

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COMMENTS

FY 2017 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN – JERSEY CITY

Account # 1148044
Ad # 4311285

State of New Jersey
Hudson County

Christie Lau, of full age and being
duly sworn according to law, on her
oath deposes and says that she is the
Accounting Clerk of:

THE JERSEY JOURNAL

A newspaper published in Jersey City,
County and State aforesaid and that a
notice, a true copy of which is annexed,
was published in the said newspaper
on the following date(s):

2/27/17


Christie Lau

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING
for the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement Grants

Please come and present your views on the priorities and strategies for the FY2015-FY2019 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The following grants will be discussed at the hearing:




Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)
HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The Public Hearing will take place as follows:

Date: Monday, March 6, 2017
Time: 4:00 P.M.
Place: New Jersey City University
2039 John F Kennedy Boulevard West
Jersey City, NJ 07305

Please call the Division of Community Development at 201-547-5910
if you have any questions.

MAYOR STEVEN M. FULOP
CITY OF JERSEY CITY

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 27th day of February, 2017


Notary Public of New Jersey

SHAWN MILLER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
I.D. # 50015502
My Commission Expires 5/11/2020

Account #

1148044

Ad #

4311280

State of New Jersey
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NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
I.D. # 50015502
My Commission Expires 5/11/2020

CITY OF JERSEY CITY
SAVE THE DATE

HUD ENTITLEMENT (CDBG, ESG, HOME & HOPWA)
GRANT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)
MANDATORY ORIENTATION SESSION

Monday, March 6, 2017

1 PM - 5 PM
New Jersey City University
2039 John F Kennedy Boulevard West,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

A Mandatory Orientation Session, for those interested in applying for the HUD Entitlement Grant Program and Community Services Block Grant will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017. At that meeting the following RFP's will be discussed:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)




All agencies interested in applying for the HUD Entitlement Grant and CSBG funding through these RFP's must attend this Mandatory Orientation Session.

RSVP at <https://jerseycitydcd.eventbrite.com>

For more information, please contact the Division of Community Development
30 Montgomery Street, Suite 404, Telephone: (201) 547-6910.

IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR FUNDING, ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING IS MANDATORY.

STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR



Mandatory Orientation

	Last Name	First Name	Qty	Ticket Type	Payment Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coniglio	Anthony	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602496554
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooks	Sheri	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598280257
<input type="checkbox"/>	Costa	Keri	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599428631
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cuervo	Rev.Gabriel	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598020978
<input type="checkbox"/>	D'Errico	Armando	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602451081
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dawson	Elaine	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600354275
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dawson	Elaine	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600354275
<input type="checkbox"/>	de angelis	guy	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601203948
<input type="checkbox"/>	de angelis	guy	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598942098
<input type="checkbox"/>	deLeon	Cecilia	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601248319
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Flores	Claudia	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602061438
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Galasso	Carmel	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601678620
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Garcia	Julio	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600408768
<input type="checkbox"/>	Garcia	Wanda	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602216462
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gelman	Kayla	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601260828
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gill	Alfred	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602077792
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldfarb	Sarah	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599451680
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gordon	Chanel	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601285231
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greene	Christopher	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602061438

Mandatory Orientation

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Hansen	Elaine	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601984481
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holloway	Robinson	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600015071
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Jones	Daria	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602282833
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jones-Watson	Paula	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602284800
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keaton	Willie	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599633559
<input type="checkbox"/>	Koomson	Francis K	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599520275
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lew	Andrea	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601303370
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lewis	Lori	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600010408
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livermore	Craig	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598959584
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lopez	Rev. Juan Rosario de la Cruz	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598017835
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathews Parker	Barbara	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601149291
<input type="checkbox"/>	Matthews	Cynthia	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599633559
<input type="checkbox"/>	MAYO	ADOLPH	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601237998
<input type="checkbox"/>	mccrea	yoli	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599470940
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<input type="checkbox"/>	MCINTOSH	EMILY	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-597977610
<input type="checkbox"/>	McNeely-Sandiford	LaTia	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601812631
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mercado	Evelyn	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602564708
<input type="checkbox"/>	millar	Stephanie	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601309629
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Molil	Gary	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601303370
<input type="checkbox"/>	Morales	Carlos	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599409473
<input type="checkbox"/>	Napiorski	Robert	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599451680
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nelson	Caroline	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598838966
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nerby	Diane	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602354779

