

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

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June 3, 2009
Start: 2:19pm
Recess: 4:33pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: LEWIS A. FIDLER and ROSIE MENDEZ
Chairpersons

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Inez E. Dickens
Sara M. Gonzalez
Letitia James
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Darlene Mealy

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

Darryl Rattray
Assistant Commissioner, Beacon and Work Readiness
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Denice Williams
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Department of Youth Board of Directors

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President
Institute for the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Elderly

[gavel] [off mic: Quiet please]

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Good

afternoon, my name is Lew Fidler, I'm the
Chairperson of the Youth Services Committee. I'm
joined here by Councilwoman Rosie Mendez, who's
the Chairperson of the Public Housing Committee;
Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez. I'm sure we'll be
joined by other members of the Youth Services
Committee at some point today. We're also joined
up here by Megan Anita, who's the counsel to the
Youth Services Committee; and Mike Benjamin, who's
our policy analyst; and Ben Goodman, who's the
policy analyst for the Public Housing Committee.
Today, the Committee on Youth Services, jointly
with Public Housing, is holding a hearing to
discus DYCDs Cornerstone Initiative Concept Paper.
As you may know, due to funding issues within
NYCHA, other city agencies including DYCD will now
provide social services that were formerly
performed under NYCHA. This reorganization of
programs is the impetus for today's hearing. As a
result of changes in funding, DYCD's Cornerstone
Initiative will now fund programs to begin January
1st 2010, at 25 NYCHA community center's throughout

New York City. The stated purpose of this initiative is to provide youth development activities and as the concept paper states, to facilitate programs for all adults. It is our understanding from DYCD, that they made significant efforts to gather input from the affected communities, and to involve a wide variety of stakeholders in order to maximize the use of the funding for this Cornerstone Initiative. In that same vein, this Committee, along with the Subcommittee on Public Housing, seeks to once again provide the public the opportunity for community input and discourse at today's hearing. The whole point, of course, of a concept paper, preceding the request for proposals, is to provide a vehicle for discussion with service providers and members of the community. As a result, we hope to see a vibrant program model that service providers feel is appropriate and in turn that youth and community members can be excited about. There are some areas of concern that advocates and providers have expressed, including lack of funding for adult programming, and inquiries about the process used

for choosing expected service levels at various sites. We look forward to hearing from those in attendance today, regarding these and many other issues. Now I will turn it over to Chairperson Mendez.

CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you very much, Chairperson Fidler. Good afternoon. I'm Rose Mendez, and I chair the Subcommittee on Public Housing. Today's oversight hearing is being held jointly with the Committee on Youth Services, and with its great Chairman, that I am honored to chair this hearing with. And we will be discussing and focusing on DYCD's concept paper on their plans for 25 NYCHA community centers. In January of 2008, the New York City Housing Authority had an approximately budget deficit of \$198 million, as a result of constant underfunding by the federal government. These social services were never funded with federal dollars, but the Housing Authority thought they were very important for its residents, and figured out from their budget how to fund them. With that big deficit in 2008, they were left with no choice but to close some centers. As a result, in June of 2008, the

City Council appropriated \$18 million so that the majority of these Centers can be kept open. And with the money that was allocated in Fiscal Year '09, which started in July of '08, with discussions with the administration, it was determined that many of these NYCHA centers would be transitioned to other city agencies, where we could leverage other federal dollars, and bring those dollars into the city. So, we have been in this process since the middle of last year, and I look forward to hearing your testimony, and to hearing from the advocates and residents from public housing. And just to remind anyone, if you want to give public testimony, you must see the Sergeant-at-Arms on that side, and sign a little piece of paper so that you could either give your testimony, or you could submit it in writing to the Sergeant. Thank you very much. And with that, our first panel will be Denise Williams and Darryl Rattray, Assistant Commissioner, both from DYCD, thank you both for being here today.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Thank you. Good afternoon Chairs Fidler and Mendez, and members of the Youth Services Committee. I am Darryl

2 Rattray, Assistant Commissioner for Beacon and
3 Work Readiness Programs with the New York City
4 Department of Youth and Community Development. On
5 behalf of Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav, thank you
6 for the opportunity to discuss the Cornerstone
7 Initiative Concept Paper and the administration of
8 youth programs at 25 new York City Housing
9 Authority Community Centers. As you know, on
10 January 13, 2009, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg,
11 Speaker Christine Quinn, DYCD and NYCHA announced
12 a plan to ensure continuity of services at NYCHA
13 community centers. We thank the Council for
14 allocating funding for this initiative. \$12.25
15 million is baselined in this fiscal 2010 budget to
16 continue this program next year. The transition
17 to DYCD is occurring in two phases. In the first
18 phase, DYCD funded Beacon programs located near
19 the 25 NYCHA community centers establish
20 comprehensive satellite programs at each of the
21 sites. These community centers were selected
22 through a needs assessment that took into account
23 poverty and youth population indicators,
24 availability of services and the suitability of
25 physical facilities within each development and

geographic diversity. Of the 25 Centers, ten are in Brooklyn, five are in The Bronx, five are in Queens, four in Manhattan, and one in Staten Island. The Beacon model features collaborative community programming designed to provide high quality services to youth and adults after school, in the evenings and on weekends. To date, over 288 staff have been hired. 14 percent are former NYCHA employees; nearly one quarter are actually NYCHA residents; 1,100 elementary participants have been enrolled; 1,053 middle and high school youth have been enrolled; and there are over 1,000 adult participants. The Beacon Satellite programs at NYCHA community centers will operate through December 31st 2009. To help design services starting in January 2010, DYCD underwent a comprehensive community engagement process to gain the input of young people, parents, resident leadership and other stakeholders. DYCD contracted with two outside consultants: Market Street Research and Wellspring Consulting, to conduct these sessions to facilitate and receive feedback. These discussions include: meetings with the Citywide Council of Presidents and

Resident Associations; 18 focus groups across each of the nine NYCHA districts, with parents of children in NYCHA facilities; four focus groups with high school aged youth to identify the priorities for young people, and elicit feedback on potential models for older youth; over 2,000 youth surveys created by Market Street Research, providing feedback on their current after school activities, barriers to participation, and program activities that are the most and least appealing to them. We also met with principals from schools and community based organizations close to the 25 developments. During this process, we have seen strong support for: an hour a day of homework help; academic enrichment activities; college preparation activities; structured recreational activities that help children stay fit and combat obesity while having fun; computer and technology activities; employment work readiness services; and adult programming. Some resident councils also expressed an interest in operating programs at the Centers. DYCD invited all 25 resident councils to workshops conducted by Community Resource Exchange on the fundamentals of

2 establishing and operating nonprofit
3 organizations, including how to compete for
4 funding and securing government contracts. We are
5 pleased that the representatives from seven NYCHA
6 developments were in attendance and that they gave
7 the workshop very high ratings. In developing a
8 robust program model, DYCD also incorporated many
9 of the highlights and lessons learned in a rollout
10 and expansion of the Out-of-School Time
11 initiative, and the Beacon Community Center
12 system, that now emphasizes services to middle
13 school age youth. As with all DYCD funded youth
14 programs, the new design will support healthy
15 families and meet the needs of working parents and
16 caregivers. On May 6, 2009, DYCD released the
17 Cornerstone Initiative Concept Paper reflective of
18 this feedback for public housing residents in all
19 age categories: younger youth, ages five to
20 twelve years old; older youth, ages 13 to 21; and
21 adults. As outlined, the primary role of the
22 Cornerstone programs would be the provision of
23 engaging in productive activities for youth within
24 a vibrant community center setting. Some of the
25 anticipated program goals include: providing a

safe, welcoming and supportive environment; promoting healthy physical, emotional and social development; engaging youth in structured activities that offer tangible benefits and build literacy and other core skills; giving youth a voice and choice in programming; encouraging appreciation for diversity and fostering community engagement; providing positive adult role models, encouraging parental involvement, and promoting intergenerational programs; building life skills, fostering social responsibility and reducing risk behaviors; facilitating access to health, mental health, and other relevant services; and collaborating with community based organizations to provide services to adults and seniors. Some unique program elements we anticipate providing to achieve these goals are: themes that will serve as a framework for a rich menu of interrelated program activities; themes that resonated with focus group participants, included healthy living and entrepreneurship; a commitment to sustained, project based activities with specific end products or tangible achievements--these activities strengthen teamwork, problem solving

and academic skills, and provide a bridge to learning without replicating the school day; a focus on community service that promotes leadership development in youth; and a variety of service projects and community events that encourage positive community and intergenerational relations. Like the existing Beacon Satellite programs, the new services will help meet the childcare needs of parents. Generally, the Centers are expected to operate from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays during the school year, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays in the summer, and on Saturdays year round from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Because the success of any program is dependent on community input, DYCD will require a community advisory board for each Center. These boards may include NYCHA residents, parents and youth, representatives of the Resident Association, and local schools, law enforcement, and community based organizations. Youth councils will also be required for all programs, to ensure a strong youth voice in program design, and a selection of activities. The councils give the added benefit of fostering a sense of independence

2 and empowerment in youth people, and offer
3 significant opportunities for development of
4 leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.
5 The allowable cost per participant will be similar
6 to other DYCD funded afterschool programs. For
7 younger youth, ages five to twelve years old, the
8 annual maximum price per participant for year
9 round services will be \$2,800 with a minimum of
10 1,140 hours required. The maximum price per
11 participant for older youth, ages 13 to 21, will
12 be \$1,300. Recognizing that as young people
13 mature, their family and job responsibilities
14 grow, and based on feedback from providers, the
15 expected annual participation rate will adjust
16 according to age. 200 hours will be required for
17 13 to 15 year olds, and 165 hours for 16 to 21
18 year olds. Like other DYCD funded programs, these
19 Centers will have standards of accountability to
20 ensure that programs are high quality and worthy
21 of public investment. Using DYCD online,
22 contractors will demonstrate compliance with
23 required minimum service levels and hours of
24 structured activities, and track participant
25 outcomes. Comments to the Concept Paper are due

by close of business today. We also look forward to continued input and recommendations from the City Council. This feedback will help strengthen the design of the program, so that we can further improve the quality of services. Thank you once again for allowing us to testify today. Joining me is Denice Williams, Assistant Commissioner for Capacity Building. And we are pleased to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: We've been joined by Council Member Darlene Mealy, as a member of the Youth Services Committee, and Council Member Miguel Martinez is also a member of the Committee. I was going to let Rose go first, but she's not sitting here. So let me ask you a couple of questions, then I'll turn it over to Chairperson Mendez. First, I mean, the, you know, it's budget time, so the numbers kind of swirl through our head. And I noticed that we baselined \$12.25 million for this initiative in the budget, but you're only RFPing \$10.2. What's happening to the other \$2.5 million? Two-and-a-quarter million.

DARRYL RATTRAY: The programmatic

2 funding is actually \$10.41 million. Ten percent
3 is going to NYCHA, for continued services at the
4 25 Centers, and there's is six percent, which is
5 an administrative portion for DYCD staff.

6 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Can you
7 explain the NYCHA piece to me again?

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: The NYCHA ten
9 percent will continue to provide custodial
10 services at the 25 sites.

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: But we are
12 paying NYCHA from this money to maintain the
13 centers?

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, through
15 custodial services.

16 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So will there,
17 will provides be expected to contribute to rent or
18 maintenance of the Centers?

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: No.

20 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So you're, you
21 are building that in, so that that, it's just
22 operating the programs that they're going to have
23 to be concerned with, the maintenance, you're
24 paying for out of that ten percent.

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. Well,
3 that's, that's fair, that's good. And then the
4 other six percent is DYCD taking its cut.

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, it's, it
6 provides staffing for the initiative.

7 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay. Fair
8 enough. I guess one of the concerns that I've
9 heard from a number of providers is the fact that
10 these have essentially become youth programs, as
11 opposed to community programs. And I, you know,
12 obviously you say you've done these focus groups.
13 Are you telling me that the resident councils at
14 the NYCHAs did not ask for broader based
15 programming than youth programming?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: They, they
17 actually did. In the very beginning, when we
18 first put out the design for the interim program,
19 we knew that we would provide youth programming.
20 What we found upon entering the centers is that,
21 yes, adult programming is needed, and what our
22 internal Beacon programs have done is facilitate
23 those through collocated activities and some
24 direct service. That amounts to the over 1,000
25 adult participants currently enrolled. Going

2 forward, we planned that through the sort of
3 coordination and facilitation of the adult
4 collocated activities from the new Cornerstone
5 programming.

6 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So, what's the
7 minimum hour requirement for, on a number of adult
8 participants? And what's the cost per participant
9 that's being provided for adult participants?

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: We don't specify
11 minimum hourly requirements for adult
12 participants. The onus would be that each program
13 would tailor any activities they facilitate, at
14 the location for adults, based on a needs
15 assessment. So if, for, hypothetically speaking,
16 if the need was GED programming or service, they
17 would coordinate with DOE to provide a educator at
18 the site, to provide that service. And we don't
19 specify a price for participant for adults either.

