to a robust discussion over
5 these issues with our colleagues, with the
6 administration so that we can work together to
7 protect and promote the health and well being of all
8 New Yorkers and I'm now pleased to pass it off to my
9 colleague and the Chair of the Committee on Mental
10 Health, Disabilities and Addiction, Council Member
11 Diane Ayala.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you Chair
13 Levine and good afternoon. I'm Council Member Diane
14 Ayala, Chair of the City Council's Committee on
15 Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction. I would
16 like to start by reiterating my colleagues concerns
17 that no funding has been allocated for the start of
18 all of those prevention centers. We're fighting a
19 losing battle against opioid addiction; it is
20 imperative that we do everything in our power to keep
21 the citizens of New York City safe. Addiction is a
22 disease, a disease that, that... who's consequences can
23 be deadly. The science proves that overdose
24 prevention centers reduce the number of overdose
25 deaths drastically. To turn to the City Council's

2 fiscal 2019 preliminary budget response, I would like

3 to express my disappointment that the request to

4 increase the rate of scattered supportive housing

5 wasn't addressed in the executive budget. The

6 consequences of not addressing the rate of this

7 disparity will cost... will be costly for DOHMH and New

8 York City as a whole. These units keep people out of

9 shelters and emergency rooms ignoring the

10 inequalities between the different supportive housing

11 programs implies that organizations providing

12 supportive services are less of a priority. The

13 budget response also calls for more transparency and

14 clarity on the funding for Thrive NYC. I was

15 disappointed to see that the only cut in funding was

16 for the program that has been known to be

17 underutilized. Historically spending for Thrive leads

18 the Council to believe that there will be significant

19 underspending in fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year

20 2020. For example, there is almost full funding for

21 diversion centers, but the program hasn't yet begun.

22 I want to thank the Thrive NYC office and OMB for the

23 efforts and communication over the last few months,

24 but I believe that we can continue to dive deeper

25 into the details to ensure a successful and robust

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2 mental health program in New York City. I look
3 forward to discussing these important issues and I
4 would like to turn it back to Chair Dromm.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much
6 and I'm going to ask Counsel to swear the panel in.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you affirm that your
8 testimony will be truthful to the best of your
9 knowledge, information and belief?

10 OXIRIS BARBOT: I do.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay..

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, you may
13 proceed.

14 OXIRIS BARBOT: Good afternoon Chairs
15 Dromm, Ayala and Levine and members of the Committee.
16 I am Doctor Oxiris Barbot, Commissioner of the New
17 York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. I
18 am joined by Sandy Rozza, Deputy Commissioner for
19 Finance. Thank you for the opportunity to testify
20 our... on our executive budget for fiscal year 2020.
21 This is my first executive budget hearing as
22 Commissioner, and Chair Dromm I look forward to
23 working with you and your staff. The department's
24 primary focus since the preliminary budget hearing
25 has been to address the ongoing measles outbreak. The

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2 department's response has been nothing short of epic,
3 with nearly 400 employees mobilized for this public
4 health emergency. To date, the department has spent
5 2.3 million dollars. This includes redeployment of
6 staff to the measles response and more than 700,000
7 dollars in overtime and purchases for vaccines,
8 supplies and outreach materials and services. As of
9 May 13th, there were 498 cases of measles in the
10 city. Though cases continue to rise, we are confident
11 our efforts are working. Since October, 23,814 doses
12 of the measles, mumps, rubella, the MMR vaccine have
13 been administered to people under 19 years of age in
14 Williamsburg and Borough Park, nearly double the
15 amount given during, during the same period the
16 previous year. We continue to work with community
17 leaders, local health care providers and other
18 stakeholders to disseminate accurate information on
19 the effectiveness and safety of the MMR vaccine and
20 risks of acquiring measles. This has required a
21 sustained effort because we are faced with a well-
22 funded anti vaccination movement that is not unique
23 to the orthodox community, but one that has
24 effectively taken root. Let me be clear, the
25 misinformation spread by antivaccination groups is

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2 based on non-science and is 100 percent false. As a
3 pediatrician, I have administered thousands of MMR
4 vaccines and as I told my patients then and now as
5 the city's doctor, the best way to prevent measles
6 and safeguard your child's health is to get
7 vaccinated. I want to thank Chair Levine for his
8 leadership and voice on this issue. It is vital that
9 we have the city's leaders speak out about the
10 mistruths that are perpetuating this outbreak. Before
11 turning to the executive budget, I'd like to give an
12 update the state and federal budgets. During our
13 preliminary budget hearing, I raised the very
14 concerning issue of state budget cuts to article VI
15 funding, which supports numerous core public health
16 activities in New York City, such as responding to a
17 measles outbreak. I was very disappointed to see that
18 the Governor pushed to keep the reduction in Article
19 VI match, from 36 to 20 percent in the final budget.
20 As a result, the department has lost 59 million
21 dollars annually in state aid. I cannot stress enough
22 the enormity of this cut, which affects only New York
23 City. As you heard from the Mayor and the Office of
24 Management and Budget, the city's executive budget
25 closes this gap with city tax levy dollars for the

2 upcoming fiscal year. I am grateful that the Mayor..

3 that Mayor De Blasio has stepped up to cover the

4 state's responsibility, but this is not a sustainable

5 solution. This funding must be restored in next

6 year's state budget. There was some good news in the

7 state budget. The school-based health center funding

8 cuts were again restored by the state legislature. We

9 are grateful for this 3.8-million-dollar allocation,

10 which will support the school-based health center

11 sponsors who operate 164 clinics in schools across

12 the city. Additionally, the state authorized Medicaid

13 coverage for the National Diabetes Prevention

14 program. This will allow the department and other

15 health care providers to expand access to an

16 evidence-based program that has shown to delay or

17 reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by as

18 much as 50 percent. Finally, I am pleased that the

19 state budget included a 20 percent statewide tax on

20 e-cigarettes and vapor products. The rise in

21 popularity of these products threatens decades of

22 progress we have made in fighting youth tobacco and

23 nicotine use. Since youths are particularly sensitive

24 to price increases, measures that raise the price of

25 these products are an effective strategy for reducing

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2 use amongst this vulnerable population. At the
3 federal level, we have healthy skepticism about the
4 administration's plan to end the HIV epidemic by
5 2030. New York City is a national leader in the
6 effort to end the HIV epidemic by 2020 and we are
7 closely following the development of the federal
8 plan. With that said, it will be nearly impossible to
9 end the epidemic if other cuts and policy changes
10 proposed by the president are realized. These include
11 cuts to Medicaid and Medicare and the Trump
12 administration's continued efforts to dismantle the
13 affordable care act, fundamentally change the title X
14 program and revoke protections for LGBTQ people. We
15 must remain vigilant in order to ensure that all
16 Americans continue to have access to quality,
17 affordable health care. I will now turn to the fiscal
18 year 2020 executive budget, which adds 60 million
19 annually to the department's budget. The majority of
20 this new funding is the 59 million dollars to fill
21 the gap left by the state's cut to the article VI
22 program for New York City, which will prevent deaths
23 from having to reduce the number of cooling tower
24 inspections, decrease operating funds for school
25 based health centers, distribute fewer naloxone kits

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2 and clean syringes and close two of our eight sexual
3 health clinics. We thank the Mayor for stepping up
4 for public health during a time when the Governor was
5 unwilling to do so. In addition, the executive budget
6 baselines 435,000 dollars to continue the culture of
7 health worksite wellness program, provided in
8 collaboration with the Office of Labor Relations,
9 that empowers employees to live healthy, active
10 lifestyles through the provision of key services and
11 wellness programs including smoking cessation,
12 diabetes prevention and nutrition programming. The
13 executive budget also reflects over 8.4 million
14 dollars in savings for fiscal year 2020 and out years
15 to meet the department's required PEG targets set by
16 OMB. We worked closely with OMB to find ways to
17 achieve these targets, while preserving existing
18 service delivery. The department's savings were
19 achieved through citywide hiring freeze savings,
20 reductions in administrative and contractual
21 spending, temp and consulting services. In addition,
22 we are reducing our citywide media campaign budget by
23 approximately 350,000 dollars. I want to thank the
24 Mayor for the resources dedicated to the department
25 in the executive plan. And thank you to the Speaker,

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2 Chairs Dromm, Levine and Ayala and members of the
3 Committee for your partnership and shared commitment
4 to protecting and promoting the health of all New
5 Yorkers. I want to acknowledge my excellent
6 leadership team who are here today with me and the
7 more than 6,500 department employees for continuing
8 to achieve so much on behalf of all New Yorkers. They
9 bring expertise and passion to our work every day.
10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I am happy
11 to take questions.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you
13 Commissioner for your testimony, before we get
14 started let me just say that we've been joined by
15 Council Member Holden and Van Bramer and
16 congratulations on being... giving testimony at your
17 first executive budget hearing, hopefully you'll
18 survive. Let's talk a little bit about Thrive. During
19 the OMB hearings on the executive budget, Budget
20 Director Melanie Hartzog stated that Thrive New York
21 City was on track to accurately spend for the fiscal...
22 for fiscal 2019, what is the year to date spending
23 for Thrive New York City?

24 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, the year to date
25 spending I think we will need to get back to you on

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2 but I want to just sort of lead by saying that we at
3 the Health Department are focused on ensuring that we
4 maximize the resources that are so vitally needed by
5 New Yorkers. I think we all can agree that mental
6 health has been a historically underfunded area both
7 at the national, state and local level and this
8 administration has made tremendous investments in the
9 health of New Yorkers that includes not just physical
10 health but mental health.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, I hope we
12 can get that information as soon as possible and I
13 agree with you, and look my family has been effected
14 by mental illnesses as well and so we don't doubt the
15 sincerity of the First Lady and, and Commissioner I
16 guess or Director Herman at this point but we just
17 need to get some information on it so that we can
18 properly address it in the budget.