Mandatory Orientation

	Last Name	First Name	Qty	Ticket Type	Payment Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicholson	Niya	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598713912
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Powder	Lester	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599365609
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Rankin	Thomas	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602038984
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Reyes	Rev.Tomas	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598019289
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richardson	Darnelle	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600340199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Riley	William	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602061438
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodas	Odra	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601228974
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSARIO	NORMA	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599401448
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rosen	Danielle	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602461833
<input type="checkbox"/>	Russo	Paul	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-597978715
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sambul	Nancy	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600317046
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandiford	Roger	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601811110
<input type="checkbox"/>	Santangelo	Joseph	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599079833
<input type="checkbox"/>	Santiago	Reinaldo	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598333661
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Seifert	John	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602075920
<input type="checkbox"/>	Simpson	Vicki	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601229694
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sims	Verna	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601597300
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smith	Joanne	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-597980155
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smith	James	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602076155

Mandatory Orientation

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Staggers	Tony	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601285231
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stovell	Arnold	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598950637
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Tansey	Catherine	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601268483
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thompson	Jodian	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602451081
<input type="checkbox"/>	Torres	Frances	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602508711
<input type="checkbox"/>	Uffer	Deophister	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599392024
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vail	Katie	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599384974
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ventura	Anne Marie	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-600414891
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verano	Rupert	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-601207316
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vilela	Ana	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599431199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wallach	Janet	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599129660
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walton	Gloria	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598125440
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Anthony	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-602076155
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weinbaum	Donald	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598725617
<input type="checkbox"/>	Williams	Angelique	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-599147867
<input type="checkbox"/>	Williers	Michele	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598959793
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosco	Stephanie	1	RSVP	Free Order Order 21214339661-598959793

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

COME AND LEARN

HUD ENTITLEMENT

(CDBG, ESG, HOME & HOPWA)

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

New Jersey City University
Student Center 2nd Floor
2039 John F Kennedy Boulevard West,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday,
March 6, 2017
1PM-5PM

A Mandatory Orientation Session & Information, for those interested in applying for the HUD Entitlement Grant Program and Community Services Block Grant will be held on Monday, March 6, 2017. At that meeting the following RFP's will be discussed:

- ✓ **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
- ✓ **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)**
- ✓ **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**
- ✓ **HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)**
- ✓ **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**

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For more information, please contact
the Division of Community Development
30 Montgomery Street, Suite 404, Telephone: (201) 547-6910



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30 Montgomery Street, Suite 404
Jersey City, NJ 07302

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HUD ENTITLEMENT GRANTS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

New Jersey City University – 2039 Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)	EMAIL	✓ IF SPKG TONITE	SPKR CARD # (DCD COMPL ETES)
ORTIZ	Urban League	nortiz@ulohe.org		
Sanchez				
Arafa		Zarafa@njcu.edu		
Nordling	New City Kids	Kate@newcitykids.org		
Allen	ACT NOW FOUNDATION	KALLEN@ACTNOWFOUNDATION.ORG		
Williams	SACHIE ROBINSON LL	Lion2w2@rocketmail.com Joseph		
LOUGHLIN	POSITIVE IMPACT	brian@positivedevelopmentjc.org		
Sailey	BERGEN Co. United	bHailPETT40@gmail.com		
FLORES	PHILCOM Center	cb.flores48@gmail.com		
GARDON	" "			
FLEMING	Jersey City Lacrosse	@zderic@yahoo.com		
Estremera				

HUD ENTITLEMENT GRANTS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

New Jersey City University – 2039 Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)	EMAIL	✓ IF SPKG TONITE	SPKR CARD # (DCD COMPL ETES)
Murphy	Revolving Doors	holyfaith98@yahoo.com		
Rickenbacker	Revolving Doors	TqKiernahr@yahoo.com		
SAVAGE	Hudson Cnty CASA	B. Savage Hudson cnty org		
Harper	DV8tor Dancers	RJHarper@mac.com		
Ahem	Jackson Hill Mainstreet			
Massey	Jackson Hill Main Street	Director@jacksonhillms.com		
Walton	Circle of Inspiration Most Excellent Way	gcwalton2@gmail.com		
Brown	EMET REALTY	rbrownemetrealty.com		
Colon	EMET Realty	ndcolon@yahoo.com		
Webb	DV8tor DANCER	DV8tor43@gmail.com		
Alston	Astor Place Neighborhood Association	usadebbiealston@gmail.com		
Lesuer	DV8TOR DANCERS	Twitterellsgirls@gmail.com		