20 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, so, and
21 I knew the answer to that question when I asked
22 it. There was a point to it. And so you know,
23 you're kind of asking providers to bid, you know,
24 to respond to an RFP, that funds some programming
25 and yet you're asking them to provide programming

on top of that that you're not funding. And there's a certain fairness question in all that, and I know that there are a number of people, you know, who may testify after you, who, you know, certainly believe that the model ought to be broader. Now, I'm not suggesting it should or it shouldn't at this point, but it seems to me that we are supplanting community centers with youth programs, and I love youth programs. Everybody knows I love youth programs. I just wonder what, you know, what we're really saying about the adult program. Is this requirement of facilitation of adult programs, just window dressing, you know, or is it real? And if there are no minimum requirements, there's no cost being provided to these applicants, how seriously do we expect them to meet that burden? How are they going to be quantified? Are you going to penalize them for not having adult programming if they get the contract? And I guess that's the point I'm trying to drive home here.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Initially, we backed into the amount of funding that we had available. At the core, it supports the minimum

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2 needed to provide quality youth services. For the
3 adult programming, we back into a best practice
4 that we find with our Beacon programs, through our
5 collocation services. That program should
6 provide, create linkages with other organizations,
7 and bring those outside services into their
8 programs. Currently right now, we have over 60
9 percent of our collocated activities that Beacons
10 actually support adult programming.

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Alright, I'm
12 not going to beat it into the ground. I'm going
13 to turn it over to Chairperson Mendez, and then
14 after other members have questions, I'll come
15 back, 'cause I have a number of others.

16 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you very
17 much. My understanding during, I don't know if it
18 was preliminary budget or executive budget
19 hearing, is that the complete \$18 million was not,
20 that the City, with all the various agencies, were
21 not able to use the entire \$18 million. Is that
22 correct?

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: I only know about
24 the 12.25 percent that we are getting, \$12.25
25 million that we are getting. I'm not 100 percent

2 sure about the remaining.

3 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: You--DYCD is
4 getting 12.2 percent for this fiscal year.

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: I'm sorry, \$12.25
6 million.

7 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Excuse me,
8 \$12--I wrote down million and I said percent.
9 \$12.25 million.

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: Out of that
11 amount, NYCHA receives ten percent, to provide the
12 custodial services for the program sites, and then
13 \$10.41 is actually programmatic. And the
14 remaining balance goes into DYCD for staffing.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: \$10 point--?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: 41 million.

17 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: 41, for
18 programming.

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: Mhm.

20 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And then the
21 rest for staffing. Thank you. I see in your
22 testimony that you say "Over 288 staff have been
23 hired," which is one of the things I really love
24 about the Bloomberg Administration, they give you
25 some information. Do you happen to know how many

2 jobs were lost, prior to 288 being hired? 'Cause
3 then I think this might be a wash, or we still
4 maybe didn't replace all the jobs. You do not
5 know.

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: I don't know the
7 exact number, but NYCHA can actually, I would
8 defer to NYCHA for that number.

9 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And is anyone
10 here from NYCHA? I don't think they were going to
11 attend. So, I'll just go and verify those numbers
12 with the Housing Authority. Thank you. In your
13 testimony, we talk about the community centers,
14 the Beacon satellites that will run until December
15 31st 2009. Can you tell me what will happen on
16 January 1st of 2010?

17 DARRYL RATTRAY: On January 1st
18 2010, the new provider will fully operate the
19 programming. But we do expect a transition period
20 some time in December where the new provider's
21 actually at the site and they're starting to sort
22 of transition programming over to them. So by
23 January first 2010, all programming will be
24 operated by that new awardee.

25 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And regarding

the Centers that have now transitioned into DYCD, are there any fees being charged to any of the participants? And if so, what age group and how much?

DARRYL RATTRAY: There are absolutely no fees being charged at any of the Centers. And all DYCD programs are free of charge.

CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you. And if I could reserve the right to maybe have some questions at the end. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Councilwoman Gonzalez, I believe you had some questions, to be followed by Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes. Good afternoon, thank you, Chair. I have questions in respect to the employees that were hired. My concern is you know I chair Juvenile Justice Committee, and I'm hopeful that if and when this program moves forward, that it certainly will not impact DJJ, meaning that these young people will never be there, in the detention centers. So I think it is important. So I want to know, these employees that were hired, are they

employees that have any kind of credentials, existing credentials, are they child reporting folks, are they fingerprinted, is it the standard of DYCD already? And what kind of training, for example, if they're going to be dealing with young children with different mental and other social issues that are going on, are these folks going to have ongoing training, is that part of this? Or-- ? Thank you.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, so two things, one: every program site will be SAC [phonetic] licensed, and with that the SAC licensing governs that. Every staff person has, receives a background check, and that they're fingerprinted. In addition to that, there is a regiment of training that must happen at the site, for directors and staff, and also DYCD within our capacity building unit, we also provide trainings to the program site, either centralized for staff, or actually at the site, for specific trainings. And that will be ongoing.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: My understanding is that there will be training provided, or are there folks that are coming

2 already like graduates, bachelors degrees,
3 masters, that sort of thing? Or--?

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Absolutely. The
5 credentials of staff actually is the range from
6 bachelors to masters level--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: And not
8 necessarily does everyone on the site have to have
9 that background, that's not what I'm saying. What
10 I'm saying is that there is still the standard of
11 fingerprinting and everything to protect these
12 children.

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: Absolutely. All
14 staff must be fingerprinted, and it also includes
15 volunteers.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Council Member
19 Mealy, followed by Council Member Mark-Viverito.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good
21 afternoon. I want to just ask, with the funding,
22 how did you calculate the funds for each site?

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: We actually use
24 the SAC capacity for each site, to determine the
25 number of elementary and middle school

2 participants that we can serve. And then we back
3 into that number, based on--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: You backed
5 into that number?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes. So we used
7 that as the capacity of the site. So if a program
8 can only serve 20 elementary kids, then we knew
9 that applying our price per participant to that,
10 and we sort of used that to conduct the analysis
11 per site.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay.
13 Alright, so you say at least, yeah, I--

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: So each site is
15 governed, should be SAC licensed, so school age
16 childcare licensing. That dictates how many
17 participants you can actually serve from that 36
18 hour. So we first took a look at how many
19 participants could we serve at capacity, and then
20 we used that number, and our price per
21 participant, to sort of back into the funding.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, so
23 give me a estimate of how many you've, you would
24 use at one site.

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: It varies per

2 site, based on square footage of the facility, how
3 many bathrooms are accessible to youth, and then
4 staff.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And staff.

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: So it, it varies
7 based on the size of the site. So we have any
8 where from a site supporting 40 participants
9 between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00, to 140
10 participants between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, so, is
12 there any way--you have, you can put extra funds
13 into that, instead of from 4:00 to 6:00, to go
14 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.? Have you ever considered
15 that?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, the, the
17 hours that we're planning for actually are from
18 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, you
20 just said 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: For the elementary
22 portion, from 3:00 to 6:00--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: For
24 elementary?

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: --would be that

2 sort of SAC license portion, when we know that
3 we're going to have youth, ages five to twelve;
4 and then after 6:00 p.m. is when we run the older
5 youth programming, and adult programming.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And adult
7 programs. Could you, what is consisting of adult
8 program? Just basketball?

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: Absolutely not.
10 It, it varies, and every site should be tailored
11 to the needs of the community, but it could range
12 from GED, computer workshops, and somewhat
13 recreation; but very structured programming.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And it's
15 structured program. So, the GED program, where do
16 you get the funds for the GED? I know I've been
17 on a hearing before, our GED program, we have the
18 funds, but now we're about to be defunded, because
19 a lot of people are not going all the way through
20 with the process, of obtaining a GED. The will go
21 two weeks, three weeks, and then drop out. How do
22 you combat that? And if they expand that money,
23 you're losing money, really, if someone does not
24 get their GED, you lose that funds for that
25 individual. Am I correct?

2 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is correct,
3 but--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So what is
5 your rate of graduation and getting a GED, through
6 these programs? That we would know as elected
7 officials, is it worthy of having a GED program,
8 in a Beacon, because half our children are not
9 getting their GED. Or should we put the funds to
10 somewhere else that they can really utilize these
11 funds?

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, for the
13 rates of graduation, I would have to defer to--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: In the
15 Beacon program.

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: --Department of
17 Education--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay.

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: --on those. But
20 our--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: But coming
22 through a Beacon program.

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: Coming through a
24 Beacon program, our Beacon programs doe work with
25 the DOE adult learning centers to provide a GED

2 instructor at the program sites. They're running
3 relatively well. I would have to get back to you
4 on the actual rates of graduation, and how we're
5 doing.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Please,
7 Chair, can we have that? And NYCHA, they said
8 they're losing funds. How much funds you really
9 think that can keep a program for the whole
10 summer? In your budget, what do you really feel
11 is necessary to keep a program for the whole
12 summer?

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: Can you clarify
14 the question? I'm not--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: What would
16 your budget be for the Beacon programs in the
17 NYCHA centers? Is it one structured budget?

18 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes. So, it's,
19 yeah, it's one structured budget within the total
20 amount that we're funding. I can say that the
21 five to twelve portion, we're using a rate of
22 \$2,800 per participant. In our out-of-school time
23 programs, which have become a great practice, \$800
24 of that supports the summer camp program, per
25 participant. When a program has the flexibility

2 to actually design the programming and design it
3 based on what they need.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: My last
5 question, thank you, and I hope you get back to us
6 with that information, Chair, 'cause a lot of the
7 GED programs are really, it's almost a farce. If
8 no one is get--really obtaining a GED, we should
9 put those funds somewhere else, somewhere else.
10 How many of the NYCHA participants go to these
11 programs? Do you statistics on that?

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: The current
13 interim programs?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes.

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, we currently
16 have over 1,000 elementary participants enrolled;
17 over 1,000 middle school and high school; and over
18 1,000 adults. Programs right now are ramping up
19 for summer camp. We do expect a surge, and an
20 increase in enrollment for summer camp. The one
21 thing that we had to face was starting programming
22 in February, it was midyear, and many participants
23 had already had an after school program they were
24 going to. But many parents expressed interest in
25 starting with the summer camp programs that we're

2 going to provide.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Do y'all
4 deal with the PAL at all? With NYCHA?

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is, the PAL
6 is one of our providers, and they're actually
7 providing interim services at two of the NYCHA
8 sites.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Could you
10 tell me the two?

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: Actually, it's--
12 Ocean Bay Apartments, Redfern, and Cyprus Hills,
13 it's actually three.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And Cyprus
15 Hill? Could you, I don't know, maybe, why would
16 you take a PAL out of, like, Howard Houses in the
17 middle of Brownsville, where thousands of youth
18 need these programs, and PAL was there for like, I
19 could say ten or eight years, the most. And all
20 of a sudden, NYCHA said they didn't have any
21 funds, and they pulled that program. But they did
22 put it in Staten Island. So, why would y'all take
23 PAL out of a NYCHA site? Was it the contract?
24 They could not explain why they were not staying
25 in our site.

2 DARRYL RATTRAY: I can't speak what
3 hap--specifics of what happened to that particular
4 location. We chose our 25 sites based on our
5 analysis, and then we chose the Beacon program
6 nearest that location to provide the service. And
7 our, and those three situations that happened to
8 be PAL that provided the Beacon program at the
9 site.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay.

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: But I would defer
12 to NYCHA for the other location.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Okay, then,
14 thank you, Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you,
16 Council Member, and I think you know, as to what
17 happened, I think that's a NYCHA question, not a
18 DYCD question. And before I go to Councilwoman
19 Mark-Viverito, I want to follow up on some of the
20 questions that Council Member Mealy brought up at
21 the beginning. You are funding all of these
22 Centers to what you've deemed their capacity is?

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, from the 3:00
24 to 6:00 p.m. hour, we're backing into the SAC
25 capacity for each center. And that's actually not

2 what we, it's actually certified by DOH.

3 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Alright, and,
4 but nonetheless, your capacity is being made up of
5 different streams. You have different
6 requirements for different age groups. So, for
7 example, at the Betances Center in The Bronx,
8 they're requiring 234 participants age 16 to 21.
9 How did you decide on the breakdown for 16 to 21,
10 as opposed to younger people and adults? And of
11 course you're, you know, you're, you also, you're
12 saying you're funding these programs to their
13 capacity, yet you haven't put in any participation
14 requirements for adults, so is there room for the
15 adults, if you're funding them to capacity?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: I'm sorry, let me
17 clarify, when I say "capacity," I mean during the
18 SAC regulated hours, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., there
19 is a limit of how many participants you can serve,
20 based on that SAC licensing. For the other youth,
21 we took the capacity of SAC, and actually close to
22 doubled it in some cases, and then back into the
23 dollar per participant. And the adult programming
24 will happen after we figure most of it late in the
25 evening. In some cases, it may actually happen

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2 before 2:00 p.m., but it's also, it's based on the
3 site-by-site case that they schedule and design.
4 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I'm still not
5 really understanding how you're getting to that
6 capacity number. Now, just walk me through it
7 again. DOH is certifying your number?
8 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes. So--
9 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And that's
10 based upon what?
11 DARRYL RATTRAY: The SAC process,
12 the SAC process.
13 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Explain what
14 that process is to me, I'm not familiar with that
15 term.
16 DARRYL RATTRAY: And so DOH comes
17 out, they take the square footage of a location,
18 of a center. They take a look at how many
19 restrooms are available, and there's actually one
20 participant per 35 square feet, and then 20
21 participants per one toilet and one sink. And
22 they use that formula at the site to determine how
23 many kids you can actually serve at a center or
24 school.
25 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Now, and so,

2 you then take that DOH number, which is capacity,
3 right?