19 OXIRIS BARBOT: Absolutely.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Is there a plan to
21 include additional units of appropriation in the
22 budget, in Thrives... in Thrives budget?

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I'll start and then
24 I'll have Deputy Commissioner Razza continue, we at
25 the Health Department are committed to transparency

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2 in the budget that we have for Thrive and I hope that
3 you can see in the budget book that we have budget
4 codes for the way in which we are spending that money
5 and we would be more than happy to sit with Council
6 to go through any additional details to help shed
7 further light on how we are maximizing the Thrive
8 dollars that are getting to our most underserved
9 communities.

10 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, Commissioner one
11 of the priorities, excuse me, of the Council has been
12 to get additional units of appropriation from the
13 administration so we really would like to see that
14 happen and I think particularly because Thrive goes
15 across so many different agencies that it would help
16 us... helpful to us to be able to track it.

17 OXIRIS BARBOT: Absolutely.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. So,
19 can we get an updated Thrive executive budget?

20 OXIRIS BARBOT: I'm sorry, say again?

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Can we get an updated
22 Thrive budget, executive budget?

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: Sure, we'd be happy to
24 sit with Council and go through the way in which we

25

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2 spend our money allocated to the Health Department
3 for Thrive.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: You don't have that
5 today though?

6 OXIRIS BARBOT: We have what the total is
7 but... is that what you're asking for?

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes...

9 OXIRIS BARBOT: Okay, so the total amount
10 of dollars that we have allocated for Thrive, I'm
11 blank... 124 million dollars for fiscal year 20.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. In
13 the fiscal 2020 preliminary budget response the
14 Council called for a 50 million dollar reduction to
15 Thrives spending, the administration responded by
16 reducing the Thrive mental health service core fiscal
17 2019 budget by nine million dollars in the executive
18 budget, can you with full confidence state that all
19 funding for fiscal 19 will be spent by the end of the
20 fiscal year?

21 OXIRIS BARBOT: We at the Health
22 Department are... have been extremely focused on
23 ensuring that again we maximize the resources going
24 to the community and we will follow up with Council
25 on where we end up with those dollars but that's been

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2 really an emphasis of mine since returning the Health
3 Department of ensuring that resources make it to
4 where they're intended.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, it is your
6 intention then to spend all of that money by the end
7 of the fiscal... [cross-talk]

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: Absolutely.

9 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. In
10 the letter to the Council from the Office of Thrive
11 after the preliminary budget hearing the Office
12 stated that there are two positions that are being
13 privately funded, those positions include a program
14 implementation specialist and a Thrive in your
15 workplace and engagement manager, what is the source
16 of the private fund for those two positions?

17 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, on that particular
18 question I would have to defer to the Office of
19 Thrive and OMB for the particulars.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, what else in
21 Thrives New York City budget is privately funded,
22 anything else?

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: Again, I would have to
24 defer to the Thrive Office and OMB for the
25 particulars on that.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And the 124 that you
3 mentioned that's for 19 or that's for 20?

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: That's for 20.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Oh, for 20, okay.
6 Okay, I'll think there will be other questions but
7 for me and for now I'm going to go on to PrEP and
8 Pep. On DOHMH's website it states that uninsured
9 individuals may be eligible for a patient assistance
10 program to help pay for PrEP, it also provides a list
11 of 13 health clinics in the city that provide Pep and
12 PrEP services to uninsured persons. Can you describe
13 the patient assistance program and the criteria to
14 qualify for the program?

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: I'm going to start and
16 then I'll have Doctor Daskalakis come to the podium
17 to give us a more detailed response. I want to just
18 start by saying that we at the Department have really
19 been leaders at the state in terms of moving New York
20 City to end the epidemic and we are I'm pleased to
21 report on track for meeting those metrics in terms of
22 significantly reducing the number of people newly
23 diagnosed with the infection and so I'm going to turn
24 it over to Doctor Daskalakis for those details.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: We have to swear him
3 in so Counsel do you want to swear him in? And by the
4 way we've been joined by Council Member Eugene.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you confirm that
6 your testimony will be truthful to the best of your
7 knowledge, information and belief?

8 DEMETRE DASKALAKIS: Yes, I do.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, you may
10 proceed.

11 DEMETRE DASKALAKIS: So, the specific
12 question is about the PrEP assistance program and Pep
13 assistance programs, in New York State for
14 individuals who are uninsured or have issues with
15 potentially being uninsurable potentially because of
16 immigration status, there's a program that the state
17 supports called PrEP assistance program. The PrEP
18 assistance program is a program that supports the
19 health care that's associated with pre-exposure
20 prophylaxis so its doctors or other health care
21 provider visits and screening for HIV and sexually
22 transmitted infections as well as checks for kidney
23 function which is one of the... one of the medical
24 monitoring issues with PrEP. It does not cover drug.
25 The way that the... a drug is covered is through the

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2 use of a patient assistance program that's provided

3 by the company that is the producer of the only drug

4 approved for pre-exposure prophylaxis which is

5 tenofovir and emtricitabine fix dose combination also

6 known Truvada. So, the... it... the places that are

7 listed are, are facilities that New York City funds

8 through ending the epidemic funds, part of our

9 PlaySure network and those sites are additionally

10 sites that have PrEP assistance programs so we can

11 direct folks to... navigate them to places where they

12 can get support for pre-exposure prophylaxis as well

13 as assistance in getting on the patience assistance

14 program by the company. Pep is a bit more complex, in

15 fact I'll say that New York City has been a leader in

16 actually pushing pharma to create better strategies

17 for, for allowing access to drug in the... in this

18 occurrence post-exposure prophylaxis which is an

19 emergency so it's very time sensitive. So, we have

20 worked with the companies to actually create voucher

21 programs that allow us and others to access drug

22 quickly so the patient assistance programs are a bit

23 more novel, they're newer than the pre-exposure

24 prophylaxis assistance programs but they are

25

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2 functioning to deliver medicines to people who need
3 them in a timely manner.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: What is the criteria
5 to qualify for both?

6 DEMETRE DASKALAKIS: Yeah, so the
7 criteria for... actually the criteria for Pep are, are,
8 are pretty straightforward, if you're uninsured you
9 qualify and if you are underinsured there are
10 patient... there are co-pay assistance programs that
11 you can access so you can cover the gap that you may
12 have and, and, and that actually has been pretty
13 useful. PrEP, you have to be uninsured and I think
14 that the... it is... you have to have 500 percent or less
15 of federal poverty line depending on the number of
16 people in your household to qualify for the pre-
17 exposure prophylaxis program and that actually syncs
18 with the New York State PrEP assistance program, they
19 have the same criteria so that the care and the drug
20 are covered for the same people.

21 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I was very surprised
22 to find out that police officers do not have that
23 coverage, we brought that to their attention and the
24 administration says that it's a union issue, that
25 they need to bargain it but it seems sad that those

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2 who protect us are not eligible for this.. you know
3 for those drugs so, I, I would assume from your
4 criteria also they're not available.. they're, they're
5 not eligible... [cross-talk]

6 DEMETRE DASKALAKIS: If the.. [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...that the salary is
8 too high.

9 DEMETRE DASKALAKIS: Yeah, with the pre-
10 exposure prophylaxis program that's supported by the
11 company if they have a salary that's too high or they
12 have insurance they potentially do not qualify for
13 that support.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Uh-huh, okay. Thank
15 you for that information. Diversion centers, in
16 December 18, the Administration announced that two
17 vendors had signed leases to open the city's first
18 two drop off health diversion centers providing short
19 term stabilizing services for individuals with mental
20 health and substance use needs. It was also stated
21 that the diversion centers were anticipated to be
22 open by late 2019. Upon review of the fiscal 2020
23 executive budget however approximately 4.2 million
24 was rolled from fiscal 19 to fiscal 20 for these
25 diversion centers so this funding is linked to the

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2 startup costs for opening the two new centers. Given
3 the change in funding for the diversion centers is
4 the administration still on target to opening them by
5 the end of 2019?

6 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I am pleased to say
7 that we have two very strong vendors and that after
8 much struggle with regards to real estate we now have
9 two sites and we are on track for opening in the fall
10 of, of this year.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, and where,
12 where are those sites?

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: There is currently... one
14 is going to the 47th district or as they say the 47
15 in the North Bronx and the 25 in East Harlem.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.
17 measles and I know you spoke a little bit about
18 measles in your... in your opening statement, as of May
19 13th, 19 there have been 498 confirmed cases of
20 measles in Brooklyn and Queens since September... since
21 September, its been reported that in some communities
22 where the vaccination rates are particularly low one
23 reason for the low rates is antivaccination campaigns
24 that are targeting members of those communities and
25 providing misinformation. For example, it has been

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2 reported that in the orthodox Jewish community there
3 are hotlines that people can call where false
4 information about vaccines is disseminated. So, does
5 DOHMH outreach and campaign to get people vaccinated
6 specifically address the targeted misinformation
7 efforts?