HUD ENTITLEMENT GRANTS / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

New Jersey City University – 2039 Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305
Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

LAST NAME	ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)	EMAIL	✓ IF SPKG TONITE	SPKR CARD # (DCD COMPL ETES)
	Planning	marganb@jcnj.org		
Hutsell	Act Now Foundation	shutsell@actnowfoundation.org ✓		
Rowan	Councilman GADSDEN	MTROWAN@JCNJ.ORG		
Koomson	Public Service	Winfredkoomson1990@gmail.com		
Dorch- Amiker	Healing IS Power Foundation	golandaamiker@gmail.com		
Smith		latreicia.smith@AOL.com		
Smith		jahmaine.smith@gmail.com		
NELSON		JimNELSONGLOBAL@gmail.com		
Blue	Community Outreach Team/HTE	blue.cynthia@gmail.com		
Albert	Haven Adolescent People	amyalb@gmail.com		
Smith	Center Live with Purpose Smith	livewithpurpose.smith@gmail.com		

HUD ENTITLEMENT GRANTS PUBLIC HEARING

New Jersey City University – 2039 Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL	✓ IF SPKG TONITE	SPKR CARD # (DCD COMPL ETES)
Joseph	Santangelo	joseph.santangelo@greaterbergen.org		
PATRICIA BERKHAU	BERKHAU	patricia@njcitizenaction.org	✓	
Leila	Amirhamzeh	leila@njcitizenaction.org		
BONG DEAN	DIZON	kenedydancers@aol.com		
Darnelle Richardson	Richardson	drichardson@jclibrary.org		
LORI B	LEWIS	llevi@COVENANTHOUSE.ORG	✓	
Guy De Ang	De Angelis	Guy.DeAngelis@USE.SALVATIONARMY.ORG		
Stacy Hutsell		shutsell@actnowfoundation.org	✓	
Kristine/	Allen	Kallen@actnowfoundation.org	✓	
Francis Koomson	Koomson	frkoomson@gmail.com		
Teresa	Calves	teresa@educationalartsteam.org		
Carminé	Tabone	cvtab@aol.com		

New Jersey City University – 2039 Kennedy Boulevard 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305
Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Monday, March 6, 2017 – 4:00 - 5:00 PM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

[illegible]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CITY OF JERSEY CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

----- :
: ANNUAL ACTION PLAN : TRANSCRIPT OF
: PROCEEDINGS
: PUBLIC HEARING :
: -----

Monday, March 6, 2017
City of Jersey City
Municipal Council
280 Grove Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
4 p.m.-4:52 p.m.

B E F O R E:

ORIGINAL

CARMEN GANDULLA, Director

GIGI GAZON, Assistant Director

RODNEY HAIRSTON, Real Estate Officer

ANGELA RUSSO, Program Analyst

GOLDA SPEYER, Project Manager

SCHULMAN, WIEGMANN & ASSOCIATES
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS
New Market Crossings
216 Stelton Road - Suite C1
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854
Tel. (732) 752-7800 Fax. (732) 752-7166

1 MS. GAZON: Hello everyone. All
2 right. My name is Gigi Gazon. I am the assistant
3 director for Division of Community Development for
4 the City of Jersey City. We are a division within
5 the Department of Housing, Economic Development and
6 Commerce. Welcome you here to City Hall for this
7 public hearing.

8 I would first like to call up
9 Christine Allen from the Act Now Foundation,
10 Alzheimer's Resource Center.

11 KRISTINE ALLEN: Thank you. Hi. Good
12 afternoon. My name is Christine Allen and I'm the
13 president and co-founder of Act Now Foundation, the
14 Alzheimer's Research Center of New Jersey. We are a
15 501c3 non-profit organization based here in Jersey
16 City.

17 I just want to start out by saying
18 that the C.O.C. did a report after Hurricane Sandy
19 that stated that Hudson County actually has the
20 fourth highest rate of seniors in the entire country
21 living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia
22 dementia. I have to repeat that. The fourth
23 highest rate in the country.