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Mhm.

5 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And allocate
6 funding and set a threshold for service in that
7 age group, based on that DOH number.

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is correct.

9 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So I'd ask you
10 again, if you're using that number as capacity,
11 and using that number as what you're expecting to
12 be served for young people, how do you have
13 capacity for adult programming at the same time?

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: We took, so for
15 the school age child, we did back into that
16 number. We doubled that number, in most cases,
17 for the older youth and adults.

18 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So, the school
19 age capacity is not the actual capacity of the
20 center?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is correct.
22 We, yes, that's correct. That's the capacity for
23 school age children between the hours of 3:00 and
24 6:00, but there's more room for extra participants
25 after--

2 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So when you
3 say capacity, just so I am clear, capacity, you
4 know, it's not, you know, the little sign that,
5 you know, the Fire Department says, you know,
6 "capacity of more than X some hundred people is
7 against the law," you're not talking about that
8 kind of capacity.

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: No.

10 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: You're talking
11 about DOH's formulaic capacity for school age
12 children. And that even though you may be at
13 capacity for school age children, you may have
14 other participants in the center at that time. Is
15 that what you're saying?

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: No, not during
17 that time. So dur--

18 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So, from 3:00
19 to 6:00, then therefore, there can be no adult
20 programming.

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: That's correct.
22 We're limited to the school age capacity. If the
23 center permits, because of the infrastructure and
24 space, let's say there are two levels and these
25 school age programs are set on the first floor,

and there's a separate entrance to the second floor, there have been cases where there may be a program running upstairs for adults or older youth at the same time, but it's a site-by-site basis.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Have you considered, you know, the impact of the fact that you've carved out a significant portion of the day, particularly for older adults, and prohibited in most centers, unless they have a second floor and a separate entrance, having adult programming during those hours? I mean, you have, and you know, you also completely eliminated the notion of intergenerational programming, which a lot of us like, from 3:00 to 6:00. I mean, after 6:00, you're not expecting to have, you know, younger kids there. You know, so, I mean, I'm really questioning the use of the term "facilitate" adult programming. You've almost made it impossible. I just wonder how you're going to meet that, you know, how do you expect providers to meet that burden when you've placed that limitation on them? Senior citizens, for example, are not likely to come out after 6:00 o'clock to begin a program. It's just not, it's just not going to happen. And

2 so, you know, I think we need to be intellectually
3 honest about what his concept paper is doing. And
4 not kind of, you know, throwing this veneer of,
5 "We're also going to facilitate adult programming
6 for which we are not going to pay you, and in fact
7 we are going to tell you you can't do it during
8 the heart of the day."

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, from 3:00 to
10 6:00 we are restricted to space. But before 2:00
11 p.m., before 3:00 p.m., there are some adult
12 services that are happening now at the sites, and
13 it doesn't prohibit intergenerational programming.
14 Through--

15 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: But hold on a
16 second. You're funding these programs to run from
17 2:00 to 10:00, so you're telling me that from 2:00
18 to 3:00 we can have adult programming, from 3:00
19 to 6:00 we can't, and then the adults can come
20 back after 6:00, and you're not providing funding
21 for it. So, you know, I mean, did I just, were
22 any of the facts I just laid out inaccurate?

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, I'll say, as
24 program, designing their program at the site, they
25 may decide that a GED program can run from 1:00 to

2 3:00 p.m. And they may have a staff per son
3 facilitating opening the door and allowing that
4 instructor in, facilitating the students who come
5 in, partaking of that GED program, and by 2:30-
6 3:00 p.m., they leave.

7 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Yeah, but
8 you're telling me, alright, so right, from 2:00 to
9 3:00, but you're not funding them from 1:00 to
10 2:00.

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: It's, the program
12 operation hours are allowable, if they need to
13 tailor their program to support a need.

14 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So not only
15 are we asking the provider to facilitate the adult
16 programming, we're also going to ask them to open
17 the facility before the hours that you've paid
18 NYCHA to run 'em.

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: It will be a, our
20 core services are 2:00 to 10:00 p.m., but on a
21 case by case basis, if they determine that there's
22 a need in a neighborhood in a facility, and they
23 can't open the doors at 1:00 p.m., hypothetically
24 to support a program, absolutely, we will allow
25 that.

2 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, let's
3 say hypothetically the need begins at 12:00, who's
4 going to pay NYCHA to open that center from 12:00
5 to 2:00?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: It, it's hard to
7 talk in the abstract on this. It's a case by case
8 basis. It's up to the program to present a design
9 to us. We'll work with the program and if it's
10 doable, then we will implement.

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Now, I, you
12 know, with each answer, Assistant Commissioner, I
13 think you're showing me the barricades that there
14 really exist to adult programming, you know, under
15 this concept paper. And, you know, you can have a
16 variety of opinions as to whether or not that, you
17 know, the priority ought to be youth programming
18 and, you know, as I said before, I mean, you'll
19 never hear me say that I don't think youth
20 programming is necessary. But we are supplanting
21 centers that were more than youth programs. And
22 we should be honest about the fact that we really
23 are doing, at best, lip service, to the idea of
24 adult programming. So I just, you know, I think
25 that, you know, we should either be honest about

it when we do the RFP, or fund it, you know. But I think having it both ways is just not really going to work. That's, oh, go ahead, you want to respond to that, feel free.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Just, the framework of what we're doing isn't much different, in terms of hours of servicing who, to what NYCHA was previously doing. So, knowing that that 3:00 to 6:00 hour is primarily for youth, that's what we've done in the past, that's what NYCHA has done in the past, it's a best practice to have age appropriate activities occurring at that point. That doesn't preclude intergenerational services or activities or community events that are happening during that time.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, but when NYCHA centers only open from 2:00 to 10:00?

DARRYL RATTRAY: They, somewhat open earlier, however they were restrictive in that 3:00 to 6:00 hour.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, that-- stop right there, because you know, if you're going to talk about programming for adults, and

I'm thinking, you know, in particular, seniors, okay, because, you know, I guess younger adults might come out after 6:00. But if you're talking about that kind of programming, and then giving me the window of 2:00 to 3:00 to have it, I'm going to tell you that's ridiculous. And you know, if you're telling me that from 3:00 to 6:00 you're precluding it, you know, then the 2:00 to 3:00 hour is prep time for the kids who are coming at 3:00. So, I mean, you're not going to run adult programming, and you're not going to get an outside provider to come in and collocate with you for 40 solid minutes of programming, it's just not going to happen.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, I would also, I said it earlier, defer to our best practice with Beacons. Now, 60 percent of our Beacon adult participants, which we serve over 16,000 per year, are through collocated programs. The core hours of our Beacons are from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. But I can tell you now that there are certainly adult activities occurring in some cases before 2:00 p.m. There's a few cases. But then they also compound 'em from 6:00 through 10:00.

2 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: But Beacons
3 are in school buildings, and I don't think that
4 your Beacon quota and threshold is the capacity of
5 the building from 3:00 to 6:00. So, what you're
6 doing here is backing into the prohibition.
7 You're not prohibiting it, but you've, you are,
8 from 3:00 to 6:00, you are going to be at
9 capacity. Alright? Can't put someone else in
10 there, unless they got another floor and another
11 door. No that always exists in the Beacon
12 program, 'cause the Beacon programs never occupy
13 the entire school. Alright? So there is that
14 flexibility for any Beacon program that want to do
15 it. Now we're talking about NYCHA community
16 centers, different animal, different physical
17 structure. And so I'm just pointing out to you
18 the inconsistency. You can go back and say the
19 Beacon model, but these are not Beacon buildings,
20 they are different. Okay? And you know, this is
21 all kind of crystallizing for me, as I'm asking
22 these questions and listening to you. And you
23 know, I came into this without a predisposition or
24 a preconceived notion about this, but I do
25 honestly believe that the concept paper is

intellectually dishonest when it comes to the idea of facilitating adult programs. And I don't think we can have it both ways. We're either going to admit it, or we're going to change it and fund it. And that's the only way we can do it. Council Member Mark-Viverito, and we've been joined by Council Member James.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And that's kind of where I want to pick up, because, you know, one of the things that I've been saying with regards to the money that we allocated and we never got input on, with regards to how the programming was going to shape up, or how the services were going to be provided in the development centers, but one of the things we have to talk about is concept paper when we had the hearing before, talking about how the moneys were going to be implemented, is again the aspect of integrating intergenerational and adult programming within the context, and at the same time that youth services are being provided. And I don't understand why DYCD is so resistant to that. It's DYCD, Department of Youth and Community Development. To me it's not, at the,

one at the expense of the other. Yet, you're providing here, in the concept paper, that yes, fine, I understand that the \$800,000 that is allocated for a center is not going to be the end all, and you want to supplant and supplement, you know, you want to supplement the services there with collocated services. But I don't understand the resistance of the agency to allow agent-- providers the opportunity and flexibility that if they want to pay for adult programming out of that budget, or for intergenerational programming out of the budget that is allocated, why there is a resistance and the unwillingness of DYCD to do that, 'cause that's the sense I'm getting. Is that you can provide adult programming as long as you get it collocated, and at the expense of another agency. But you cannot fund it through this budget. Is that accurate? Can the moneys allocated for, in this concept paper, can the moneys allocated for the, for these centers, can they be applied towards adult programming? Or intergenerational programming, yes or no?

DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Or

2 is it only for--

3 DARRYL RATTRAY: We want--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: --
5 young people up to the age of 21?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: The minimum
7 enrollment that we put out needs to be fulfilled;
8 however, intergenerational programming can be--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
10 Which is what? What you laid out in terms of the
11 age groups.

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: In terms of the
13 age groups. But your question, I believe, is can
14 they use some of that funding to support, let's
15 say a coordinator who comes in to work with
16 adults--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: No,
18 I'm talking about, you know, providing, yes--

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: In a supplementing
20 enrollment for--no, they cannot.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
22 mean, this is, this is, again, I don't understand,
23 I really don't understand. You know, to me, the
24 purpose of a community center is to really
25 strengthen a community. The way we strengthen a

2 community is through the integration, you know,
3 the interaction. Me being able to benefit from
4 interacting with an elder; being able to be
5 sitting in a room and having a programming that
6 engages us both, that involves my parents. That
7 if I'm playing, you know, games that my parent is
8 there taking a GED class, I know they're there. I
9 mean, it's integration of that atmosphere, and
10 that the ability and the flexibility of the
11 providers to be able to apply the budget in
12 whatever ways that contributes to that. And
13 you're limiting by saying it can only go towards a
14 specific age population. What does community
15 development mean in the agency's name? What do
16 you do in terms of community development?

17 DARRYL RATTRAY: Two things. We're
18 not--

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
20 Okay, but I would like to understand that, too. I
21 mean, it's youth and community development, what
22 is the community development piece of DYCD?

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: And we will, and
24 we will see community development in the
25 programming, in the intergenerational programs

2 they create. Any--

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And
4 you're not paying for.

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: Any activities
6 they--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: That
8 you're not paying for.

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: But I think
10 there's two different things. Are we going to see
11 community programming? Absolutely. Are we going
12 to see inter--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
14 Right, but you're willing to fund it.

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Are we going to
16 see intergenerational programming? Absolutely.
17 Are we--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
19 not, that you're not funding.

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: Are we allocating
21 or funding towards adult programming? No.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
23 Exactly.

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: Are we asking
25 programs to do what we think the best practice is?

2 Abso--yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
4 don't, then I don't understand, Department of
5 Youth and Community Development, where's the
6 community development if you're not funding it.
7 You're not providing any sort of funding. I
8 remember when I used to be a provider, I used to
9 work in an organization, and at that time, we
10 could apply the Beacon budgets towards adult
11 programming, towards intergenerational
12 programming. We could apply the funding. It was
13 at the discretion of the provider. You're
14 limiting it to a specific age population. Not to
15 say that I don't support it, but we need to allow
16 the flexibility of the providers to apply it in a
17 way that really contributes to the needs of the
18 community. Let me get onto something else,
19 because I mean, this is a point, a sore, you know,
20 point of contention for me with DYCD, and I bring
21 it up at every hearing, about the inflexibility of
22 the budgets and what it's providing, for the
23 community. One of the other aspects that, you
24 know, we really, I feel really strongly about is
25 the community participation, the neighborhood

participation piece, in the development of programming. Again, we as a City Council were excluded from having any sort of input in how this money was going to be, how the program was going to be designed, or the approach. And I'm concerned that you will exclude the neighborhood in this discussion as well. So, I like the fact that there is a community advisory board that is mandated, that's great. I'm very much, I love the fact that there's a youth council, that is mandated. I actually run a youth council out of my office. That's all well and good. To what extent, once the RFP is out, maybe what needs to be mandated is that the provider needs to implement the community advisory board, needs to implement the youth councils, prior to submitting the RFP, and that the RFP response needs to be in coordination with the community advisory board that they've created, the youth councils that they've created, as a way of gathering that community input. Because my, to me, it's pointless to have a provider come in and say, "This is the programming we're going to provide, this is what we're going to do," and then say,

2 "Okay, well we're going to implement the community
3 advisory board" after it's been kind of already
4 thought out, after it's already been kind of
5 almost decided. How is the participation going to
6 be integrated, and is being asked for ahead of
7 time? Is that something that you can consider in
8 the RFP that those advisory boards and youth
9 council should be, you know, in some ways already
10 conceived, and in some ways maybe there should be,
11 their advice should be sought as they develop
12 their proposal.