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, thank you for the
9 opportunity to give them a fuller update of our
10 efforts on addressing this measles outbreak, it's the
11 largest that we have seen in the city since measles
12 was declared eradicated in 2000 and it's a reminder
13 that we can't take for granted previous public health
14 successes and we remain committed to ensuring that
15 the information that we put out regarding the safety
16 and the efficacy of vaccinations and specifically of
17 the measles vaccination makes it to all communities.
18 This particular response has required us to really
19 mobilize different tools than have previously been
20 utilized because of the degree to which the
21 antivaccination community has really targeted
22 particular communities spreading misinformation that
23 is dangerous to health and so as a result for example
24 we have deployed several rounds of robot calls to
25 households in the Williamsburg area specifically

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2 those four zip codes that are effected bringing to
3 people's house... homes if you will correct information
4 about the safety and efficacy of measles.
5 Additionally we have been working with community
6 based organizations on the ground specifically the
7 orthodox Jewish nurses association which has been
8 incredibly helpful in that face to face component in
9 terms of the education, we have worked
10 collaboratively with the health provider community
11 and we have also worked with the religious community.
12 Part of the challenge here is that the
13 antivaccination community has really been quite
14 successful I'll say in leveraging social media and so
15 we have also taken to social media and are deploying
16 a number of educational campaigns that include both
17 hard copy if you will, postings in terms of like bus
18 shelters and other places in Williamsburg and then
19 deploying those in social media as well. So, in
20 addition, you know we've got several tools that are
21 available to public health with regards to the use of
22 Commissioner's orders both at the school level, at
23 the individual level and.. as well as declaring this
24 public health emergency and compelling people to get
25 vaccinated.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And Doctor is, is a
3 second shot necessary, is that... [cross-talk]

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, the requirements for
5 measles vaccination have historically been one dose
6 starting at 12 months of age and then the second dose
7 starting at four years of age. In this particular
8 outbreak in the community that's affected in
9 Williamsburg we have added an additional request for
10 people to vaccinate their infants as early as six
11 months of age. Really the important thing here is
12 there are certain members of the community that just
13 can't get vaccinated so infants from birth until just
14 before they're six months, individuals who have
15 compromised immune systems because perhaps they're
16 going to through chemo therapy and women who are
17 pregnant and so part of the way in which we stop this
18 outbreak and protect our communities is by maximizing
19 the number of community members who can get
20 vaccinated actually do get vaccinated. What we have
21 found is that since the beginning of this outbreak at
22 the beginning of October over 23,000 people have been
23 vaccinated in Williamsburg and Borough Park, the two
24 communities most effected by this outbreak and that's
25 roughly double what it was the same time last year.

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2 Unfortunately, at the same time as you noted we still
3 have people becoming infected with measles, we have
4 people that are hospitalized because of measles,
5 we've had a significant number of individuals who've
6 ended up in the intensive care unit all necessarily
7 because this vaccine is safe and effective so our
8 goal is to make it as easy as possible for
9 individuals to get vaccinated and part of that
10 includes ensuring that they have the correct
11 information and we take the time to dispel any
12 potential mix that may continue.

13 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: So, do you have plans
14 about how you would follow up with the second shot?

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, we are working with
16 health providers, we're providing them technical
17 assistance about how to use their electronic medical
18 records so that individuals who are due for that
19 second shot get that second shot, we are working with
20 community based organizations again to make it as
21 easy as possible for individuals to stay on target
22 with their immunizations. Within the school community
23 we do ongoing audits of school records to ensure that
24 any student enrolled in a school is up to date on
25 their immunization status and if they have a medical

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2 exemption or any other kind of exemption that they
3 are properly excluded when in fact there is an
4 outbreak and we've been doing several audits during
5 this outbreak to ensure that we reduce any possible
6 additional venues for ongoing transmission.

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you. I
8 want to talk a little bit about school nurse pay
9 parity. In the 2020 preliminary budget response the
10 Council called on the administration to eliminate the
11 wage gap among school nurses. The average salary for
12 a DOHMH school nurse is 54,573 approximately 12,000
13 dollars less than DOE school nurses who are... earn an
14 average of 66,635 dollars. Currently there are over
15 780 school nurses who work for DOHMH, have there been
16 any discussions on how to achieve pay parity for
17 school nurses?

18 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, let me start by
19 saying that through the office of school health our
20 commitment is to the health and safety of students in
21 all of our schools and the nurses are the front line
22 for this. So, we are in conversations, have been in
23 conversations with OMB and my understanding is that
24 this is now a collective bargaining issue.

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And how many
3 vacancies do you have with school nurses?

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, to, to lead with,
5 again in terms of the commitment that we have to the
6 health and safety of our students every day roughly
7 98 percent of our schools are covered and for schools
8 where a nurse may be absent we utilize agency nurses
9 to ensure that we take every measure so that the
10 health and safety of our students is maintained.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: And they are covered
12 with a full-time nurse?

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: They're covered through
14 either agency nurses that would provide coverage
15 throughout the day or depending on other factors
16 there may be nurses that are pulled from another
17 school, a nursing supervisor.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you.
19 Let's talk a little bit about decriminalizing sex
20 work. A bill sponsored by State Senators Jessica
21 Ramos and Julia Salazar was recently introduced that
22 would vacate trespassing and larceny convictions for
23 sex trafficking victims if they can demonstrate that
24 they were coerced by traffickers. A second bill
25 sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman and Assemblyman

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2 Richard Gottfried would end a statute criminalizing
3 loitering for the purposes of prostitution. As these
4 two pieces of legislation gain momentum in the state
5 legislature and in the city what efforts have been
6 made by DOHMH to provide community education services
7 to sex workers and trafficking victims?

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: As an agency we are
9 focused on ensuring that our messages reach the
10 communities in need and we are focused on efforts
11 around harm reduction be it related to HIV
12 transmission, be it related to STDs, reproductive
13 health, I'm not familiar with these two bills but I..
14 we will take a look and see and ensure that we work
15 collaboratively with members of, of Council to again
16 maximize the opportunities to protect and promote the
17 health of New Yorkers.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very
19 much and I'm going to turn it over to Chair Levine
20 who has questions.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you so much
22 Chair Dromm and hello again Commissioner.

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: Hello.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: As I mentioned in
25 my opening statement I know you concur, it was really

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2 a dastardly deed that Albany cut article VI funding,
3 it's really impacting the most vulnerable in the city
4 and it's money that is critical to some of the most
5 complicated fights we have right now and it's, it's...
6 our fights to contain diseases which require
7 community partners on the ground who are reaching out
8 to the effected populations who are providing
9 important education programming, provide, providing
10 peer support. This kind of work is just.. it, it is
11 essential to our strategy and ending the epidemic of
12 HIV/AIDS, of ending the viral hepatitis epidemic,
13 it's critical to containing tuberculosis, this money
14 is also used in some of... as I mentioned in my opening
15 statement in some of the neonatal programming and
16 support for, for women during pregnancy. It's, it's
17 just.. it's just unthinkable that we would endure a
18 setback in our fights on any of these critical public
19 health priorities because of the cut of millions of
20 dollars that would result from our failure to restore
21 what Albany took away on article VI and you cited in
22 your opening statement a commitment from the Mayor to
23 restore that portion of the cuts which goes directly
24 to DOHMH but we need the cuts restored that are going
25 to hit these CBOs really hard, it's not a lot of

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2 money, our current estimate is about 3.4 million
3 dollars that relevant to the size of the city budget
4 and relevant to the size of the DOHMH budget is
5 really quite small and you probably have unallocated
6 funds that you could recapture just for this purpose
7 and I did ask Director... OMB Director Hartzog about
8 this last week and I have to say I found her answer
9 somewhat confusing but I think what she said was
10 because we don't yet know for sure just how much the
11 City Council is going to allocate for these causes we
12 don't know what the article VI matching fund amount
13 would be and you know that's, that's really not an
14 acceptable response, we've... these are initiatives
15 dealing with the diseases I mentioned and the other
16 health priorities I mentioned which have been in
17 place for years, they've had fairly stable funding,
18 we know approximately what they'll be funded at next
19 year, we're pushing to increase them but let's just
20 agree that based on historic funding levels we know
21 how much the state had put in to these organizations
22 and we do know that based prior year funding is...
23 it's... we're estimating it to be 3.4 million. So, why
24 can't the administration just put 3.4 million in and
25 that would... that would close the gap as we currently

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2 understand it and it would avoid any pain for these
3 very small nonprofits that as I mentioned before are
4 doing critical, critical work in tackling these
5 diseases?

6 OXIRIS BARBOT: Mr. Chair I agree with
7 you that our community partners are important to the
8 overall success of the mission that we have to
9 protect and promote the health of all New Yorkers and
10 we are in ongoing conversations with OMB about this
11 issue.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Would you care to
13 elaborate on those conversations.

14 OXIRIS BARBOT: Unfortunately at this
15 point all I can say is that we are in conversations
16 about this issue, I think that, you know the ongoing
17 advocacy at the state level is going to continue
18 because its not a sustainable way to really run
19 critical public health initiatives and we see our
20 partners as vital components to that so we're in
21 ongoing conversations with OMB.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: And I'm not
23 letting the state off the hook, they, they created
24 this crisis, they deserve blame for this crisis but
25 the only way now to avert really negative impact in,

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2 in these public health priorities is if the city
3 steps in to fill the gap, that's, that's
4 unfortunately the situation we're in, the city has to
5 step in and the administration has the resources to
6 do that and we're going to be pushing very, very,
7 very hard until we are certain that none of these
8 important public health programs are going to be
9 impacted. I do want to say a word about measles which
10 I do want to commend the department in being
11 extremely aggressive in addressing and I was
12 impressed to see that you've got 400 personnel that
13 have been mobilized on this. There was a, a convening
14 Monday night north of the city in Muncie that was one
15 of the most shockingly, shameful gatherings related
16 to public health that I've ever been aware of where a
17 rogues gallery of conspiracy theorists and fraud
18 stirrers descended on this community to push a lot of
19 bogus science, junk science around vaccinations,
20 there were people from New York City who were there
21 as well, this attracted people from all over the
22 region. It's really, really frustrating because there
23 have been incredibly strong leaders from within the
24 orthodox community have spoken out including now over
25 600 doctors who work within the orthodox community in

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2 New York City primarily and other places, it's just
3 so difficult to counter the messaging that's coming
4 from these people who are preying on this community
5 and people who are enabling them and I have to say
6 that I, I, I expected to see the rates of new cases
7 reported drop because partly thanks to your efforts
8 and partly thanks to the leadership of some of these
9 leaders within the orthodox community, authorities
10 and doctors, the number of people getting the MMR
11 vaccine has increased significantly in the last few
12 weeks in Williamsburg and Borough Park I believe but
13 if I'm not mistaken the number of new cases you
14 reported this week went up and I'm wondering if you
15 can help me and, and the public understand what's
16 happening here, we are seeing more people getting
17 vaccinated and we're not seeing the number of new
18 cases drop, can you help to clarify that?