24 And out of that 80 percent of our
25 seniors here in Hudson County are going undiagnosed.

1 So what's that mean. That means they are not
2 receiving any support services. They are not
3 receiving any treatment for the disease.

4 So we are here today to beg and plead
5 for money to help provide our seniors in Hudson
6 County, and primarily in Jersey City, with the
7 ability to get diagnosed, create a treatment and a
8 support program for not only them but for their
9 families.

10 It's our goal to help increase and
11 improve the quality of life of our seniors living in
12 Jersey City by keeping them at home for as long as
13 they possibly can

14 So thank you and I appreciate any
15 attention we can bring to this national -- actually,
16 world disaster that's approaching. Thank you

17 MS. GAZON: Okay. Our next speaker is
18 Patricia Berhal, am I saying that right, from New
19 Jersey Citizen Action. Come on up

20 MS. BERHAL: Thank you. I'm Patricia
21 Berhal from New Jersey Citizen Action Education
22 Fund. We are a current grantee and very
23 appreciative for the funds that we have received for
24 the past year.

25 We've been doing financial coaching

1 services for residents of Jersey City, been very
2 pleased with the results we've received so far. The
3 need in the community is really great. We've been
4 working with people, first time ever, we've worked
5 with people one on one who have never created a
6 budget before. We do a very specific budget to
7 them. People get their credit reviewed for the
8 first time they've ever seen their credit score and
9 report.

10 And we've seen knockoff effects of
11 that, people who are reenergized to, you know, go
12 after -- to pursue additional, you know, employment
13 as a result. People increasing -- increasing their
14 income and decreasing their expenses.

15 So we are very excited about it and
16 looking forward to being able to continue this work
17 next year. Thank you.

18 MS. GAZON: Thank you very much. I
19 would like to call Lori Lewis from Covenant House of
20 New Jersey to speak.

21 LORI LEWIS: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Lori Lewis. I'm with Covenant of House New
23 Jersey. Covenant House is a national -- actually,
24 an international agency that provides shelter and
25 supportive services to homeless youths who are

1 between the ages of 18 and 21. We have began our
2 work in Jersey City in 2011 providing outreach
3 services to youth.

4 Since then we've seen and increasing
5 number of young people from Jersey City coming to
6 our Newark emergency shelter for services because
7 there are no agent appropriate options available
8 locally.

9 We worked with the C.O.C. in the last
10 year to conduct the study on homeless youth and we
11 found that there are 56 young people who met HUD's
12 definition of being literally homeless. And of that
13 number 50 percent of them were sleeping in abandoned
14 buildings, parks, train and bus stations, places not
15 fit for human habitation.

16 So we needed to do better. Jersey
17 City needs to do better. And we need more funding
18 to provide shelter and services for homeless youth
19 in Jersey City.

20 Covenant House is committed do
21 providing services across New Jersey and we are
22 hoping and praying that the city will partner with
23 us to provide much-needed shelter, emergency
24 shelter, and services to youth in Jersey City.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. GAZON: I would like to call up
2 Stacy Hutsell from Act Now.

3 STACY HUTSELL: Hi everyone. My name
4 is Stacy Hutsell and I'm the program director at Act
5 Now Foundation. I'm here today on behalf of our
6 senior and our aging community here in Jersey City.

7 Our resource center supports programs
8 that affects these individuals, specifically those
9 with problems with dementia. We provide a resource
10 center where they can come and get information, get
11 referrals. Most of our clients are facing poverty,
12 if not extreme poverty. They are part of minority
13 groups and are underserved.

14 So we are here today, as Christine
15 mentioned, to ask for funding for services and an
16 expansion of the building. So we hope that you can
17 support that cause. Alzheimer's is one of those
18 diseases, as Christine said, which is an epidemic.
19 Unfortunately, it will bankrupt Medicare and
20 Medicaid in the upcoming years, as our baby boomers
21 age. So please give that some consideration. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. GAZON: Okay. So for the next
24 speaker, let me make sure everything is in order. I
25 am going to call up -- I don't have a name so please

1 when you come up -- Hudson County Casa. I don't
2 have a name on the card so will whomever comes up
3 have please state their name for the stenographer.
4 Thank you very much.