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: We can't ask that
14 provider provide any form of programmatic elements
15 before they receive a contract with DYCD.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
17 when they submit, they're providing some sort of
18 sense of what they're programming. But you ask,
19 probably give us an idea of what programming
20 you're going to provide, give us an idea of what
21 your day's going to look like, and what pro--you
22 know, what services are you--right? So that,
23 there is a concept already that they have to
24 develop.

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: Absolutely, and--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: So
3 we would like that, I would like that, to be in
4 consultation with the community.

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, two things,
6 we do have community feedback into the concept
7 paper, and the comments that we're receiving.
8 Also, we will have community readers for the
9 proposals that come in.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And
11 is it going to be people from the neighborhood?
12 Community members, meaning people from the
13 developments?

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, from--yes,
15 from the residents, yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
17 Okay, so there is going to be a resident as part
18 of the readers for every center.

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: As long as they
20 can commit to the conflict of interest form, and
21 the time requirement to read, absolutely.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
23 Okay. How does the concept paper that you're
24 providing, and what you're outlining, how does it
25 differ currently from your current, I guess,

2 guidelines for Beacons? This concept, and exactly
3 what you will pay for. Again, a vision is great.
4 I'm talking specifically about what you're
5 funding, what you're going to provide funding for.
6 How does this concept paper and the guidelines
7 that you've presented, how does it different
8 currently from what your existing Beacons and how
9 they're structured? The Beacon programs or the
10 expectations of a Beacon program, you know, how is
11 it different?

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: This concept paper
13 prescribes an hour of contact for the older youth.
14 So, 13 to 15 are 200 hours, and 16 to 21 is 165
15 hours. Currently with our Beacon programs, the
16 middle school cohort, their prescribed hours of
17 service is 216 hours.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Just
19 number of hours? Can you use Beacon moneys
20 towards adult services, adult programs?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: You
23 can use the Beacon moneys for adult programming.

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I've

2 been told that we can't.

3 DARRYL RATTRAY: With Beacon
4 programming, there's no price per participant.
5 So, they can actually use the program to run the
6 entire, the funding to run the entire program.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
8 Okay, 'cause I sat with the provider that's been
9 designated for the Johnson Center, and I was
10 telling him that the community wanted
11 intergenerational adult programming, and he said,
12 and I was on a conference call with the
13 Commissioner, that the Beacon does not allow for
14 that. I mean, I think you were on the call as
15 well. And that was verified by the Commissioner.

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: I was on the call.
17 He was speaking of the interim satellite program
18 at the Johnson site, and that money, and that
19 program hasn't been designed to provide that as of
20 right now. Or to prov--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
22 Wait, hold on, repeat that.

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: I think, I mean, I
24 don't want to get into the specifics of the phone
25 call.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: No,
3 but I'm just saying--

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yeah, but--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: --
6 'cause I'm just trying to understand in general,
7 if Beacon contracts the way they exist now--

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: The general Beacon
9 contract, yes; the interim sites and what--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
11 Could not.

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: --he had already
13 designed for the program site, it couldn't
14 support, I think we talked about a subcontract
15 arrangement. But it can support intergenerational
16 programming at the site.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
18 Okay, so you're saying that the Beacon programs
19 allow for funding to go towards intergenerational
20 adult programming, how come this one would not?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: I think the
22 specifics of our conversation during the
23 conference call was about--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: No,
25 this, this concept paper you're saying does not

2 allow for that, would allow for funding to be
3 used. I'm sorry, we just had a whole conversation
4 before. Am I not understanding? I thought that
5 you said that this was, this concept paper would
6 not allow for funding to go towards
7 intergenerational or adult programming.

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: No, no, I said it
9 will; I said they can't supplement our required
10 enrollment or expected enrollment to enroll and
11 adult. So, they can't say, "I'm not going to
12 enroll 20 elementary, I'm only going to enroll
13 ten," and use funding for adults and enroll ten
14 adults. They can't supplement, but they can
15 certainly support intergenerational programming.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
17 it's not going to be funded. Because in essence
18 you, if you have to meet these numbers, you pretty
19 much--

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: But the best--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: --
22 are going to be at, you know, you're going to be
23 running at the--

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, the best
25 practice of a program is that programs are

designed to infuse that intergenerational programming to what they do.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Okay.

DARRYL RATTRAY: Whether it be a community event or community service project.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Alright, I guess there's more clarity. But I'll, I mean, I'm pretty much at--so you, I wanted to ask about the readers, and you indicated that. The youth councils, I mentioned that. So I think I've asked my questions for now, but, you know, I still am very concerned about the limitations, some of which were outlined by the Chair, with regards to the site, and the types of programming that can coexist at the times. So, that is one aspect. Obviously, the community input to me is critical, and to the extent that that can be elicited out of people that are going to, those that are going to respond to the RFP, to the fact that they can be more inclusive in, once they respond, of community input, and having that part of their response, I think is important. I really think it's critical. So, I'll leave it there, I

2 might come back if I have any more questions.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

5 [off mic] Oh, yeah, thank you. Good afternoon.

6 I'm sorry, but I was, I arrived late, and just

7 wanted to know, what is your answer to the

8 question with regards to whether or not any fees

9 will be associated with the use of the locations,

10 and/or any of the activities? Will fees be

11 allowed?

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: No.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

14 I want to add my voice to the choir, I think it's

15 unrealistic to think that services will be offered

16 to adults, and particularly seniors, without any

17 funding from DYCD. So I join with my colleague in

18 expressing concerns about that. And wanted to

19 know whether or not any senior services will be

20 dis--have been displaced, as a result of

21 transferring these centers from NYCHA to DYCD?

22 Have any senior services been displaced, ended,

23 terminated?

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: I would refer to

25 DFTA for the response to that.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay. As
3 far as you know, do you know whether or not any
4 seniors--

5 DARRYL RATTRAY: As far as I know,
6 the programming that we operate, the ones that had
7 senior programs, they are still in operation.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay.
9 There's, I don't see any language in this RFP with
10 respect to a preference for a local community
11 based organization. Will there be any language
12 with regards to giving a priority or a preference
13 for a local, community based organization?

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: I defer, we of
15 course use the PPB rules for procurement.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Right. How
17 about - - consideration?

18 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, I, we, I don't
19 believe we can say "local organization," as
20 opposed to within their proposal they should know
21 the local needs. And also have linkages with
22 organizations.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Well, I
24 don't think the PPB rules--

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: --and have an

2 experience running programming within that
3 neighborhood.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: But how will
5 you phrase it? How will you phrase it?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: We are, of course
7 it's still in design, but we can't specify a local
8 organization as opposed to an organization with
9 experience operating programming--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Within a
11 certain community, okay.

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: --in a particular
13 neighborhood or community.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Will there
15 be a requirement that the organization have, be of
16 a certain budget. And I've seen RFPs where they
17 indicate you can only bid on this, unless you have
18 a budget exceeding a million dollars, or something
19 like that. No?

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: No, it shouldn't
21 be, that should not be a minimum requirement for
22 this, no.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I've also
24 seen RFPs which indicate that the organization
25 would have to have been operational for the last,

2 let's say, three to five years. Will there be
3 any--?

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: I mean, an
5 organization does have to prove that they have
6 experience operating these programs.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Sure, a
8 track record.

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: And that goes into
10 their proposal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: But will it,
12 will you give a definitive period of time?

13 DENICE WILLIAMS: We speak to
14 capacity issues. So it might be that you have
15 experience running--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: An
17 organization of the--

18 DENICE WILLIAMS: --an organization
19 of a certain size. You certainly won't want
20 someone getting a contract that's, you know, five
21 times what the budget that they've raised, but
22 usually it's in terms of evaluation.

23 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Excuse me, can
24 I ask you to identify yourself for the record?

25 DENICE WILLIAMS: Oh, sorry, it's

2 Denice Williams, Assistant Commissioner, Capacity
3 Building. So, usually it's organizational
4 capacity, so experience running program in the
5 community, experience managing a budget, things
6 like that.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I just don't
8 want these RFPs to be tailored to specific
9 organizations, and/or any artificial constraints,
10 to be incorporated in this RFP, which would--

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Council Member
12 can I jump in, 'cause I--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Sure.

14 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: --I have a
15 question right along these lines, that I'm not
16 sure you're getting to. And when we met with the
17 Commissioner, you know, and as you know, a number
18 of us had problems with the designated provider
19 for this interim period, prior to the RFP. And we
20 made it very, very clear that we did not want the
21 fact that DYCD had designated someone to operate
22 the Beacon program, until January 1, 2010, to
23 count and inure to their benefit, when they
24 applied for this RFP. Now, we looked at the
25 concept paper, we didn't see anything that spoke

2 to that. And so, I guess it's a comment more than
3 a question. Alright? We expect that the RFP will
4 state specifically that in looking at capacity and
5 neighborhood ties and experience, that that
6 contract, the one that you bestowed upon them,
7 without RFP, and without Council input, will not
8 be considered. Is that a clear understanding?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So, I guess,
10 just to follow up on that, will the--

11 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Can they
12 answer that?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Will the--go
14 ahead. Sure.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Excuse me,
16 Council Member James, can we get an answer to
17 that? Just a head shake, something, an
18 acknowledgement?

19 DENICE WILLIAMS: --back, we'll
20 absolutely take that back, when we get to - -

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Well, let me
22 ask you a very direct question.

23 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, it'd
24 just be, before, you know, before you ask the
25 direct question, I think you need to take that

2 back. I think we understood that as a commitment
3 from a Commissioner who has never broken a
4 commitment to this Chairman.

5 DENICE WILLIAMS: Right, and she's
6 committed to that, we're affirming it.

7 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And so I
8 expect that to be in the RFP. If it's not in the
9 RFP, you can expect an explosion from about a
10 dozen council members.

11 DENICE WILLIAMS: Well, if
12 Commissioner Mullgrav committed to it, then the
13 agency will follow it.

14 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

15 DENICE WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So, you're
17 looking puzzled, who's, I'm sorry, I forget your
18 name, Darryl. What's your last name, Darryl?

19 DARRYL RATTRAY: Rattray.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Ratreck?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: Sorry, Rattray.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Rattray.

23 Mr. Rattray, you look puzzled and con--and--

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, not, not
25 puzzled, I just wanted to clarify, Council Member

2 Fidler, are you saying that the RFP should
3 specify, within the RFP, that your prior
4 experience operating an interim program should not
5 count?

6 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: You betcha.
7 Not to their benefit. We, just be clear, since
8 you do seem to be puzzled, and I thought you were
9 at the meeting.

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: I was at the
11 meeting.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: He was.

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: And - - just
14 thirty.

15 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: We were--We
16 were unhappy, many of us were very unhappy, with
17 the interim designations of how, who was being
18 selected to run programs in our communities
19 without our input. And then we're concerned that
20 that was going to bootstrap into this RFP, with
21 someone coming saying, "Hey, we've been running
22 this program now for the last year." Alright?
23 Don't want that to happen. Now, if you've had a
24 negative experience with them, and they've proven
25 that they don't have the capacity to run it, yeah,

2 that should count. But it should not in fact be a
3 bonus to them, that you pointed your finger down
4 from on high, put them in there, gave them a
5 neighborhood tie that they didn't have before,
6 alright, and now say, "Hey, look, we have the
7 experience, we have the neighborhood tie, give us
8 extra points in this RFP for that. It should be
9 clear that that's not going to happen.

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: - - we can
11 definitely specify that, no special consideration
12 will be honored for those interim sites.

13 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: All that we
16 are seeking is equal footing for all organizations
17 who apply. And so in the case of my district,
18 Goodwill, Goodwill should not be given any special
19 advantage simply because they were the interim
20 organization. And so my direct question is, would
21 Goodwill or any other organization in a similar
22 situation be given any special advantage in this
23 RFP? And the answer is either yes or no.

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: No.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Would you

2 say that loudly.

3 DARRYL RATTRAY: No.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you,
5 just making sure. I do not see anywhere in the
6 RFP any language which says that one has to be
7 culturally sensitive. I represent a district
8 which is very diverse, but the community that
9 Ingersoll Whitman or Ingersoll serves is
10 predominately African-American and Latino, and so
11 I want an organization that reflects that. Is,
12 there should be language in the RFP to that
13 effect. Could we, I don't, I do not see it in
14 your paper.

15 DENICE WILLIAMS: I think that
16 again speaks to capacity, and what we consider
17 capacity is cultural competence, absolutely.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: No, culp--
19 not only competence, but sensitivity. So those
20 words will be reflected? I mean, when you say
21 "capacity," capacity means a lot of things to me.
22 It doesn't mean culturally sensitive.