19 OXIRIS BARBOT: Yeah... no, absolutely. So,
20 as I talked about when we declared the public health
21 emergency, the, the challenge with measles is
22 multifold. First and foremost it is a highly
23 contagious virus so you know if you have a room where
24 someone with measles enters and exit for the next two
25 hours ten people with... who are unvaccinated enter

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2 that room and nine of them are going to come out with
3 measles even though the person with measles left the
4 room less than two hours ago. So, that's how
5 contagious it is. The second is that it has an
6 incubation period that is as long as 21 days and an
7 individual can be infectious four days before they
8 exhibit symptoms so that, you know sometimes with
9 other illnesses people say I'm going to wait until I
10 get the symptoms to then seek care, this is one of
11 the situations where once someone develops the
12 system.. you know the, the horse is out of the barn so
13 to speak and so that's why we have been placing so
14 much emphasis on maximizing the number of individuals
15 that get vaccinated. So, we expected at that time for
16 the next three to six weeks roughly for there to be
17 ongoing transmission because as Doctor Daskalakis
18 likes to say and I really appreciate this sort of
19 visual, it's kind of like a fractal, right, you have
20 one individual who then comes in contact with other
21 individuals and until such time that, you know you
22 document their immunization status or they get
23 immunized they are then potentials for further spread
24 and that's what we have seen in Williamsburg and so I
25 am very cautiously optimistic that we will start

2 seeing a slow down soon but I think it's a situation
3 where again I, I go back to what I said earlier that
4 we can't take for granted that just because we're
5 slowing down it means that it's over, it's not over
6 until it's completely over and we're not going to
7 stop, we are going to remain as aggressive as we have
8 been, we need parents, schools and the medical
9 community to continue doing their part in ensuring
10 that we don't have young babies, pregnant mothers,
11 people with cancer affected with measles, that is
12 just inexcusable.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Agreed and, and

14 Commissioner Daskalakis or Doctor Daskalakis has been
15 amazing on this issue like every other issue and
16 there's one point that he's helped me understand
17 which the public is missing and it bears repeating,
18 three percent of the population cannot be inoculated
19 for whatever biological reason, the only way to
20 protect those three percent is if everybody else gets
21 the vaccination and so parents who are not
22 vaccinating their kids are not only jeopardizing the
23 health of their kids but they're jeopardizing the
24 health of that three percent who even though they
25 want to get the vaccine will not get the benefit.

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2 It's, it's really... it's an offensive act against
3 other people in the city, it's an aggressive act
4 against other innocent kids in the city, it's why
5 this is really a special case, we just cannot let
6 people off the hook who are not only ignoring science
7 in a way that hurts their own kids but are ignoring
8 science in a way that hurts the children of other
9 families in the city who themselves are trying to do
10 the right thing. I do want to move on, I know you
11 agree with that but... [cross-talk]

12 OXIRIS BARBOT: Absolutely... [cross-talk]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: ...that's a point
14 that bears repeating. One, one of the great pleasures
15 of, of, of Chairing the Health Committee is getting
16 to know your phenomenal workforce, I think it's 7,000
17 strong, I don't... what, what is the exact head count
18 at this point?

19 OXIRIS BARBOT: That's 6,500.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay and we need...
21 these, these are our women and men who are... who are
22 just incredibly dedicated professionals who are
23 keeping the city safe and a few of them are, are on
24 the front lines of some of the issues we're talking
25 about today, certainly the nurses which I guess is

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2 local 436 and I think the president is here, Nurse
3 Arroyo, very nice to see you and another unit I've
4 talked a lot about... another local I've talked a lot
5 about, about some, some very, very current issues is
6 Local 768, with... Fitz Reid is the President, have you
7 met with them or other leaders of unions that are
8 represented in, in your agency since you began your
9 tenure?

10 OXIRIS BARBOT: I have not.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Will you meet
12 with them; would you meet with them?

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: I'm always open to having
14 meetings.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: They are amazing
16 leaders; I think that you would... I think that you
17 could and should and that you would find it to be
18 very productive, I think you guys have a lot to
19 discuss. On, on the NYC Care which as, as we've
20 discussed here is a program to help undocumented
21 immigrants get primary care, something I strongly
22 support. This was a concept piloted by your agency in
23 2015 under a pilot called Action Health NYC, it was
24 evaluated, it was not surprisingly shown to be
25 impactful, they have real health benefits for the New

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2 Yorkers who receive primary care despite the fact
3 that they did not have insurance and the design of
4 the program and the pilot was that most of the
5 providers were community based nonprofit CBOs,
6 federally qualified health centers that are embedded
7 in the communities that we're trying to reach and NYC
8 Care is currently designed cuts those providers out,
9 it's exclusively offered within the H and H system
10 and so I, I actually regret that it's not the Health
11 Department that's playing a coordinating role so that
12 you can bring in providers that are, are beyond the
13 public hospitals that really are, are just ideally
14 attuned to the needs of immigrant communities and
15 what, what is your understanding of why the Health
16 Department is not in the lead on this program and why
17 the community based FQHCs are not... what... and why... and
18 people who enroll cannot give services out of the...
19 FQHCs that I mentioned?

20 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I will answer part of
21 that but part of it I will need to defer to Dr. Katz
22 because this is a... an H and H initiative and I will
23 say that when we piloted Action Health as when we
24 pilot a number of different things it's to get a
25 better sense of what has the potential to work, what

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2 has... what doesn't have potential to work, what are
3 the lessons learned that we can implement to make
4 whatever the next iteration needs to be as successful
5 as possible and you know I think that the... that pilot
6 did that job the way that it was supposed to do and
7 so one of the issues identified through the initial
8 pilot was the importance of care management and that
9 is one of the central components of NYC Care through
10 H and H and so I'm pleased that we in the Health
11 Department were able to contribute, you know that
12 component to that model and we are always open to
13 continuing collaborating with our sister agencies but
14 I would defer further questions about NYC Care to
15 Doctor Katz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay, I, I want
17 to... very quickly two... just two... just two, two more
18 questions because I want to pass it on to my
19 colleagues. We are in the midst of an opioid
20 epidemic, I know you're aware of this but it hasn't
21 gone away, it's fallen out of the headlines for
22 reasons I don't understand but we're still losing
23 three, four people a day to this epidemic that is
24 more than the number of people we lose from
25 homicides, suicides and traffic crashes together just

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2 to give you a sense of the scale of this, this, this
3 epidemic and we, we as the City Council certainly
4 myself as Chair of the Health Committee believe we
5 need evermore aggressive, more innovative
6 interventions to reign this crisis in, one of which
7 is the safe injection site model often called an
8 overdose prevention center model and to the credit
9 of, of the Mayor and I know the Health Department
10 supported it, the city put forward a plan to open
11 four of these as a pilot, we're waiting on approval
12 from the state, from the State Health Department, I
13 hope that's coming soon, I don't know when it's
14 coming, I hope it's coming very soon because people
15 are dying but when it does come I want us to be able
16 turn on a dime and get these centers open. I don't
17 want us to wait another day if we can avoid it
18 because the stakes are very high and I want the money
19 to be in place so that we don't have to on top of
20 everything else, all these bureaucratic hurdles we've
21 had to surmount we don't have to wait for the money
22 to be produced. So, the City Council put in its
23 budget, budget response the assertion that the
24 administration should fund this now, we understand
25 we're waiting for state approval but it's not a lot

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2 of money, I forget the exact number, I think it's
3 about two million dollars that we want in the budget
4 now so that we can immediately on a dime get these
5 programs up and running. Why not put that in the
6 budget while we anticipate the approval coming from
7 the state Health Department?

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, Mr. Chair as you
9 mentioned this is an ongoing issue, priority for us
10 and we continue to be laser focused on turning the
11 tide on the number of people that die as a result of
12 opioid related overdoses and we have a very
13 comprehensive approach to addressing the various
14 components in that continuum that unfortunately way
15 too often leads to someone dying as a result of an
16 overdose. I think the issue related to the opioid
17 prevention centers, as you note we are waiting for
18 state approval to move forward on that and I would
19 argue that we are working very closely with our
20 partners to ensure that we are ready to turn on a
21 dime and our partners have been actively gathering
22 private dollars to support those centers so that we
23 as a city don't lose a beat when we finally get
24 notification from the state.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay, we're going
3 to keep pushing on that because of the stakes being
4 as high as they are. Final question, you are
5 aggressively expanding your inspection of apartments
6 where children have tested positive for lead
7 poisoning and where, where needed you are issuing
8 what are known as commissioner's orders to abate, I,
9 I just want to understand the extent to which you've
10 allocated more staff or more resources to that work
11 as you've expanded that and whether you're confident
12 that you have adequate resources as the city is
13 ramping up this in a push to finally eradicate lead
14 poisoning?