5 BEVERLY SAVAGE: Hi. My name is
6 Beverly Savage. I'm executive director of Hudson
7 County CASA. We are part of a national
8 organization. CASA stands for Court Appointed
9 Special Advocates. And recruit and train volunteers
10 who represent foster children in the court system.
11 And our goal is a safe and permanent home for each
12 child.

13 Last year we served 221 children and
14 we had 52 permanent homes among them. There is a
15 great need in Jersey City. I think many of you know
16 the connection between homelessness and foster
17 youth. Children who do not find a home or a place
18 to land before they go out of foster care are likely
19 to become homeless.

20 In fact, 80 percent of the teenage
21 population were in foster care. I believe there's a
22 connection to 60 percent of the homeless families
23 that at one time in their life someone has been in
24 foster care. So this is something that really can
25 mark a child for the rest of his or her life and his

1 family.

2 I want to thank Carmen and everyone at
3 Community Development. You have been a tremendous
4 supporter of our organization. We work with the
5 most serious cases of neglect and abuse referred by
6 the court. And we tried very hard to do the best
7 for these children.

8 The funding we've received in
9 Community Block Development grants have given our
10 organization stability over the years and we are
11 able to do more and more. Last year we sent 77
12 children to camp from monies we raised privately.
13 There's so much need here in Jersey City and we see
14 it all.

15 Some very, very tragic cases but also
16 many cases of children really having a bright future
17 because people have volunteered to help them. We
18 had 5,300 volunteer hours of time last year donated
19 to helping these kids. So thank you everyone at
20 Community Development for your help.

21 MS. GAZON: Beverly, thank you. Very
22 much I would like to take a moment to recognize our
23 Counsel President At Large Rolando Lavarro. Please
24 give him a round of applause. Thank you very much.

25 Counsel president, if you want to say

1 a few words to address the crowd.

2 ROLANDO LAVARRO: Sure.

3 MS. GAZON: Thank you. This is the
4 public hearing portion. Would you like to speak on
5 the record.

6 ROLANDO LAVARRO: Yes, on the record.

7 MS. GAZON: All right. State your
8 name for the record for the stenographer. You have
9 10 minutes.

10 (Laughter.)

11 ROLANDO LAVARRO: Good afternoon.
12 I'll be brief and actually I will just -- I will
13 follow up with this, with some formal comments in
14 writing and to share my thoughts on kind of our
15 funding and prioritization of funding here for
16 Jersey City.

17 A couple of things I wanted to bring
18 to the attention of the Division of Community
19 Development, particularly two things, immigration
20 related matters, immigrant communities.

21 And so we see the challenges with the
22 current administration in Washington, D.C., some of
23 the challenges in the process of doing outreach with
24 various communities about our office of welcoming
25 communities here in Jersey City which services

1 immigrant communities in Jersey City, which has
2 staff of two in the city, that there's a need for
3 additional resources to be able to support our
4 communities.

5 Jersey City is the most diverse city
6 in the entire nation, with over 40 percent being
7 foreign born. And when we look at that spectrum of
8 that community, a large number low income
9 communities within the HUD guidelines around that.

10 And beyond kind of the immigration
11 related issues, the issues of social services, human
12 services to support these communities and the need
13 for additional funding supports to be able to do
14 that.

15 And if you look at today's list of
16 CDBG public service grants, there are very few to
17 little dollars allocated towards that effort.

18 The second thing I think with all of
19 the great development and we see all the development
20 going on in Jersey City, the unemployment rate
21 dropping, at the same time the pressures of
22 gentrification and displacement are rising and the
23 fear of an anxiety for members of our community here
24 in Jersey City are rising with that.

25 I get numerous requests for assistance

1 with housing placement and affordable housing
2 situations, and so the need for housing navigators
3 to be able to assist Jersey City residents and being
4 able to find affordable housing placements.

5 I can probably come up with a couple
6 of other things but I only have two minutes.

7 MS. GAZON: If you want to go off the
8 record.

9 ROLANDO LAVARRO: Sure.

10 MS. GAZON: This is your public
11 hearing I know the counsel president is very, you
12 know, keen to hearing your voices, but if you want
13 to hear him speak I think we should allow him.