23 DENICE WILLIAMS: Well, we consider
24 that part of capacity.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So you

2 would, you will define it, 'cause that's a new
3 definition of capacity. So, you're going to
4 redefine the word capacity?

5 DENICE WILLIAMS: Usually in the
6 RFP, it's one of a list of things, and it will be
7 included.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay, thank
9 you. And I am a stickler when it comes to
10 education, and so I see all these wonderful things
11 about supportive environment, social development,
12 you know, choice and social responsibility. I
13 want pedagogical instruction, I want education,
14 and I want it to mirror the school day. I want my
15 children to learn math, science, all of that good
16 stuff. I want them to go onto college. I don't
17 want them to sit there and be taught that they can
18 only think about vocational careers. I want them
19 to know that they can get MBAs, JDs, whatever,
20 Ph.D.s and that one day they will replace you and
21 I. And so it's critically important that we have
22 pedagogical instruction, and that we have the best
23 of the best. And I'm prepared to assist you in
24 that, in bringing all of these professional
25 organizations to my district, some all politics

2 are local, to turn my children into the best and
3 the brightest. Okay?

4 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: I believe
5 Council Member Mark-Viverito has some more
6 questions?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.
8 I want to just go back, because you know, I'm
9 really, I'm really stuck on this, in terms of when
10 you look at, I'm looking at the concept paper, and
11 you know, the number of participants, you know,
12 again, can you just give us a rationale as to why
13 you wouldn't include adults in the participant
14 breakdown?

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, in the
16 concept paper, we do specify number of adults that
17 should, that services should be provided for.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
19 Okay, over 21 years of age.

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yep.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Now,
22 and then funding can be applied towards that
23 group.

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: There's no funding
25 applied to that number, but they should facilitate

2 programming--

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
4 you're saying there's a per participant cost on
5 average. Correct?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: For the five to
7 twelve year olds, and the older youth. And then
8 they should coordinate and facilitate.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
10 Okay, so you're, hold on, so let me go step by
11 step. So there is a per participant cost--

12 DARRYL RATTRAY: For five to twelve
13 years.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: --
15 but that is applicable only to the five to the 21
16 year olds?

17 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, in two
18 breakdowns, one the five to twelve year olds, it's
19 \$2,800 per year, per participant; and then the 13
20 to 21 year olds, it's \$1,300 per year, per
21 participant.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
23 Okay, so then when you're saying the over 21 years
24 of age, there's a number projected that you would
25 like people, you know, providers, to meet, but

2 there is no per participant number attached; which
3 again means that you cannot use funds to meet that
4 population. You can maybe have it, you know, you
5 could have some administrative costs to cover
6 staff, but I'm talking about to provide services
7 directly to that population.

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: We don't include
9 an additional amount for the over 21.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And
11 why is that the case? I want to understand the
12 rationale.

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: Again, two things.
14 One, we backed into the youth number and we gave
15 the price per participant and capacity to run
16 quality programming. And that, so the \$2,800 and
17 \$1,300 is what we expect for quality programming,
18 what we put out. Because we are limited in
19 funding, we are hoping that we can use the best
20 practice of facilitating collocated services
21 through our programs, to provide that adult
22 programming.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
24 Okay, so I want to go back to what I was saying.
25 Your agency is the Department of Youth and

1 COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HOUSING 72
2 Community Development. What in your budget, as an
3 agency, do you apply or where you categorize as
4 community development? And what are, is the
5 funding that is provided to that end? Or is it
6 just strictly youth programming that you attribute
7 to that, and that's what you provide funding for?
8 I want to understand. Do you provide--what's,
9 what is community, what do you fund that is
10 specifically and solely community development?

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: With the--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: As
13 an agency. As an agency.

14 DARRYL RATTRAY: NDA programs, NDAs
15 are community development. Our workforce
16 programming, our family literacy, our Fatherhood
17 Initiative. I mean, I could give you the entire--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
19 those are all, those are all, they all have
20 specific age ranges, correct?

21 DARRYL RATTRAY: Those are mainly
22 adult programming, but yes they, some do have
23 specific age ranges.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
25 Okay, like the Fatherhood Initiative and--

2 DARRYL RATTRAY: The adult, adult
3 literacy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
5 Okay. Okay, so those are, because again, I don't
6 understand why, in a, you know, in a category like
7 - - or you know, this type of programming, again
8 you're excluding being able to apply funding
9 towards an adult population. I mean, this is, I
10 just--

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: And we were
12 limited on the total amount of funding we had.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
14 Right, you were limited on funding, understood.

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: And we--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: But
17 why wouldn't you apply some of the money towards
18 an ability for sites to do some level of, you
19 know, active involvement of adults with young
20 people in programming, etc. I mean, that's just,
21 I guess, we're trying to, I guess we have a
22 difference of opinion on the vision and mission.
23 And I don't think that you can encourage community
24 development when you're excluding, you know,
25 portions of the community. I mean, it's just, it

just doesn't make sense to me. But I want to get on another issue, which is concerns of the community, you know, community tenant associations, etc. You know, once, obviously the goal here, I would want to see, again, an organization that has deep roots in the community, that has a level of engagement and flow with the community. But once an organization is assigned and designated to the site, then the concerns also become that that organization entity is kind of the gatekeeper of that site. And tenant associations may in fact feel that they don't have full access to the community center, maybe in the ways that they did in the past. But you know, what is, what is the expectation with maybe tenant associations being able to use the space when they want to use the space, for events, scheduling activities, of having, you know, fundraisers there for the tenant association, bake sales, whatever it is. You know, they need to have a level of access and how is that going to be, how is that expectation going to be outlined in the RFP? How is it going to be laid out? Or is it going to be at the discretion of the provider? There should

2 be some minimal--I think what I'm saying is that
3 there should be some minimal expectation of ours,
4 maybe on a weekly basis, that tenant associations
5 have access to program their own activities, or to
6 have, you know, access to the space. Those are
7 things that I'm wondering if you're considering in
8 your RFP.

9 DARRYL RATTRAY: We will take that
10 under consideration, for the RFP that we, there's
11 a prescribed number of hours per week, or monthly.
12 But in addition, but in the RFP it will spell out
13 that, provides should work with the resident
14 associations.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
16 Right, should, but I mean, there has to be a
17 mandate. To me, I mean, at minimum, you know, a
18 community center that is based in a public housing
19 development--

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: Well, it, it will--
21 -

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: --
23 needs to allow a minimum number of hours, 'cause
24 the tenant association on their own, that is
25 doing, you know, doing meetings, having monthly

2 meetings, having events in the summer, having
3 events in the evenings, they should have access to
4 the space, without having, you know, to be at the
5 discretion of the provider.

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: It will be
7 mandated that they do have community advisory
8 boards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
10 Right.

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: And on that board
12 should sit representatives from the resident
13 association.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
15 Right, but they may not necessarily be the
16 majority, of the members of the community advisory
17 board. What I'm saying, again, I think that there
18 should be a minimal expectation of hours of access
19 by the local development, but the public housing
20 development association. I mean, that's, I would,
21 I would hope that you would consider that. 'Cause
22 this is a concept paper, that's a concept that I
23 think I would like you to consider.

24 DARRYL RATTRAY: I mean, we will
25 certainly take that into consideration.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: In
3 terms of the model that is being set up. And, I
4 mean, that's something that we were, you know,
5 I've negotiated that with, you know, private
6 providers, in terms of accessing space, so I mean,
7 I think we could do it as a city agency. And then
8 let me ask you a question, 'cause you're saying
9 today is the last day of receiving input. How
10 much input have you received so far on this
11 concept paper? How many responses have you, would
12 you say you have so far?

13 DARRYL RATTRAY: A dozen responses
14 by email and letter form.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: A
16 dozen?

17 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And
19 how long was the period open?

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: Since May 6th.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
22 Okay. And--how have people known about how to
23 comment? How was this concept paper made
24 available? How has it been generated out there to
25 all the tenant associations, for instance, do they

2 get copies of it, at the public housing
3 developments? How is distributed, disseminated to
4 the community?

5 DENICE WILLIAMS: We disseminated
6 it by mail to all the 25, the presidents of the 25
7 participating resident associations.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
9 Okay.

10 DENICE WILLIAMS: As well as the
11 members of the Citywide Council of Presidents who
12 aren't participating in this, so they all had it.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
14 Okay. Alright, I think I'll leave it there.
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.
17 And before I give it back to Chairperson Mendez, I
18 just want to tie together Council Member Mark-
19 Viverito's and Council Member Mealy's questions.
20 So, I just, to make sure I understand it, you've
21 backed into the capacity figure through DOH. And
22 then you are further backing into the allocation
23 percent, based upon the algebraic equation of the
24 capacity times the price per participant. Is that
25 correct?

2 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is correct.

3 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So, just by
4 the simple math, in order to provide adult
5 programming that is not paid for by somebody else,
6 the provider is going to have to steal from the
7 price per participant for the young people to do
8 it. And that, that's math. I mean, I'm not
9 reading that wrong, am I right?

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: By facilitating
11 other outside services coming in for adults?

12 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: To provide, to
13 spend a nickel for adult programming, I think what
14 I heard your colloquy with the council member was
15 that it's not prohibited for you to spend money on
16 adult programming, you're just not providing it.
17 I'm making it clear that not only are you not
18 providing it, but in order for someone to do it,
19 you're going to have to take money from the youth
20 programming that you have established the price
21 for, which is the entire basis of the allocation
22 for the center.

23 DARRYL RATTRAY: The expectation is
24 that they would facilitate outside services coming
25 into the program. If a provider decided to have a

2 staff person coordinate that service, or run a
3 direct activity, then yes it will come from the
4 overall budget, which is comprised of--

5 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Which is
6 coming out of the price per participant for youth
7 programming.

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So even the
10 coordinator, who's going to go out there and, you
11 know, go fetch, to find the adult programming, and
12 beg, borrow and steal from some other source to
13 get it here, even that person, the employment of
14 that person, is coming out of the hide of the
15 money you've allocated per participant for youth
16 programming, because that's the total allocation
17 for the center. There is no additional money,
18 there isn't even money being permitted for you to,
19 you know, on top of that participant formula, to
20 hire someone to facilitate adult programming.
21 Just a yes or not, that's accurate.

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: That's accurate,
23 that's right.

24 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay, I think
25 that speaks for itself. Chairperson Mendez.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you,
3 Chairperson Fidler. Earlier, I asked about the
4 \$18 million for Fiscal Year '09. I said that
5 either during preliminary budget hearing or
6 executive budget hearing, it was my understanding
7 that all of the money was not utilized. And then
8 I asked how much was DYCD getting. And your
9 answer was \$12.25 for Fiscal Year '09. Is that
10 correct?

11 DARRYL RATTRAY: That's correct.
12 The total amount was \$18 million, and DYCD
13 received \$12.25 million for youth services.

14 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: In Fiscal Year
15 '09.

16 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Okay. Well
18 this is a sheet that we were all given, where it
19 shows that DYCD will get \$12.25 in Fiscal Year
20 2010, but that DYCD only got \$7.127 million during
21 Fiscal Year '09. So, if you would like a copy of
22 this, and if you can tell me what is the breakdown
23 of the \$7.127 million, how much is going to
24 programming, how much if any percentage is going
25 to NYCHA for custodial, and how much is going to

2 staffing. For Fiscal Year '09.

3 [pause]

4 DARRYL RATTRAY: So, we first did
5 the projections for Fiscal Year '10, they were in
6 a full year program, and then we backed into that
7 number for Fiscal Year '09. So, the portion that
8 we received directly went towards the operation
9 and the staffing for the 25 centers. NYCHA also
10 received a portion that allowed them to keep the
11 nine centers that were pegged to be closed, open,
12 in Fiscal Year '09.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: According to
14 the sheet that was provided to the City Council
15 during budget, the preliminary budget, NYCHA
16 received \$5.123 million for operating the
17 community centers up until January 30th, that still
18 had not been transitioned. Is that correct? I
19 mean, I'm just trying to make, you know, we did a
20 budget mod based on this.

21 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: Can I speak to
22 this?

23 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And so I want
24 to understand this.

25 DARRYL RATTRAY: I'll introduce

2 myself: Michael Ognibene, I'm the Chief of Staff
3 at DYCD. You designated \$12.--Well, \$18 million
4 last year, of which \$12.25 was for youth services,
5 youth programming at community centers.

6 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: So this sheet
7 that was given to us is incorrect.

8 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: No, it was
9 still, it's going to add up to \$12.25 million.
10 You'll recall the, the satellite programs began in
11 February. From February to June 30 is not a full
12 fiscal year, it's only five months, so you
13 couldn't spend \$12 million worth of programming
14 the five months, and maintain any type of level
15 programming going into the next fiscal year. You
16 didn't want to spike up for five months, only to
17 tell kids, "Now you can't come," and then starting
18 in July of this year with a new fiscal year, we're
19 going to take it back down to \$12 million over
20 twelve months. So what we did--

21 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Okay, let me,
22 let me just stop you for a second, because I'm
23 adding up the NYCHA, what's laid out here for
24 NYCHA, and what's laid out for DYCD.

25 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: Right.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And that adds
3 up to \$12.25.

4 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: So, then we
6 could just get back to my question: How was the
7 \$7.127 million split up in terms of programming,
8 custodial services, if any, and staffing?