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, on that I am pleased
16 to report that as a result of the ongoing efforts of
17 the Health Department in collaboration with our
18 sister agencies that 2018 saw 600 fewer children with
19 elevated blood lead levels as a result and compared
20 to 2017 and so with regards to the additional
21 inspections that we're doing I'm pleased to note that
22 we are staffed up with EPA certified inspectors.
23 Because of the length of time that it takes to become
24 certified there's a bit of a lag in terms of when
25 they will all become certified and I'll defer to

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2 Doctor... I almost called you Doctor but... you should be
3 because you know as much, Deputy Commissioner Schiff
4 on the details of that. So, we are scaled up with the
5 inspectors, we've got nurses on board, we've got
6 equipment going and so the good news is that we
7 anticipate that by this summer all children who have
8 had elevated blood lead levels will have inspections
9 done of their homes and I want to take this
10 opportunity to remind anyone who may be listening
11 that if families have peeling paint they can call 3-
12 1-1 and an inspector will go out in the meantime so
13 we are and have been aggressively tackling this and
14 as I mentioned we are seeing the dividends in terms
15 of fewer children being exposed to lead which is the
16 bottom line.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you
18 Commissioner.

19 OXIRIS BARBOT: Thank you...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: And I'll pass it
21 back to you, thank you Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you and we're
23 going to go to Chair Ayala now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you.

25 Commissioner I wanted to just clarify so you stated

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2 the next years Thrive budget is 124 million dollars
3 but at the Thrive... [cross-talk]

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: For the Health
5 Department... [cross-talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: ...hearing it was
7 mentioned that the, the budget for next year would be
8 250. Now the Council... in the Council's response we
9 asked for 50 million in cuts but only nine were
10 identified for next year so that still leaves roughly
11 about 117 million dollars, is that additional savings
12 or is that a mistake?

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, the 124 is just the
14 Health Department's budget, the, the part of Thrive
15 that goes to the Health Department, it's not all of
16 Thrive.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Got you, thank
18 you, I, I... thank you for clarifying that. In the... in
19 the, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's
20 budget we're, we're seeing an increase in fiscal year
21 2020 however there's a 3.1 percent... million dollar
22 decrease to developmental disabilities budget, could
23 you explain why the reduction in, in a budget that's
24 so, so minimal to start with?

25

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2 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, let me start by
3 saying that much of the resources that come to the
4 city for individuals with developmental disabilities
5 come directly through the state and so the dollars
6 that are in our budget are to supplement that, I
7 think that particular reduction that you are
8 referring to is a result of contracts with vendors
9 not... council not being signed.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: So, was there an
11 increase... [cross-talk]

12 OXIRIS BARBOT: Excuse me, allocated..
13 [cross-talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: ...in the state
15 budget?

16 OXIRIS BARBOT: I'm going to let Deputy
17 Rozza speak more directly to that.

18 SANDY ROZZA: The reduction that you're
19 referring to is actually the council contracts that
20 are not in our fiscal year 20 budget yet.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Okay. The..
22 regarding the consumer directed personal assistance
23 programs, the state's enacted budget cuts the
24 consumer directed personal assistance program by 17
25 percent, this program provides funding for home

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2 health aides that assist elderly and disabled in the
3 communities like mine that I represent, without this
4 funding there will be a significant decline in
5 services provided by home health aides, is there a
6 plan to make up for the reduction of funding for the
7 home health aide?

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I'll start and then
9 if we need to, we'll ask Doctor Kunins for additional
10 information, but I believe this particular area is
11 more relevant to HRA.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Okay. Now last
13 year the Mayor announced the Bronx plan to combat the
14 opioid epidemic in the South Bronx, the... well in the
15 Bronx in general but specifically in the South Bronx
16 where we had seen an increase in opioid related
17 deaths, is that... was that a one shot deal, is that...
18 is that... has that money been allocated for next year
19 because the money was announced... the funding was
20 announced in November, I'm assuming that there's a
21 period, right, where we're kind of figuring out
22 whether or not... whatever resources are being funded
23 with this money are actually working so where, where
24 are we first of all with, with the program, where...
25 how have the funds been used so far and is there an

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2 intention to add an addition eight, nine million to
3 next year's budget?

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I'll start and then
5 I'll turn it over to Doctor Kunins who will need to
6 be sworn in. Let me begin by saying that as I alluded
7 to earlier we are taking a multifold approach to
8 ensuring that we accelerate the degree to which we're
9 saving lives of people that are dying because of
10 opioids and one of those approaches is to take a more
11 place based approach and bring services to
12 individuals in a more coordinated fashion and that's
13 what we are seeing through the Bronx plan and so I'm
14 going to turn it over to Doctor Kunins to give you
15 the specifics about how that's being played out.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you affirm that your
17 testimony will be truthful to the best of your
18 knowledge, information and belief?

19 HILLARY KUNINS: I do.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 HILLARY KUNINS: Good afternoon everyone,
22 thank you Council Member Ayala for that question.
23 Most of the initiatives in the Bronx plan are... will
24 be ongoing and are a part of the... incorporated into
25 the budget that you have in front of you so these

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2 include the HEAT, Health Engagement Assessment Teams,
3 the expansion of relay which is the emergency
4 department based, nonfatal overdose, deploying peer
5 workers, this is now active at Bronx Care as well as
6 Saint Barnabas, expansion of our primary care based
7 Buprenorphine program that will be ongoing.. [cross-
8 talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: The, the... I'm
10 sorry Hillary, the, the, the peer workers, you cited
11 Bronx Care and Saint Barnabas not Lincoln?

12 HILLARY KUNINS: So, at Lincoln... so, at
13 Health and Hospitals there is an... a sort of parallel
14 emergency department based program also with peer
15 workers and also support for people who are
16 hospitalized, you may have heard about that under the
17 rubric, that catch team.. [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Uh-huh... [cross-
19 talk]

20 HILLARY KUNINS: ...that's the inpatient
21 consultation service and that is also up and running
22 at Lincoln as part of the Bronx plan though not
23 administered by the Health Department. We are... also
24 added funding to the South Bronx based syringe
25 service programs to expand outreach including to

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2 targeted areas in the South Bronx including parks to
3 engage people who might need help that will be... that
4 expanded funding is ongoing and not just one time.
5 I'll also highlight the expanded syringe cleanup
6 program, which is also ongoing, part of that sits in
7 the Health Department to provide again additional
8 outreach and participant education around safer
9 syringe disposal as well as additional syringe clean
10 up and that's funding that sits in the Parks
11 Department.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: So, of the... it
13 was... was it eight or nine million, I always get it
14 confused... [cross-talk]

15 HILLARY KUNINS: I believe it was eight
16 million.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Eight million so
18 of the eight million that was allocated for fiscal
19 year 19, is the entire eight million anticipated to
20 come back... okay, that's, that's actually wonderful
21 news. Have we... I mean I'm; I'm assuming that it's
22 still too soon to tell what the, the, the... is it... is
23 the data showing that there's been a reduction in
24 number of emergency room visits?

25

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2 HILLARY KUNINS: So, we're not... let me...
3 just to be clear we're aiming both to reduce overdose
4 deaths... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Yes... [cross-talk]

6 HILLARY KUNINS: ...by intervening in
7 emergency departments, by increasing use of treatment
8 services, buprenorphine and others as well as
9 engaging people who might be out of doors not ready
10 to come into care in risk reduction so I think our
11 ultimate, ultimate metric is overdose deaths which is
12 too soon to tell, I think interim metrics like
13 increasing use of buprenorphine is going in the right
14 direction, I think we are measuring and hearing
15 reports of syringe litter which has gone down based
16 on some of the interventions and sort of numbers of
17 contacts with people in community where information
18 and engagement happens and those numbers of contacts
19 have, have gone up.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: So, we, we, we
21 have seen a reduction in the improperly disposed of
22 needles in some parts of the... of the South Bronx
23 however we've seen that some of those, those issues
24 have been just relocated to other parts of the South
25 Bronx, is there some sort of public awareness

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2 campaign specifically in the public parks that would
3 direct individuals to, to contact a specific number
4 if they find needles that are... that are, you know are
5 being improperly disposed of because we've been
6 getting inundated with calls and emails just
7 redirecting us to, to, you know park and open spaces
8 that, you know were not being used last summer?

9 HILLARY KUNINS: So, there is some
10 informational material, I'll need to check on the
11 status of where it's been deployed that reviews safe
12 disposal of syringes, kiosk use and where to go for...
13 if you see improperly discarded syringes, there's
14 also ongoing work with the Bronx task force that's
15 being led by both the Parks Department and the Health
16 Department with community partners, our goal is to be
17 able to respond if there's new issues in other... in
18 other areas and to, to be able to redeploy or move
19 resources as needed.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Yeah, I think it
21 would be helpful even if... even if there was signage,
22 you know in these public spaces where we know that
23 these things are happening that people would... you
24 know could just be directed, hey if you're seeing

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2 this please contact this number or contact this

3 agency.

4 HILLARY KUNINS: I total... I totally agree

5 and we'll get back to you about the status.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Alright, now in

7 regard to the funding for the cure violence program

8 that funding my understanding is was transferred from

9 Health and Hospitals to DOHMH, is that correct?

10 OXIRIS BARBOT: I'm sorry, say...

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Funding for the

12 cure violence program?

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: It was transferred

15 over from H and H to DOHMH?

16 OXIRIS BARBOT: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Okay. How, how

18 long ago was it transferred?

19 OXIRIS BARBOT: I believe this past

20 fiscal year.