14 ROLANDO LAVARRO: I'll mention one
15 more thing. Just recently the Mayor and the Jersey
16 City Economic Development Corporation released the
17 middle skills report. And so the middle skills
18 report identified a couple of industries,
19 transportation, logistical distribution and business
20 administration backroom operation type where there's
21 a growing demand and the need for us to kind of
22 create pipelines and to connect the kind of programs
23 and services that are out there.

24 So if we can allocate funding that's
25 more targeted and focused on achieving and

1 connecting people with those pipelines and being
2 able to access the jobs of tomorrow in that regard.

3 So those three things. I'm sure I
4 will come up with some more and I will be happy to
5 share that with you.

6 MS. GAZON: Thank you counsel
7 president.

8 ROLANDO LAVARRO: Thank you very much.
9 (Clapping.)

10 MS. GAZON: Roberto Clemente Little
11 League. No name, but please when you come up to the
12 microphone state your name for the record and then
13 you can begin speaking.

14 NELSON ESTRAMERA: Hello everyone. My
15 name is Nelson Estramera. I'm the president of
16 Roberto Clemente Little League. This league has
17 been going on for over 40 years in Downtown Jersey
18 City. I was born and raised in Jersey City. I
19 played in the Roberto Clemente Little League. I
20 coached in the Roberto Clemente Little League and
21 now I'm president of the Roberto Clemente Little
22 League.

23 We've been serving up grants with CDBG
24 for eight years. The last three years, well, the
25 last two years we haven't received any funding and

1 it's been challenge for us. We have a staff of
2 eight and we are all volunteers. And it has been
3 really tough. We serve close to 800 kids every
4 year.

5 So I'm just stating my -- it is
6 emotional for me because these kids look forward to
7 this. They look forward to April coming up. We
8 have baseball. We have Roberto Clemente. We have
9 our friends. We have our coaches. It's a big
10 family. Anybody who comes in is part of our family.

11 Like I said, it's been a challenge and
12 I hope that in the future we can get granted some
13 funding because it has been a real challenge, like I
14 said before.

15 I want to thank everybody for coming
16 down here. I want to thank all the members and
17 hopefully we can look forward to getting some
18 granting and funding for them. Thank you.

19 (Clapping.)

20 MS. GAZON: Carlos Morales from Garden
21 State Episcopal.

22 CARLOS MORALES: Good afternoon. I'm
23 Carlos Morales from Garden State Episcopal. And so
24 first of all I want to thank Carmen and her staff.
25 They have been true partners and I'm very supportive

1 of our mission. And we welcome the ongoing
2 partnership because it's critical to our work.

3 So Garden State Episcopal is a
4 community building affordable housing developer
5 focusing on the Greenville neighborhood. And What I
6 want to keep advocating for is to keep supporting
7 our mission of building affordable housing and
8 redeveloping foreclosed and abandon homes,
9 specifically -- especially in Greenville where
10 there's such critical mass.

11 So we are dealing with a few issues.
12 I mean, we are dealing with abandonment and blight
13 but also we are trying to convert these vacant units
14 into affordable housing opportunities for low and
15 moderate income families.

16 And especially, since our
17 Councilperson just mentioned, gentrification find is
18 a real issue. So we want to just mention that, keep
19 it on the forefront, keep it as part of, you know,
20 one of the major issues and strategies that the
21 staff and that the plan will keep focusing on.

22 So that's what I wanted to say. Thank
23 you very much.

24 MS. GAZON: Joseph Williams from
25 Jackie Robinson Little League.

1 JOSEPH WILLIAMS: Yeah.

2 MS. GAZON: Okay. Thank you.

3 JOSEPH WILLIAMS: Hello everyone. My
4 name is Joseph Williams. I'm from the Jackie
5 Robinson Little League. So like the person before
6 me, Nelson, asked for funding for baseball we
7 actually don't just teach the game of baseball. We
8 actually teach teamwork, people to -- little kids to
9 have ownership of what they do, you know. We
10 actually have mentors that mentor the kid because we
11 actually -- my league is from the Greenville side.
12 So we actually need that within our league.

13 So we try to keep the kids on the good
14 side, you know. We teach them not to keep attitude,
15 not to actually, you know, fight first, you know, to
16 try to understand what's going on around them. So
17 we don't just teach baseball.