9 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: Right, again
10 there was ten percent would go to custodial for
11 NYCHA; five percent for staffing, which left the
12 balance. We wanted to spend, we allocated to the
13 25 centers how to take these programs up to scale,
14 so when June 30 and July 1st happened of this year,
15 it would be the same level of participation. That
16 left some leftover money. What were we going to
17 do with the money? Some of these sites needed
18 significant capital upgrades. So rather than
19 throw this money into--again, programming in
20 facilities that were not adequate, the facilities
21 were asked to be brought to higher standards.
22 And, and--

23 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: You know, I--

24 MICHAEL OGNIBENE: NYCHA, and NYCHA
25 was keeping eleven additional sites open.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: I can't tell
3 you how frustrated I am that last year I fought
4 for \$18 million, for operating expenses, to keep
5 the centers open. I didn't fight for the capital,
6 which capital may be needed, but the fact that
7 today is the first time, and I asked my colleagues
8 that we find out that any of our expense money
9 that we allocated in the last, in last fiscal
10 year, '09, is, was now used for capital to bring
11 the buildings. And it's, a worthy thing, but I
12 think we just should've been informed before
13 today. I mean, did you hear about this, Lew? No?
14 So, I'm not the only. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: And before we
16 let you off the hook, Council Member Mark-Viverito
17 has one final question.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
19 Okay. You know, don't want to beat the dead
20 horse, but we must today, because I'm just really,
21 I mean, this is one, an issue--I feel very
22 strongly about many issues, but I feel very
23 strongly about this. And you know, the level of
24 service and the quality of service that is
25 provided out of the community centers, I am very,

2 very strong proponent of collaboration, but also
3 programming that integrates our community, in
4 terms of, you know, age groups and all that. And
5 not allowing that in this is confusing me, and
6 concerning me. So going back to the, I think the
7 Chair was alluding to this. So with regards to
8 the DOH guidelines, I understand, that says the
9 maximum number of children, I guess, that you can
10 have in the space, based on the number of toilets
11 and sinks and all that; but I'm assuming that that
12 also, there's also numbers, and there's also
13 guidelines for adults to be served, as well.
14 Correct? Does DOH provide those guidelines?

15 DARRYL RATTRAY: They do not.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: They
17 don't. So, then if you, let's say we wanted to
18 just provide adult programming at this site.
19 Let's just, for a moment, you know, there's no
20 guidelines at DOH says there's a maximum number
21 that you can serve.

22 DARRYL RATTRAY: Not that DOH
23 regulates, such as the school age childcare
24 programming.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

2 Okay, so then, so there's the ability to do it.

3 Okay, so the numbers that you've chosen are the
4 maximum numbers allowed by the DOH guidelines, to
5 be served at a site. Is that correct?

6 DARRYL RATTRAY: That is correct.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

8 Okay, so there's nothing preventing you from maybe
9 downsizing the numbers a little bit on each of
10 those categories, to then allow for some adult
11 services and provide a per participant cost to
12 that adult--You know, you understand what I'm
13 saying? So there's nothing that would, you could
14 do that if you wanted to. You could say, "Okay,
15 let's take away five, number five from the
16 category, in terms of youth, five from the
17 category, and let's allow 20-30-40 adults to be
18 served," and ascribe some sort of per participant
19 cost to that adult. You could do that.

20 DARRYL RATTRAY: Theoretically we
21 could, it would be a reduction in, of course as
22 you said, the youth--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

24 Understood, but I think, I think there's been a
25 very strong voice expressed here from many of us,

and from the community, that we want to see, and again we know our neighborhoods very well, we interact with our, I know I interact with my public housing developments very strongly, and with my organizations very strongly. So I think that there is a strong voice that says that they want that consideration to be part of this concept paper part of the RFP. And the way that you delineate, you know, who is to be served, I would hope that you would truly take that back. 'Cause yes, we talked about, and I understand that the Commissioner is committed to intergenerational, but we need to know that there's a monetary commitment to that, as well, in this RFP. And I think that that's a proposal that I think you should consider, that, you know, I understand that you're taking the maximums allowed by the DOH guidelines, but you could downscale a little bit to allow for some level of adult participation, that would then have a per participant cost attached to it. That's a recommendation that I would like to present, and I hope that you would take under advisement. And we look forward to hearing a response on that. Okay, thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Council Member
3 Dickens, anything? No? Yes? Now we have been
4 joined by Council Member Inez Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you
6 so much. I apologize for my lateness, and because
7 I'm trying to read this concept paper, and I'm
8 sure I'm going to have questions. Are you still
9 going to be here afterwards? Because I've got--
10 these centers are impacted, you know, these are
11 centers in my district, so I'm very concerned.
12 And in particular, one of the programs. And the
13 RFP that you're supposed to be putting forth, you
14 know, this is the concept paper that is affecting
15 that. And so, you know, I'm just reading it now,
16 and I apologize, 'cause this is budget time. But,
17 you know, I don't want you to leave and I'm not
18 able to get you, even though you may not be on the
19 record. If you're not telling me the truth, I'll
20 know it.

21 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, can I,
22 and in fairness to Council Member Dickens, she's
23 been participating in budget meetings, and she
24 wasn't out playing hooky. So, could I then ask
25 you, and this is your graceful way of being able

2 to get out of those, this chair, without my
3 thinking of 20 questions to ask you while Council
4 Member Dickens is rereading your report, if you
5 would remain in the room for a period of time, to
6 allow her to inquire of you privately. Have a
7 deal?

8 DARRYL RATTRAY: Yes, we can.

9 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay, good,
10 that--

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
12 and thank you, Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: --means that I
14 don't have to start reading these questions. So,
15 I thank you for participating. I think Council
16 Member Mark-Viverito kind of summed up pretty
17 well. I think there is a sense that, at very
18 least, there's an intellectual dishonesty about
19 the adult programming. And that either we're
20 going to acknowledge, acknowledge that we want
21 that program, programming to exist and fix it,
22 perhaps by adjusting the number of youth
23 threshold, and at least permitting the providers
24 the funding to hire someone to do the
25 facilitation, and not use all the capacity for

2 youth programming, at the very least. And
3 certainly the other commitment regarding the
4 process and not giving bonus points to the current
5 provider by virtue of them having been selected by
6 DYCD previously is something that we'll be looking
7 for. So, thank you, and you know, we still think
8 that Jeanne Mullgrav is still our favorite
9 commissioner. So. Thank you very much.

10 DARRYL RATTRAY: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Alright, we
12 have numbers of people who have signed up to
13 testify. Our first is Nancy Wackstein from United
14 Neighborhood Houses. Nancy, if you could come up.

15 [pause]

16 NANCY WACKSTEIN: Good afternoon,
17 good afternoon, council members. I'm delighted to
18 be here. I am the Executive Director of United
19 Neighborhood Houses. We are the federation of 36
20 community centers and settlement houses across New
21 York City. Our agencies work extensively in
22 public housing development. We are, we have been
23 working since the beginning of public housing to
24 create strong communities in NYCHA developments.
25 Right now our agencies are in, we're in 23

community centers, seven youth programs, 20
childcare and Head Start programs, 24 senior
centers, NORCs and other programs for older
adults, and health and mental health programs in
NYCHA. So, our agencies have extensive
experience, and I think expertise, in serving
public housing communities, which is why I'm here.
But first I want to thank you, Chairman Fidler,
Chairwoman Mendez, and your colleagues for this
opportunity to testify, and for your extraordinary
leadership on this issue on continuing to stress
the importance of public housing as an essential
resource in our City, and to our City's low and
moderate income people. We very much appreciate
the Speaker's work, your work, Council Member
Mendez, to get the \$18 million restored to the
City's budget last year. It was a fight well
worth having, and I hope winning. But, but, we
are very disappointed in what I would consider the
lack of expansive thinking, the breadth of the
concept paper that was developed by DYCD. As was
reflected in many of the questions here today from
you, we are disappointed that the notion of
community center, hub of community life, seems to

have been lost, through this narrow definition of what would occur in these 25 centers. This was a great opportunity. We thought it was a great opportunity, to develop a comprehensive model, that served multiple generations, like settlement houses do today and have done for decades. We believe that this is a successful model; in fact, we know it's a successful model, where you combine in one site childcare, youth programming, senior programming, ESOL, services to immigrants and newcomers, like civics classes, English classes, computer classes, as well as services to older adults. The definition of community is not one narrowly defined age group. And so, we are here, and we wrote in our comments to the concept paper, to DYCD, that we would like to see the funding used for a comprehensive array of services. You-- 'cause we believe that's the best way to serve the residents of public housing. There is no money available through this RFP for services for adults. There are terms like "facilitation" and "linkage." This is a time, I don't think I have to tell anybody on this panel, that nonprofit organizations are increasingly having difficult

raising private money. It's what I call the trifecta of misery, in terms of fundraising: government cuts, foundation cuts, individual donations down. To expect nonprofit organizations at a time like this of an economic downturn, to raise additional money, to fund the services that we all know are needed in these community centers, is really a pipedream. And it's, so to say that there will be linkages, assumes that other nonprofits, whether they're older adult agencies or immigrant serving agencies, have the resources to come in and partner with you, link with you, if you're the youth services part. They don't. They don't. There is no money to expand services from either the public source or the private foundation source. And I'm speaking on behalf of a group of agencies, ours, which have been successful over many years, in raising private money to supplement government contracts, which as you well know also is the way that you can provide quality services. Those opportunities are not going to exist in 2010. Every study from the foundation center shows that because of the rolling averages, based on the value of their investments, foundation

funding in all areas, whether it's arts, culture or social services, is going to go way down in 2010. So it is really a hollow promise to say, "Okay, find the money from other sources." The other thing I want to say is that the, to base the service mix in these centers on the square footage of licensable childcare space, or school age childcare space, is not a real community needs assessment. We don't believe that this concept paper reflects a real community needs assessment, to--I mean, I know that residents of public housing and other interested stakeholders were convened in focus groups, and--and they discussed what they needed. But to just say, "We're going to do youth services because that's the model we know best," not what the community most wants, I think is, is not, at least what I was taught, is a community assessment process. So, I don't want to take too much longer, 'cause I know there are a lot of other people to testify, but young people are parts of families. Young people cannot be considered outside of families. And if we're going to serve young people well, we have to consider providing services to their families,

whether it's English classes, whether it's senior, senior care, whether it is toddler care. I think it is really, as I started off by saying, a very limited view of community and family, to, to look at only school age children as the memb--as the important members of a community. So, we think that we have a successful model of multiservice, multigenerational hubs in communities. We think there's an opportunity here, to replicate that model. And we hope that DYCD will be, when it comes out with the RFP, a little more expansive in how it looks at families and community. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Well, thank you, Nancy, and I think you heard the questioning, I think we very much are on the same page in terms of the issues that you raised. I mean, far be it from me not to be thrilled with any additional dollar that's spent on youth programming; but I think, you know, we're in agreement that these were community centers, not youth centers. And they are morphing into that. And you know, if that's what's going to happen, they ought to be honest about it, and we can argue about it. If

2 it's not going to happen, then they need to fund
3 it in that form, and I think that's, I hope DYCD
4 understood that, that message pretty clearly.

5 Does anyone have any questions? - - Thank you
6 very much.

7 NANCY WACKSTEIN: Well, thank you.
8 And again, thank you very much for your leadership
9 on this issue. I don't think the importance of
10 public housing to our City can be overemphasized.

11 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

12 NANCY WACKSTEIN: And, and now we
13 know that it, public housing produces Supreme
14 Court justices, as well.

15 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: [laughs] Knock
16 wood. We have, I'm going to call up the remaining
17 witnesses in panels of two or three. Our next
18 panel is Ethel Velez, from Manhattan North Johnson
19 Houses, and Kristin Wager from Directions for
20 Youth, Soundview Community Center. [pause] Just
21 one of you jump in there.

22 ETHEL VELEZ: Is this on? Good
23 afternoon. I'm very grateful to the Council for
24 having this. I think it's very important. My
25 name is Ethel Velez, I'm the TA President of James

2 Weldon Johnson Houses, and also Manhattan North
3 District Council Chairperson. I am, I was here to
4 hear what was going to happen, and then I became
5 very confused after hearing it. I thought I, I
6 understood one process, and something else came
7 up. I'm very appreciative the Council for
8 bringing out a lot of issues. Language is very
9 important when you're dealing with people in
10 public housing. We go on faith. Faith of
11 intergenerational now I know is not what we think
12 it is. There's a lot of confusion around this.
13 I'd have to re-look at this all over again,
14 because as being one of the new facilities that
15 was thrown into the original 18 and made it 25,
16 we'd had a plan for our community. It had taken
17 17 years to get the facility built, and it was
18 with the involvement of the whole community. And
19 when we look at these community centers, they need
20 to be community run community centers. We have
21 seniors who have passed away who originally had
22 the design of the community center. They wanted a
23 place that they did intergenerational programs.
24 We did an intergenerational program in the '80s,
25 and what happened there is that it was a lot of

2 problems with grandparents being, taking over the
3 responsibility of their children. We integrated
4 our young people and our seniors together. We did
5 trips together, we went to the fresh air fun
6 together, we did camping together. It's about
7 building the community, and every time programs
8 come into public housing, there seems to be things
9 there that separate. The language say one thing,
10 but in actuality something else happens. So, I do
11 hope that this program is going to be monitored.
12 We do not want anyone to come in there with all of
13 their ideas and not really include the community.
14 We want to have a monitoring program set up so
15 that we can actually say whomever come in, that
16 they are not really servicing the community.
17 There's a lot of problems in our school situation.
18 There are things we have to pick up. And if we go
19 with, "It takes a village," then we have to get
20 the village correct. We cannot keep having people
21 come in and not look at it as a village.