21 SANDY ROZZA: It's part of the exec plan

22 and it takes effect January... July 1st.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Okay, I only ask

24 because some of my questions were really around

25

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2 metrics and I don't think that you would have the
3 capacity to really answer that... [cross-talk]

4 SANDY ROZZA: Yes... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: ...today but I, I
6 guess my... you know my question is and I'll pretty
7 much then... I guess it would be an observation, in
8 regards to the success of the mobile crisis vans that
9 we were really excited about in last year's fiscal
10 budget, there was... there was funding for I believe
11 two new mobile vans that would be dispatched in the
12 event of an emergency so if there was a shooting
13 response they would be dispatched and I haven't... we
14 haven't really heard anything about, you know the...
15 this program, I haven't... I personally haven't seen
16 any in, in, in my district, I don't know... I haven't
17 from any of my colleagues that they have either, so I
18 wonder is it that the program hasn't started yet, if
19 it...

20 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, Councilwoman I will
21 have to defer to MOCJ for that specific response
22 because they are overseeing programmatically.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Okay. Alright, I
24 will turn it over to you Chair Dromm.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, we have
3 been joined or were joined by Council Members Eugene,
4 Gjonaj, Powers, Cohen, Cabrera, Ampry-Samuel, Barron
5 and Gibson and we now have questions from Council
6 Member Holden followed by Council Member Gjonaj.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you Chair.
8 Commissioner I see that you're in fiscal year 2020
9 going to reduce the media spending 440,000, is that
10 going to hurt outreach?

11 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, the media spending we
12 are... I don't think it's going to necessarily hurt it
13 because we haven't yet decided which particular
14 campaigns to target, I think there are a number of
15 different ways in which we do outreach, obviously I
16 would always want to be able to do more but in these
17 times we are looking to minimize the impact of direct
18 services to New Yorkers and so that's... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: But with... [cross-
20 talk]

21 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...the... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: ...here you have
23 the measles outbreak, you have the opioid crisis
24 going, lead, everything else that... and I think the
25 weakest area of the city is the outreach in reaching

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2 the, the population to, to address some of these
3 needs and just the education so I don't see... I, I, I
4 think we should be increasing the media and
5 increasing the outreach certainly. I should see ads
6 on bus shelters all over the neighborhoods that are
7 affected by this, by anything, by the measles
8 outbreak...

9 OXIRIS BARBOT: Well... so, for the measles
10 outbreak... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: ...and I'm not
12 seeing that yet.

13 OXIRIS BARBOT: We do have a targeted
14 media campaign that's going to be going up in
15 Williamsburg at bus kiosks, at a, a number of
16 different brick and mortar places if you will, we're
17 also leveraging our presence on social media so there
18 are a number of different ways in which we continue
19 outreach and I don't anticipate that this will take
20 away from obviously things like measles, we... like I
21 said earlier we will need to look at the portfolio of
22 activities for which we do media to see where it is
23 that we can minimize any unintended consequences.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Yeah, I
25 understand social media is one outlet to, to use but

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2 I... again I just lost two young people to, to the
3 opioid crisis this week in my neighborhood and I'm
4 not seeing the outreach in my sector, I'm not seeing
5 it in my district as much as maybe some other
6 neighborhoods but we're losing a lot of our young
7 people so I'd like to work with... [cross-talk]

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: I don't anticipate shying
9 away from media related to the opioid epidemic.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Right. Just a
11 couple of things on the measles outbreak, does the
12 weather effect... going into the summer months do you
13 expect it... if you did nothing else do you... does the
14 weather, the humidity effect the, the measles virus?

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: You know typically
16 measles is not transmitted the way for example you
17 would think of the flu virus being transmitted, it's
18 a very highly infectious virus and so we are focused
19 on ensuring that A, people get the information and
20 making it easy for people to be vaccinated. I don't
21 anticipate changes necessarily, what we're finding is
22 that this is not just a U.S. or New York City issue,
23 you know there are outbreaks happening in 23 other
24 states, we're also seeing outbreaks happening in
25 different parts of the world and often times we get

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2 cases that get imported to the city and again the
3 important thing is that we've got tremendous staff
4 that identify those individuals as they come in, they
5 do the contact tracing that we call in terms of, you
6 know at... ensuring that the people that those
7 individuals come in contact with are up to date on
8 their immunization status so that we don't see
9 ongoing transmission.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, thank
11 you Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you,
13 Council Member Gjonaj followed by Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you Chairs.
15 I just... Commissioner if we can follow up a bit on the
16 reduced media spending and I'm going to echo some of
17 the comments that were made in reference to the
18 importance of outreach. I grew up and many of recall
19 this is your brain, this is your brain on drugs, the
20 scared straight mind set, pictures in the home in the
21 living room of every family out there, why would we
22 cut funding when it's needed more now than ever
23 before and that is to prevent our children from ever
24 experimenting?

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2 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, as I said earlier, we
3 will take a comprehensive view of the various areas
4 in which we do media outreach. We are always applying
5 for state and federal dollars that can include budget
6 allocation for media spending so, for the time being
7 as a way to minimize direct service impact to New
8 Yorkers we are utilizing this approach as a way to
9 maximize direct services that remain for New Yorkers.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: But direct
11 services, the idea is to prevent ever experimenting
12 and the message out there that everyone should be
13 exposed to is don't start.

14 OXIRIS BARBOT: And like I said we're not
15 looking to back away from media outreach on opioids
16 or other high priority items, I think that we will
17 need to take a measured approach about how to best
18 absorb that... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Let, let me ask
20 you... [cross-talk]

21 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...savings... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...what is the
23 total spending for media?

24
25

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2 OXIRIS BARBOT: For FY 20 and I'm going
3 to ask Acting Associate Commissioner Kennelly...

4 [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: While, while they
6 look that up, the overdose prevention centers is that
7 the safe injection sites that... for reference is that
8 the same?

9 OXIRIS BARBOT: Opioid prevention centers
10 will be places where individuals will have access to
11 a variety of services to help them reduce the
12 likelihood... I think we're good here...

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: That's not the
14 same as the tents, the safe injection site tents?

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: We are... opioid prevention
16 centers will be brick and mortar places where
17 individuals can go to, to receive a variety of
18 services to reduce the likelihood that they may
19 succumb to an opioid overdose or an overdose or an
20 overdose for many other particular types of drug.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: But that's not...
22 is that where they're allowed to use opioids?

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, we are looking at
24 these and I'm going to ask Doctor Kunins to come up,
25 we are looking at these as I say as places where we

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2 will do what we call harm reduction services so it
3 may be a variety of syringe exchange programs,
4 connections... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Will anyone be
6 able to... [cross-talk]

7 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...to care... [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...use illegal
9 opioids under the overdose prevention centers, that's
10 my question, specific?

11 HILLARY KUNINS: So, I think you're
12 getting at a hard question and the answer is yes in
13 the models in Europe and in Canada where they've been
14 found to be effective at saving people's lives, at
15 this point... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Well saving
17 people's lives means preventing them from ever
18 experimenting that would be saving lives, that would
19 be where we should be focused on getting the
20 education out there that never start, don't
21 experiment, don't try, it's going to take you down a
22 path you don't want to go, that would be the real
23 focus. We're losing children and the strained
24 families, I don't need a safe site for them to be

25

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2 able to shoot up, I need to give them the education
3 to never start.

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, Council Member I, I
5 think that certainly that is one component of how we
6 can work towards reducing the number of people that
7 succumb to addiction but the reality is that it's a
8 chronic disease and I think that we need to have all
9 approaches available to us on the table so that we
10 meet people where they are because the bottom line
11 here is how we as a city can maximize the number of
12 people that are thriving in their communities.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Ma'am I, I have
14 two boys at home and I'm no different than any other
15 parent, an 18 and a 20 year old and each day I worry
16 about what decisions they're going to make that can
17 take them down a path where they can be dependent on
18 a substance. If I'm thinking that of my own family I
19 owe it to every New Yorker to be thinking the same
20 way for their children and that is give them all the
21 information that they need to never experiment which
22 takes me into what was the budget for media spending
23 that we're cutting 440,000 from?

24 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, currently the amount
25 of media budget that we have for... is 19.9 million

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2 dollars and like I said we have no intention of
3 backing away on the media coverage that we have for
4 opioids, I think we will need to be taking a very
5 judicious look at the variety of topics that are
6 covered but we need to meet our savings.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Well we have
8 plenty of other places to save and it shouldn't be in
9 this arena, this is where we should be putting
10 additional resources, it's a, a dollar spent wisely
11 and I'm sure in a 90 plus billion dollar budget
12 that's the one area that we should not be cutting
13 from. What about educating in classrooms, what about
14 taking it to elementary schools educating our
15 children on not only drugs and the effects of them
16 and how experimenting and... by bringing in the scared
17 straight program or the... just something as common
18 sense as when you should use an emergency room versus
19 a primary care physician, we should be investing in
20 our next generation while dealing with the needs of
21 this current generation to prevent some of the paths
22 that have been taken, where are we, this is DOH but
23 can... you could be in every classroom, there's one
24 million school children you have access to, that's
25 one million families.