22 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

23 KRISTIN WAGNER: Good afternoon,
24 Chairman Fidler and Chairman--sorry. Chairwoman
25 Mendez and members of the Committee. Thank you

for this opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Kristin Wagner, and I'm a site

coordinator for Directions for Our Youth at the

Soundview Community Center. DFOY based here in

New York is a nonprofit direct service

organization, who's mission is to provide

leadership and inspiration through community

development and youth empowerment in an

after-school environment. In this respect, we

service over 1,500 young people and their families

each year. I am very glad that the Department of

Youth and Community Development has announced the

Cornerstone Initiative. Supporting the young

people in the New York City Housing Authority

sites in Beacon and other out of school programs

is critical for their safety and success. I'd

like to begin by telling you about DFOY's work at

the Soundview Community Center. Through research

and my own observations, I can attest to the fact

that Soundview residents are among the most

threatened by many socioeconomic challenges we are

currently facing. The Center, which is

conveniently located in the heart of the Soundview

Community House, plays a major role in raising the

spirits, self-esteem and hope of the residents and other community members, by providing services that seek to enrich their lives, and truly reflect many of their needs. We offer activities that teach skills to help students stay in school, and offer family services that will allow them to seek opportunities to better their lives. As DFOY prepared to assume, as DFOY prepared to assume responsibility for the site, we hosted a number of community meetings. They were full of parents concerned and confused as to the new changes that were to take place on, at their center. At first apprehensive, parents questioned the role of DYCD and the CBO being brought to their neighborhood. On February 2nd 2009, my staff and I began a process of assessment to get a clear understanding of the services that were currently being offered, and how we might enhance them as we move the Center towards the highly regarded, nationally replicated Beacon model. Within a month, activity special, schedules were produced, and linkages were formed with neighboring schools such as PS 107, and PS 196. During this time, staff worked diligently to form relationships with parents who

are understandingly apprehensive, as we began to create a stronger program. As time progressed, a continuous buzz of activity emerged. The residents became increasingly confident, mentioning and referring others to this new and exciting program that was best of all free of all charges, especially in its summer camp for over 100 young people. The integration of DYCD programs, such as the highly regarded Beacon, within NYCHA, is exactly the type of innovation that can revitalize community spaces. Similarly, as how Beacons have successfully and have--I'm sorry--How Beacons have been successful in utilizing public schools for the last 15 years. It is critical for the neighborhoods surrounding the community center to be assessed carefully, so that overarching framework of its programming truly reflects the very needs and interests of the community. I therefore suggest that the RFP include the contractors plans for conducting a needs assessment for the community surround the center. The rationale for the theme based approach is ideal, but census should not be limited to a single theme. This is because there

is often a range of issues that need to be addressed in a community, and one theme may not be sufficient. I therefore would ask the Committee and DYCD to consider using both a primary and a secondary theme. This would allow participants to have a degree of choice in the issues they are engaged in, and would create a space for participants to conceive imaginative projects addressing a range of issues. Also, it is imperative that staff is trained adequately, and I'm very glad to see the topic of training addressed in the concept paper. To be effective, training must occur in a coordinated manner, that is supported by the initiative and the contractor at the same time. This ensures that all needs of youth are met regardless of their challenges. I would like to see the RFP elaborate on this topic, as well as include promises from DYCD to provide training when appropriate. Regardless of who is offering them, however, these trainings should, at a minimum, include the issues of childhood and youth development, youth with special needs and child abuse and neglect. It is also imperative for DYCD and NYCHA to maintain strong

communication with clear directives to the sponsoring CBO. These relationships are vital in the success of programming, and showing the necessary support needed by the selected CBOs to bridge gaps and form an enriching culture for the community. Overall, the collaboration of DYCD and NYCHA is ideal for the better servicing of all youth, as we seek to decrease truancy and dropout rates across New York City. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you.

And just Ms. Velez, just more a comment than a question. I understand that, from your testimony, that people in your community have been planning a vision for your community center over the last number of years. You've got to be in it to win it. This is going to be a competitive process, so I just would urge you to work with a qualified provider in your community to put together a response when the RFP comes out, that will reflect that vision and link with all the groups in the community that, you know, share that vision. And that, that is the only way that view will ever come to fruition. So, I know that's sometimes hard to do and maybe you already know what I'm

2 saying, and you already have those groups. But if
3 you don't have someone in there writing that
4 proposal and making that argument for you, they
5 cannot award the contract. So, please, you know,
6 use your, direct your energy in that, in that way.
7 I think it'd be well served.

8 ETHEL VELEZ: I, I agree with you,
9 and I am doing that. My biggest concern after
10 listening today was the word "intergenerational."
11 I have a passion for seniors, and not having our
12 seniors allowed to be in the building over a
13 certain period of time, creates a problem. And so
14 I don't know how that problem can be resolved, you
15 know, because they're going to be excluded to some
16 extent, because we had planned to do feeding
17 programs, whether it be lunch, breakfast or
18 dinner, they should not be excluded out of a
19 community center. So that is going to be a huge
20 dilemma, what I wish could be worked out.

21 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Understood.

22 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you.
23 Ms. Wagner, Soundview is in The Bronx, is that
24 correct?

25 KRISTIN WAGNER: Mhm, yes,

2 correct.

3 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Okay. I am
4 very glad that your collaboration with the Beacon
5 Center there has worked out well. That's really
6 great. But I think one of the things we've
7 expressed concern about is the fact that adults
8 and, are not going to be able to use the Center
9 during certain times. And, you know, your
10 testimony, and it's great that the youth are
11 getting all these services, but I don't, do you do
12 any work with adults? Do you know if the Beacon
13 has done any work with adults?

14 KRISTIN WAGNER: Yeah, act--

15 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: In the Center,
16 while you've been there?

17 KRISTIN WAGNER: Actually, we do do
18 work with adults.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Ages what to
20 what?

21 KRISTIN WAGNER: 21 and over.

22 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Okay.

23 KRISTIN WAGNER: So, we have
24 computer literacy, for example, workshops earlier,
25 before 2:00 p.m., from 12:00 to 1:00. As Darryl

2 Rattray was saying earlier, there are, we're one
3 of the programs that do offer those adult
4 workshops earlier. Now it's two days out of the
5 week, but how we adjust funding, instead of hiring
6 another instructor to do that, we have another
7 computer literacy program for the kids. We use
8 the same instructor.

9 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Mhm.

10 KRISTIN WAGNER: So those, they do
11 adult workshops, and they also conduct the youth
12 computer literacy workshops.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Okay. Thank
14 you very much. And Ethel, it's always a pleasure
15 to see you. And the other concern that I have is
16 that sometimes at a certain point, seniors go
17 home, and then if the Center is open to them after
18 7:00, they may not come down and utilize the
19 Center. So, that is, that is a problem, this
20 blocking out of time, when adults and seniors
21 cannot be there. So, we'll do what we can on our
22 end, and you got to fight on your end, okay?
23 Thank you.

24 ETHEL VELEZ: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you

2 both. Our final panel for the hearing is Keith
 3 Ramsey from Eastchester Gardens Resident Council;
 4 Dorothy Berry, and I apologize Dorothy, I can't
 5 read the name of the organization that you
 6 represent, so you'll tell us when you get up here;
 7 and Suleika Cabrera from the Institute for the
 8 Puerto Rican and Hispanic Elderly. [pause]
 9 [background voices]

10 KEITH RAMSEY: Okay, I'm sorry. Do
 11 you want me to start? Okay. Chair Mendez and
 12 members of the City Council, good afternoon. I
 13 come here today to inform you that there's a
 14 problem with the, with Mosholu Montefiore
 15 Community Center on NYCHA property. I am the
 16 Eastchester Gardens Resident Council President,
 17 been that way for ten years. I've held this
 18 position due to the fact that community service,
 19 that is what I do, I love to do that. I love to
 20 enhance the quality of life for all Eastchester
 21 Gardens Community residents. Partnering with the
 22 New York City Housing Authority has been a
 23 pleasure, a learning experience, great
 24 programming, great special events, attendance
 25 through the roof. You know, NYCHA has its

problems, but I can assure you in Bronx North that the residents came first, always, with NYCHA.

Now, we have to deal with something called the Beacon Program. I have met with the following politicians and New York City employees. I have met with Councilman Seabrook, Councilman Koppell, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., State Senator Ruben Diaz, Jeanne Mulgrav, Darryl Rattray, Deidra Gillard, and I have attempted to have George Torres of the Mayor's Office intervene in the situation that you'll hear about. Having a Beacon Program in our development is wrong. They do not understand how we live. Yes, our children need to be serviced, but there are adults and seniors in Eastchester Gardens where the programs, which they have no programs for them. Montefiore has not a clue on how to run resident related programming: no transparency, no accountability. It's run like a secret squirrel organization, and when I say "secrete squirrel," I mean that they, they're tight knit, and they're closed, and they, they won't allow anybody in. Resident involvement is unacceptable, and it is a foreign thing to them. The situation in the Eastchester Gardens Community

Center continues to deteriorate. Two weeks ago, the Director of the Montefiore Community Center tried to have me arrested. Several of his employees cheered him on. Security guards, sports specialists and group leaders publicly threatened to hurt me. MCC employees publicly said they were going to kick my--I'm not going to say that word. But it does say it. I won't say that. Don Bluestone and Lisa Nicotra are all aware of this, yet they do absolutely nothing. They continue to allow these bad feelings to swell and form until ultimately it must come to a head. Then people will go to the hospitals and go to jail. They also was well aware that one of their security guards body slammed a resident that lived there for about 25 years. And tried to act like the incident was a imagined or made up, like a fairy tale. I will not allow MCC to intimidate me or scare me or body slam me into not coming into my community center. They're not smart enough, nor bold enough to do that. I fight and advocate for the residents of the Eastchester Gardens Community Center, Community. Don Bluestone, Lisa Nicotra and Will Steward will never change that. I live

1 COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HOUSING 11
2 in the Eastchester Gardens. I would like the City
3 Council to assist, a task force, a meeting,
4 something needs to be done with MCC. They, I had
5 looked for help everywhere I possibly could, I'm
6 still willing to work with this organization, but
7 they have to get their act together first.
8 Residents of Eastchester must come first. This
9 thug mentality that they have with their employees
10 has to stop. We can't allow that here. I want
11 MCC monitored. I also want to know why the
12 computers that Councilman Seabrook gave us are not
13 being used by the community. The only people that
14 use those community, those new spanking brand new
15 computes is MCC. Why our large game room is not
16 being used? Why does MCC refuse to hire from the
17 community in which they now reside? Why the free
18 summer daycare program that they have was not
19 publicized in the development first? They go
20 outside, they get people outside, then they bring
21 them inside our development. Why does MCC not
22 offer bereavement time for Eastchester Gardens?
23 It was somebody that passed away last week. They
24 won't let us use the community center for our
25 bereavement services. Why does MCC not outreach

1 COMMITTEES ON YOUTH SERVICES, PUBLIC HOUSING 12
2 to Eastchester Gardens residents. I'm sorry. And
3 why does MCC tolerate thug like mentality with
4 some of their employees? It's acceptable them.
5 Why is the majority of MCC staff teenagers and
6 young adults and work part time? And why did not
7 to this day, did that director of that Center, Don
8 Bluestone, when his director tried to have me
9 arrested, why did he not give me a call? This is
10 what I'm talking about. The tight knit - - , they
11 didn't care, it happened, but they act like it
12 didn't. With all the resources that MCC has, and
13 all the money that they have, and the fact that
14 NYCHA left thousands of dollars worth of
15 equipment, such as TVs and computes in that
16 center, should be no excuse for the way MCC runs
17 adult program, no excuse. We have too many rooms
18 in that place, and there's too many things in
19 there. But they ignore the adults, just like
20 y'all was talking about today. Attendance in the
21 evening is at all time low, the kids don't want to
22 go in there no more, they don't want to deal with
23 those people. But a lot of them do 'cause we have
24 a basketball court, so they go in there. The way
25 that they're running that facility is shameful and

unacceptable. Eastchester Gardens residents get the short end of the stick. We deserve much better than we have. And MCC must recognize, we are not in Eastchester Gardens with MCC, MCC is in Eastchester with us, the residents. There's no accountability where MCC. It reminds of dealing with like a, a mom and pop store. And you know, they all close knit and they won't let anybody in. In comparison with like a Pathmark, where if you tell on somebody, there's accountability. That's what I think of these people. So this concludes my testimony of the escalating dangerous situation and the sorry state of affairs with MCC. Any assistance the City Council can do, please contact me, I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. I've included other previous letters and documents of interest. This has been going on since January. So you see, it's escalated. So, I tried to, you know, give you a nice little breakdown. Okay? Thank you.