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2 HILLARY KUNINS: Yeah, so I just.. I just
3 want to express how strongly we also feel about
4 prevention and, and wherever possible to prevent
5 people from ever using drugs or increasing an
6 atmosphere where they're more likely to use. I think
7 a couple of examples of... from the administration that
8 I'll highlight is the recent executive order to ban
9 alcohol advertising on city property, we know that
10 young people exposed to alcohol advertising are more
11 likely to consume alcohol at a younger age and to
12 consume more alcohol. The other thing I'll highlight
13 is we work closely with the Department of Education
14 and in fact based on a Council bill that was passed
15 last year we developed materials for middle school
16 and high school students around preventing... [cross-
17 talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We've lost them
19 at that age, we need them in elementary schools,
20 there are ten year olders out there that see this in
21 their everyday lives, in parks, in recreational
22 centers, much earlier and I... thank you Chair for the
23 discretion but this is our future and we see the
24 impacts that we're having on the opioid addictions
25 and the substance abuse that's out there and they're

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2 starting at a much earlier age because they're
3 exposed to it at a much earlier age, high school
4 they're gone already, they've experimented, they're
5 there. I need you to help bring more awareness at a
6 much earlier age where we can have that sponge, that
7 brain that absorbs so much not only understand the
8 impact but be able to take that message home and
9 deliver it to the rest of their family members, that
10 would be smart investing.

11 OXIRIS BARBOT: Understood and we'll
12 remain committed to that.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you..
14 [cross-talk]

15 OXIRIS BARBOT: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, we have
17 two people left, Council Member Powers and then
18 Gibson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, I had
20 a few questions but I wanted to pick up right where
21 we left off on that topic and I, I certainly agree
22 with the Council Members around the need for strong,
23 early prevention in all levels of schooling and
24 things like that, I mean this echoes to me though the
25 conversation that happened, I think when Bloomberg

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2 was Mayor around needle exchange and some of the
3 similar controversy around whether to allow it or not
4 and I think that the evidence has been overwhelming
5 in the fact that it saved lives and I think that one
6 of the... to his credit, to Mayor Bloomberg and the
7 Department of Health and others that that was a
8 politically difficult thing to do I think at the
9 moment and I think they did it and saved lives, they
10 prevented HIV transmission, it gave people a safer
11 place to do something that they were addicted to and
12 that it was a, a successful endeavor by almost any
13 measure and while I agree with my colleagues that
14 they investing in media and outreach is a part...
15 important part of this we have to have a recognition
16 that people will be addicted and when they are we
17 have to have services in place for them and I think
18 the city would be wise to continue those efforts with
19 regard to providing people who do have addiction
20 with, with safe places to be able to receive services
21 and treatment, recognize when they overdose and
22 prevent and lower things like HIV transmission that
23 can result from that. With, with, with that being my
24 lead in but I actually did have a question here
25 about... I know that this was discussed last year, the

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2 overdose prevention centers and expanding them were
3 in I think four locations; one in Manhattan, one in
4 the Bronx, I forget what... maybe, maybe one of the
5 other boroughs, are, are they up and running or, or...
6 I know there was... or do we need state authority for
7 them or what is the status of those?

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, we need state
9 authority in order to have them be operational, we're
10 working with partners to ensure that when we get word
11 from the state that we'll be able to maximize the
12 time and as we say hit the ground running and so we
13 in the meantime as you alluded to are fully
14 leveraging all of the other initiatives that we have
15 in place to address the continuum that contribute to
16 people becoming addicted. So, for example there is a
17 significant amount of work that we are doing with the
18 health care provider community to ensure judicious
19 prescribing as well as increasing the number of
20 physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants
21 that are able to prescribe buprenorphine throughout
22 the city, we've increased that by 1,500 and so it's a
23 full approach to this ongoing issue.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay and just
25 picking up on that, can you talk... just... I think we've

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2 raised... I raised this in another hearing but the, the
3 prescribing of pain killers which then can create an
4 addiction, it's been well documented, I think there
5 was a... there was a... I think it was the New York Times
6 recently a, a one... focus on one particular small
7 community where the, the prescription rate was
8 through the roof but... and I know other cities have
9 looked at things around prescribing and ways to track
10 and monitor areas where there might be over
11 prescription... over prescribing happening, potentially
12 something illegal, can you tell us what we're doing
13 here in New York City and other things that we are
14 looking... that you're considering around opioid abuse
15 and ways to track prescriptions that may... that may
16 lead and feed into that?

17 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I'm going to have
18 Doctor Kunins address this because she and her team
19 have done a significant amount of work in this
20 particular area.

21 HILLARY KUNINS: So, this has been a
22 really important component of our prevention-oriented
23 work that is if you reduce the unnecessary opioid
24 prescriptions the idea here is to minimize risk of
25 developing addiction whether it's a prescription for

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2 a wisdom tooth extraction, a sports injury and so
3 forth. So, we've been... have issued guidance to
4 primary care physicians, our guidance actually pre-
5 dates the CDC guidance, which is garnered a lot of
6 national attention, we've issued other guidance
7 around specific kinds of prescribing that increase
8 risks of overdose. For example, prescribing an opioid
9 along with another substance called benzodiazepine
10 which is things like valium or Xanax which increases
11 risk of overdose, we've spread that message in a
12 number of ways including going door to door, so
13 called public health detailing in areas where we know
14 through data there are higher than average rates of
15 opioid prescribing in the city and our evaluation
16 data shows that that approach, one to one brief
17 visits changes prescribing practices towards safer
18 strategies.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay and I...
20 simply want to follow up quick because I... just my
21 last question in respect to time. Obviously the, the
22 conversation going around about reproductive health
23 in other states right now and what's happening
24 throughout the country, there's been... you know even
25 recently in light of that... some groups calling for

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2 increased funding around reproductive access and
3 health in New York City and I'm wondering in light of
4 it... of, of what's happening and very recent stuff in
5 Alabama and other states whether the city's
6 considered in this budget adding more funding in
7 around reproductive health in order to address what
8 is sort of a, a... you know concerning trend in other
9 states and New York City and how we may be able to,
10 you know improve access here in New York City.

11 OXIRIS BARBOT: As an administration we
12 remain committed to ensuring that we do... we continue
13 women's access to high quality health care including
14 reproductive health care and abortion being part of
15 that, we are paying close attention to what's
16 happening across the country and we are in close
17 communication with our partners across the city to
18 see what could be the best way forward but those
19 conversations I think are still evolving.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay and... but has
21 the Mayor recommended putting more funding into those
22 issues in this year's budget either in response or,
23 or correlation to what's happening in other states?

24 OXIRIS BARBOT: I haven't been a part of
25 those conversations but within the Health Department

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2 we are focused on ensuring that we maximize all the
3 services that we provide through our sexual health
4 clinics to all New Yorkers and certainly maintaining
5 communications and collaborations with health care
6 providers throughout the community.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Okay, we'll
8 continue the conversation on more funding, thanks.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Council
10 Member Powers and I would like to ask... is Council
11 Member Gibson... yes, are... thanks.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, thank
13 you to Chair Dromm and Chair Levine and Chair Ayala.
14 Good afternoon Commissioner and congratulations
15 officially on your appointment... [cross-talk]

16 OXIRIS BARBOT: Thank you... [cross-talk]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...I've worked very
18 closely with DOHMH, with you under your previous
19 capacity and certainly appreciate the partnership,
20 obviously our aggressive action during times of great
21 challenge during the measles outbreak, the
22 legionnaires and others, the Ebola crisis that we had
23 predominately in the Bronx, DOHMH has always been
24 there so I really want to thank you for that. I
25 appreciate Chair Dromm asked the question because I

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2 really wanted to make sure we emphasized the
3 important need for school nurses and not necessarily
4 distinguishing between a DOE school nurse and a DOHMH
5 nurse but the fact that nurses are providing the
6 critical health care services that many of our
7 schools need as well as the school based health
8 centers that we are constantly expanding, I really
9 appreciate that work. So, I wanted to ask a few
10 questions and when I served in the state assembly and
11 now in the Council one of my priorities has always
12 been the nurse family partnership program working
13 with organizations like visiting nurse service and
14 others, really appreciate the work they do working
15 with young mothers and families and in our budget
16 response we called on an additional one million
17 dollars to bring the program from four million to
18 five million so I wanted your thoughts on that and
19 then secondly, I wanted to ask specifically Chair
20 Ayala and many members of the women's caucus we have
21 been very, very passionate about maternal health
22 care, about doulas, about focusing on expecting
23 mothers pre-birth, post-birth and just all of the
24 health and wrap around services that new mothers
25 require and so I wanted to ask specifically within

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2 DOHMH what programs are we looking at, how much money
3 are we talking about when you talk about maternal
4 health care and specifically doulas and I'm sure you
5 are aware that we have a high infant mortality rate
6 predominately in the African American community and
7 so that's concerning for me as well so I wanted to
8 get your thoughts on that and what the Council can do
9 this budget season to be helpful in these efforts?

10 OXIRIS BARBOT: Thank you for that
11 question and thank you for your support of the health
12 department, our, our relationship has been very
13 strong for a number of years and I want to thank you
14 that. I guess I'll start with your second question
15 first in terms of what we're doing with regards to
16 sort of the, the whole package related to maternal
17 care and infant mortality because certainly they're
18 part of that same continuum... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Uh-huh... [cross-
20 talk]

21 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...and this is a... an area
22 of passion that I've had for my entire career both in
23 this city and, and while I was a pediatrician and,
24 and other cities where I've been a, a public health
25 leader, I think that first and foremost in terms of

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2 your question around doulas, the Health Department
3 has been a leader in promoting the importance of
4 doulas and we began that in central Brooklyn a number
5 of years ago... [cross-talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I remember...
7 [cross-talk]

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...most recently our
9 efforts have really focused on the state level in
10 terms of really highlighting the notion that in order
11 to get to critical mass that's sustainable we need to
12 ensure that doula services are reimbursable at an
13 appropriate rate and so we are focused on that, we're
14 not going to give that up because we see that as a
15 critical component to the services that we are
16 interested in seeing with regards to improving
17 maternal mortality as well as infant mortality. The
18 other thing in terms of your question related to the
19 nurse family partnership, I want to really be strong
20 in my thank you to the Council for their ongoing
21 support for NFP because this program has been a part
22 of the Health Department for many, many years and I
23 want to thank you for your support and we are in
24 ongoing conversations with OMB about the program.
25 That being said, we are also focused on how it is

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2 that we can further increase the number of
3 opportunities to provide home visiting services to
4 families and so we are working with our community
5 based partners looking at what are the evidence based
6 models that we can increase capacity on, we are
7 working with our partners in a number of different
8 areas including philanthropy so that we as a city can
9 have a coordinated approach to improving birth
10 outcomes that include reducing the racial gap in
11 infant mortality as well as the racial gap in severe
12 maternal morbidity and maternal mortality and
13 actually the three pronged approach that we're taking
14 to that one includes incorporating the home
15 environment and the housing into safe sleep messages
16 that we're putting together in collaboration with
17 ACS. The second one is focusing on maternal health
18 and the fact that in partnership with our health care
19 delivery partners we look at the health of women of
20 reproductive age even before they become pregnant, we
21 know that hypertension, obesity and diabetes are
22 major contributors to poor health outcomes, we are
23 also working with our health care delivery partners
24 on the implicit bias that is sort of inherent in
25 health care delivery systems in how we work with them

2 to undo implicit bias as a major underlying factor to
3 poor birth outcomes. We are currently in a cohort of
4 hospitals throughout the city looking at how we
5 incorporate maternal morbidity scenarios into the
6 trainings that they do for their doctors and nurses
7 in terms of dealing with emergencies and then the
8 third component looking at the, the aspects of trauma
9 and stress on underlying.. as underlying drivers to
10 poor birth outcomes as well.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, it sounds

12 very extensive and I certainly urge you and encourage
13 you to continue to work with us and all of the
14 interagency coordination and Chair Levine if I could
15 just ask one final question specifically because
16 we've talked a lot about the AIDS epidemic and many
17 other, you know crisis that we have, I also think we
18 have to take a, a real focus on diabetes and diabetes
19 prevention and heart disease and obesity and many of
20 the, you know ailments that we are predominately
21 faced with in low income communities of color,
22 immigrant communities and specifically for Bronx
23 County, Council Member Ayala and I work with many
24 health care organizations, the school based as well
25 as the community based health centers, all of the

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2 hospitals and I really want to recognize the Bronx

3 office, the Neighborhood Action Center, Doctor Jane

4 Bedell is phenomenal... [cross-talk]

5 OXIRIS BARBOT: Agreed... [cross-talk]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...her and her team

7 are amazing... [cross-talk]

8 OXIRIS BARBOT: Agreed... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...and we have a

10 Bronx public health task force where we have the NOT

11 62 campaign and we don't look at it just from a

12 health perspective, we look at it in a holistic way

13 so the parks, the open access, the walking, the

14 biking, the jogging, the exercise, the fitness all of

15 that is relative for us in the Bronx because we

16 honestly have to catch up, our numbers are alarming

17 every day and we see it with obesity rates and so

18 many other factors and so I wanted to ask

19 specifically as it relates to diabetes, diabetes

20 awareness and pre-screening, many of us are pre-

21 diabetic ourselves and there's been an active

22 campaign of advocates coming to us during this this

23 budget season asking for more of a priority on

24 diabetes awareness so I wanted your thoughts on that

25 and if that's something that we could do together and

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2 what would that look like if we develop more of a
3 focus on diabetes awareness and prevention?

4 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I appreciate that and
5 I... again I appreciate your support on the ground in
6 the work that we're doing in the Bronx and I couldn't
7 agree with you more that Doctor Bedell is a Rockstar.
8 With... specifically around diabetes, you know the, the
9 approach that we're taking to address the issue of
10 diabetes is twofold, one is on the prevention efforts
11 and the other is on the control and on the prevention
12 efforts we're looking at issues related to nutrition,
13 access to physical activity and looking at how we can
14 as you alluded to take an approach that looks as we
15 say more upstream about how we can work with our
16 partners to influence the food environment so that
17 healthy choices are more easily accessible and how we
18 can look at things like exposure to media as a way to
19 counter those messages of having our youth think that
20 it's, you know a normal part of everyday life to
21 drink soda every single day and so on. Additionally,
22 on the control part we're looking at ways in which we
23 can prevent people from developing diabetes or even
24 pre-diabetes and one of the programmatic areas that
25 we are focusing on is the national diabetes

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2 prevention program and we have worked extensively on
3 increasing access to that evidence based initiative
4 and actually recently the city released information
5 where New York State is leading the country in terms
6 of access to the national diabetes prevention program
7 and I'm proud to say that New York City accounts for
8 70 percent of that increased access. So, you know as
9 we always say the... we could always do more but there
10 is a fair amount that we are currently doing that we
11 would be more than happy to talk with you more about
12 to see how we can then take it even further... [cross-
13 talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay... [cross-
15 talk]

16 OXIRIS BARBOT: ...thank you for that.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so
18 much, thank you for your help, really appreciate it...
19 [cross-talk]

20 OXIRIS BARBOT: Thank you... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...and once again
22 the Bronx obviously at a greater, you know
23 disadvantage, we certainly need all the resources we
24 can get and I'm sure Doctor Bedell and her team could

25

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2 use more resources as well. Thank you so much, thank
3 you Chair Levine, thank you Chair Ayala.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Council
5 Member Gibson and as long as we're shouting out
6 outstanding leaders in neighborhood health action
7 centers, we are in the presence of Doctor Menyeda
8 [sp?] who's here as well Assistant Commissioner who's
9 doing a fabulous... [cross-talk]

10 OXIRIS BARBOT: Another Rockstar... [cross-
11 talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: ...job but I do
13 want to make a serious point that the recurring theme
14 throughout this hearing has been the importance of on
15 the ground community outreach and education; that's
16 true for measles, opioid addiction, HIV/AIDS, viral
17 hepatitis and other topics we haven't really gotten
18 into today related to heart disease and diets,
19 etcetera and that's the philosophy behind these
20 neighborhood action centers, they are something of,
21 of a legacy of the Mayor La Guardia era where he had
22 30 of these district health office... district public
23 health offices, we're down to three now, we've got
24 one in, in East Harlem, Harlem, one in the South
25 Bronx, one in Brownsville but there are neighborhoods

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2 from Washington Heights to Rockaway or Jamaica

3 Queens, North shore of Staten Island which certainly

4 meet the... I think anyone's definition of, of

5 communities which are facing severe public health

6 challenges where they're under resourced and where

7 this kind of outreach would be really helpful. So,

8 does the health department have a plan to expand this

9 model to other neighborhoods that would benefit from

10 it?

11 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, I want to thank you

12 for recognizing the importance that our neighborhood

13 health action centers currently play and have played

14 in communities, you know I think the, the sad reality

15 is that these are the very same communities that have

16 been historically disinvested in and the Health

17 Department has been in those communities intensively

18 the last ten to 15 years. The reality is that we are

19 currently reevaluating the model to make sure that we

20 are fully able to leverage all of the components of

21 that model because it has been so successful we think

22 it can be even more successful but it's only one of

23 the ways in which we work on the ground, shoulder to

24 shoulder with our communities, there are a number of

25 different additional ways that, that we do that work

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2 and so we are always looking at the variety of ways
3 in which we can maximize our presence physically in
4 communities.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Okay, I'm not
6 sure how to parse that but I'll say this is a budget
7 hearing and so it's worth mentioning it's a very cost
8 effective and effective intervention partly because
9 its magnified by CBOs who take up residence in these
10 facilities so the, the city only pays for relatively
11 limited staff although the public gets the benefit
12 of, of services far beyond that so to me it's, it's
13 actually a great investment and not an extravagant
14 one and one I'd like to see us expand to other
15 communities in need. I see we've been rejoined by our
16 Chair and I think we're concluded Mr. Chair, but I'll
17 pass it back to you.

18 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I have two... just two
19 quick questions on Thrive. In addition to receiving
20 an updated budget to Thrive can you provide a
21 breakdown as well, we received one for the
22 preliminary budget.

23 OXIRIS BARBOT: So, we could do that for
24 the dollars that's in the Health Department.

25

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2 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you and
3 diversion centers, what are the specific locations,
4 do you know the... where they are specifically located?

5 OXIRIS BARBOT: We can follow up with you
6 on those addresses, I don't know if we... yeah..

7 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: We're trying... it was
8 just a... trying to... since we are being streamed get
9 the word out about where they are etcetera. Yeah.
10 Okay, so you get back to us on that... [cross-talk]

11 OXIRIS BARBOT: Yes... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...yep. Alright, thank
13 you very much, we appreciate you coming in. This
14 panel is now concluded, and I have to read a closing
15 statement. So, this concludes our hearing for today,
16 the Finance Committee will resume executive budget
17 hearings for fiscal 2020 tomorrow, Friday, May 17th
18 at ten a.m. in the Committee Room next door. Tomorrow
19 the Finance Committee will hear from the Law
20 Department, the Department of Citywide Administrative
21 Services, the Board of Elections and the Campaign
22 Finance Board. As a... as a reminder the public will be
23 invited to testify on Thursday, May 23rd on the last
24 day of budget hearings at approximately two p.m. in
25 this room. For any member of the public who wishes to

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2 testify but cannot make it to the hearing you can
3 email your testimony to the Finance Division at
4 finance testimony at Council dot NYC dot gov and the
5 staff will make it a part of the official record.
6 Thank you and this hearing is now adjourned, thank
7 you Commissioner for being forthcoming and, and for
8 talking with us.

9 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date

June 9, 2019