DOROTHY BERRY: Good evening. My name is Dorothy Berry. I'm from, I've been working with the Department of Youth Services from the beginning, with Commissioner Kellogg, all the

way up until last year, I'm no longer a member of the Executive Board. But I am a member of the Department of Youth Board of Directors. I'm also, I speak first for my residents, Ingersoll Houses, where I live at. We have been without a community center for eight years. We need our community centers, which now has two floors, we're in the area where we're under economic development, which our community is changing. And they feel that we don't need a center, but we do need a center. We have always had senior citizens under Department of Youth Services, they always had a part in our centers. They always participated, they always remember those boards, and I don't see why they're like being left out now. They should always be a part of it. The word community mean everybody in the community has to be part of the community, and help work with the community. I also have worked as a Chairman of many boards, and members of many boards, in my community, from 1968 up until now. I say this to say I have been the Chairman of the my community center board. We learned how to react and how to make funds for our center board, under New York City Housing Authority. Okay?

That center can help and - - raise funds for those senior citizens. Those senior citizen program get funded. They don't have to just look for housing or Department of Youth Services. Then that center, it has to be turned over to the community, because if it's not, it's not going to function. We need that center for our youth, to keep them out of trouble, keep them out of jail, we want to teach them how to get jobs. They're trying to learn how to go to work. Somehow senior citizens are going back to school for their GED. They need that, and we don't need GED for a GED, we need a GED for math and reading, to teach our children and to teach our adults what it is about the GED program. Those are the weakest subjects that are not passing in those tests, and those are tests that need to be tested in those programs. And under that, I say thank you.

SULEIKA CABRERA DRINANE: I'm trying to see where I go from here. [laughs] Hi, my name is Suleika Cabrera Drinane, and I'm the President of the Institute for the Puerto Rican Hispanic Elderly Multicultural, Multiservice Organization, serving for 31 years. And we've

been doing a lot of, we do work with NYCHA residents, and we have senior centers, as well as we work with the seniors and the family. One of the, I just wanted to say that one of the first things you had mentioned was the, I really wanted to congratulate you on all your comments in relationship to really all the issues, and about this concept paper, and its problems. When I was coming here, I just found out about this, and, and we do a lot of services at NYCHA programs. And I think that the extension, when you look at the numbers of people that responded, I think that, that deadline, that extension, the deadline should be extended. And that was one of the first things, and I was, I felt, that's why I wasn't going to testify, I was just going to come and support, but I decided that it's very important. So, it is clear that the Cornerstone concept as it stands now makes no substantive provision for a very needy and deserving population, which is growing exponentially in most, in most every New York City public housing development is seniors. There is a passing resident to intergenerational adult. However, the age range roughly identifies

21 plus, as you mentioned. It is difficult to comprehend how DYCD, which through its various iterations over the years, has funded senior programs, would not make provision with these centers, particularly the new and recently renovated facilities for critical senior programming, which is lacking in many of these developments. I know it is, I know it to be a fact that many of the residents council, that for so many years have waited for these new facilities, had intention that these new community centers would be, would house comprehensive programs, which would be intergenerational, seniors, and part and parcel of the core programming, and therefore, funding of these modern facilities. The Institute is a well-respected organization that has been providing programs and services. Many of the seniors we serve were members of original tenants association, which over many decades fought long and hard to protect the developments, and make them better places to raises their families and enjoy their golden years. Many were looking forward to their new facilities to make them

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2 health and wellness centers, community centers,
3 and all around. [pause] Many current senior
4 centers, I'm going to just use this example of,
5 I'm trying to cut, because I know it's late. So
6 one of the examples that I'm, I thought that,
7 there are many senior centers and public housing
8 that are in major disrepair, and require attention
9 and investment. And I'll use the example of the
10 Betances Senior Center in The Bronx that you were
11 talking about, on St. Anne Avenue, which is one of
12 our busiest centers, serving well over 105 lunches
13 per day and growing. We were looking forward to
14 moving this critical center to a new facility, a
15 new community center, which would be--and which
16 would really, this we already had discussed with
17 Housing, we were, this was a center that was new.
18 They had lost all their staff, and we said, and we
19 wanted to bring the Center, but also start working
20 on intergenerational, and we did some ready, we
21 were ready to sign a, you know, we had started
22 working, in the process with the lease and
23 everything, and all of a sudden, we found out that
24 this, we had to stop, over night. And the
25 facility was transferred, all these facilities

were transferred to DYCD. And it was in the news that, and how I found about all this transfer, was that it was in the news that we found out that the DYCD Beacon school were moving into these facilities right away. So here we have talked to the seniors, our Betances Senior Center with disarray. I spoke to the thing, to the, the new Beacon, and when you start talking about collocating it doesn't work. I think it has to be a collaboration between the two. There has to be some moneys there, not just for the adults. I mean, not just for the youth. And when you start talking about 21 plus, it doesn't talk about the older adults that are, and are, that are so important. And one of the, one of the successes that we had in Betances Senior Center, that while this facility was being built for the community center, we were able to, the senior center itself, we were able to have the teenage program in our facility. We would have the program in, during the day, and after 3:00 o'clock or 4:00, it as 3:00, after 3:00, they would take over the center. And it worked. So, I think that, that it's important that, and I want to go back to this

here. That it's important that at this point, seniors are not even in a competitive position for these facilities, and as had been promised, and that the concept, this Cornerstone concept, which will form the basis of the RFP, in effect excludes meaningful, comprehensive programming for seniors and youth. And that it shuts out capable organizations that do not exclusively provide youth services for many opportunities to complete. I always believe in youth, because they are our future. I always believe that they're--but I feel that this concept of just youth and not seniors, and also financial supports and subcontracts that are not included, are just as important. I think that after school programs are so important, and that's why we had submitted to provide some of those services. So, and I want to congratulate you for your advocacy on that concept of intergeneration, and the rights for the resident councils, and programming that had been started, that included all that comprehensive services.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Thank you to all three of you. Ms. Cabrera, I'm sure you heard numbers of us questioning--

2 SULEIKA CABRERA DRINANE: That's
3 right.

4 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: --the
5 exclusion of programming for other than young
6 people. And Mr. Ramsey, I know Councilman
7 Seabrook has, I know, spoken before about his
8 problems with your provider. That was the point
9 of the dialogue between us and DYCD about not
10 bootstrapping the providers that they picked.

11 KEITH RAMSEY: We got 'em.

12 CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: So that moving
13 forward, which is what this hearing is about, the
14 January 1st 2010, that other providers will have a
15 level playing field. And Ms. Berry, I just want
16 you to know, I don't know if you were here when
17 Councilwoman James was here, but she is constantly
18 advocating for the NYCHA center at Ingersoll, we
19 hear about it from her every day. So, thank you
20 all, and Chairman, Chairwoman Mendez.

21 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Thank you. I
22 had a couple of questions. Mr. Ramsey, I have a
23 lot of concerns regarding your testimony. If in
24 fact it is true, that the Beacon Center is not
25 outreaching to the NYCHA development that it's

1 supposed to serve, then I will go back and work
2 with Councilman Koppell and with Seabrook. I know
3 they both have expressed concerns, but I was
4 unaware of this. And I will go back to NYCHA and
5 to DYCD and that Beacon Center, because it was a
6 NYCHA center, it's supposed to service NYCHA
7 residents and the surrounding residents, but if
8 they are excluding the NYCHA residents that this
9 was intended to serve, I have a big problem with
10 that.
11

12 KEITH RAMSEY: They are losing
13 their minds. That is what they do. I mean, it's,
14 they make the rules as they go, and no one can
15 tell them what to do, because they know best.
16 They are the Beacon providers, it's like that they
17 are Moses, and we are the people that they are
18 trying to save. But you can't tell 'em nothing.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And in terms
20 of you trying to, them trying to get you arrested,
21 I'd like to, no on the record, but personally hear
22 more about that, because I know you as a tenant
23 leader, you have come to my subcommittee and
24 testified before. Sometimes we agree, sometimes
25 we disagree.

2 KEITH RAMSEY: You ain't called the
3 cops on me, though. [laughter]

4 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: If they--if
5 you were there, and if this was, you know, if they
6 were really out of hand, and if you were there
7 trying to--

8 KEITH RAMSEY: Yes!

9 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: --protect the
10 tenants, and residents of public housing as I know
11 you always do, then I want to understand what was
12 happening there.

13 KEITH RAMSEY: I'll help you
14 understand.

15 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: 'Cause they
16 need to, they need to understand that this center,
17 while they may be running it now, it's temporary.

18 KEITH RAMSEY: Yeah.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And they were
20 given this. We didn't have any input in it. And
21 this was meant for NYCHA residents.

22 KEITH RAMSEY: Absolutely.

23 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: So I will talk
24 to you after this hearing. Ms. Berry.

25 DOROTHY BERRY: Yes?

2 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Councilmember
3 Tish James, unfortunately is not here, and she,
4 she always complains what has happened with the
5 closing of the community centers. Now, they
6 closed the community center at Ingersoll Houses.
7 When was that that they closed it?

8 DOROTHY BERRY: It's been eight
9 years, honey. But what happened is--

10 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: But I know it
11 was temporary closed, and then--

12 DOROTHY BERRY: Can you hear me?
13 Can you hear me?

14 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: --and then
15 they permanently closed.

16 DOROTHY BERRY: Can you hear me?

17 KEITH RAMSEY: Yeah, she can - -

18 DOROTHY BERRY: They closed the
19 Center, they supposed to had a contract to build
20 it. They started and they built it wrong, they
21 had to tear down and start all over again. They
22 finally got it together, I mean, that's a waste of
23 money, okay, we don't need that, it's too much
24 money being wasted. They got to together, now
25 they're trying to say, "We have to have a--" this

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2 is another thing I didn't speak on, a sponsor. We
3 had a sponsor when I was over Ingersoll Community
4 Center. We got rid of 'em, Willoughby House
5 Settlement [phonetic]. Our Center looked like a
6 garage. When we got rid of them, we got funds, we
7 got everything brand new in that center. But as
8 long as we had a sponsor, we had nothing. Okay?
9 That Center has been closed for eight years. We
10 had the biggest budget in Brooklyn. Where are
11 those funds?

12 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Mhm. I know
13 that it was permanently closed while I was the
14 Chair of the subcommittee. And so, my
15 understanding, if my recollection is correct, that
16 all of the residents of Ingersoll were being told
17 to travel to another community center.

18 DOROTHY BERRY: Whitman, Whitman.

19 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: At Whitman
20 Houses.

21 DOROTHY BERRY: Yes, mhm.

22 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And that,
23 depending on where you live in Ingersoll, that
24 could be a hardship for many individuals.

25 DOROTHY BERRY: Yes.

2 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Some of the
3 young youth and particularly the elderly.

4 DOROTHY BERRY: We have
5 handicapped, we have senior citizens, we have a
6 lot of problems right there right now. And I feel
7 sorry for the tenants there. I was the past
8 president there, three years ago, but I'm no
9 longer there. But I--it's a lot of problems. It
10 needs to be straightened out. I mean, everything
11 you talk about is about dollars and sense. Money
12 costs and it takes things to run, but people come
13 first. And it takes the people to run things. It
14 takes the people to do things. It takes the
15 people to put things together, and if the people
16 are not there, and the dollars and sense are
17 there, nothing is there.

18 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Well, Ms.
19 Berry, what I can tell you is that, that at least
20 in Manhattan Delegation, we are trying to restore
21 the money to NYCHA, so that they can reopen the
22 centers that were closed.

23 DOROTHY BERRY: Well, thank god.

24 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: And that
25 remains to, thank you, that remains to be seen,

'cause we still have a way to go on this budget process, but it's something that the Manhattan Delegation is advocating for. And I'm sure other delegations may be doing the same, and we will see whether ultimately we are successful in that, 'cause I think that that is worth the fight to reopen those centers. Ms. Cabrera, one of the great leaders in the Latino community, it's great to see you here today. And I do hope that you will collaborate with other organizations so that we can get a diversity of services in these centers, and I know that if you're working with any of these other providers, we will make sure that the senior population will be involved in the centers, and will be involved in those intergenerational programs as well. So thank you for being here. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON FIDLER: Okay, well, that's, those are our last witnesses. I want to thank everyone who testified today. And this is certainly, I think, an illuminating hearing, and I just hope that DYCD was equally illuminated. On having said that, I hereby adjourn this joint hearing of the Youth Services Committee and the

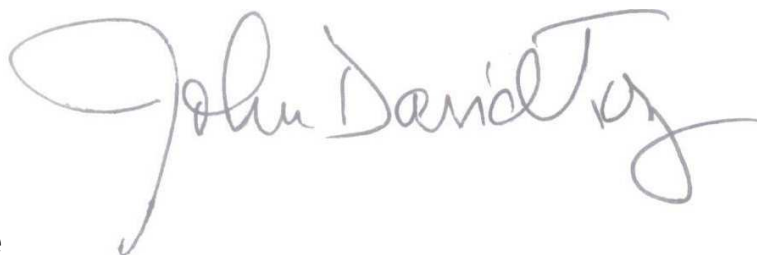
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2 Public Housing Subcommittee. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed name "John David Tong".

Signature

Date July 22, 2009