18 So I'm up here asking for funding for
19 the Jackie Robinson Little League. Thank you.

20 (Clapping.)

21 MS. GAZON: Okay. Thank you. So John
22 Brunn. I hope I have said that correctly, from the
23 from Washington Park Little League. Come on up,
24 sir.

25 JOHN BRUNN: Good afternoon. This is

1 my first time doing this. I'm from Washington Park
2 Little League. My name is John Brunn. All right.
3 My concern is that the Community Block Development
4 Grant, we usually get a check every year so we can
5 start up our little league. Apparently this year we
6 are not getting our Community Block Development
7 Grant. Apparently they are awarding the money to
8 recreation, but it's on hold. If we don't get our
9 checks like we get to start up our league, I don't
10 think we can get our charter or we can get a down
11 payment for our uniforms to start it.

12 We have over 500, almost 600 kids in
13 our program. If we don't get the check we might
14 fold. That's 500 kids out in the street. So my
15 concern is that I wish somebody would hurry up and
16 get us the money, us and the other four little
17 leagues in Jersey City. We all need the money. If
18 they are going to procrastinate they are going to
19 hurt these five little leagues. And all of these
20 kids are going to be out in the street. That's my
21 -- and I wish the parents would stand up and start
22 pushing the agenda so we can get the kids off the
23 street.

24 I've been there many, many years. I'm
25 only there for the kids. So, please, everybody

1 voice to the City Council and to Community Block
2 Development Grant. Thank you.

3 (Clapping.)

4 MS. GAZON: So Wendy Clark. And, I'm
5 sorry, I can't really read the organization. So if
6 you say that when you come up that would be great.
7 Wendy Clark.

8 WENDY CLARK. Hi. My name is Wendy
9 Clark. I'm the community liaison and the community
10 director, community relations director for Love of
11 Jesus Family Church. Within the church based
12 organization we have several organizations, several
13 departments in the organization for the community.
14 We have Civil Advocacy Coalition. We also have
15 Carriers of the Cross. And we have A Hand Extended.

16 So what these organizations do is we
17 provide several programs. One of our most
18 successful programs that we had was our Transitional
19 Housing Program. And we were able to rehabilitate
20 homeless families and individuals who had suffered
21 from prior drug abuse, maybe poverty or low income
22 circumstances that led them to lesser, unfortunate
23 circumstances where they had no housing and they
24 were displaced.

25 So we were able to provide and they

1 were able to move on successfully. I mean, during
2 my time here I was able to see some really
3 remarkable life changes because we are here to
4 improve the quality of life, so I thank God for
5 that. And we do it also through spiritual faith
6 therapy. That's why it's called Love of Jesus so we
7 are major into expressing the love of Jesus and
8 loving on the people in the community.

9 But we've seen some really radical
10 changes where drug dealers that were literal
11 dangerous drug dealers came into our facilities, you
12 know, asking for help. And their lives were
13 literally changed. Some of them were broken down to
14 their lowest point where they realized -- because,
15 you know, everyone knows that you are not going to
16 be doing this forever. They don't realize it.
17 There's always a breaking point where you can't do
18 this stuff any more.

19 So some of them were vulnerable and
20 scared for their lives and looking for where can
21 they get that. And now -- some of them are now
22 leading ministries. Some of them have businesses.
23 Some of them have college degrees because we were
24 able to house them.

25 So we and the to continue that process

1 because we are self-funded we've had fundraisers.
2 So we want to get continued help to continue the
3 large programs we do. And we have fed prisoners.
4 So we still have prisoners that we help. Okay. Be
5 blessed everyone. Thank you.

6 (Clapping.)

7 MS. GAZON: Thank you very much. I
8 really do apologize, but it is two minutes per
9 speaker and we have to be very mindful of that.
10 Everyone needs to get an opportunity to speak and,
11 you know, we have the room for a limited time. So I
12 want to do give everyone an opportunity.

13 So I apologize if I have to be the
14 heavy over here with the time. We have a timekeeper
15 and I will try to give you a 10-second warning to
16 let you know that it's wrapping up, okay.

17 My neck speaker is Telissa, Telissa
18 Dowling.

19 TELISSA DOWLING: Yes. Hello
20 everybody. For those that don't know me, my name is
21 Telissa Dowling, born and raised in Hudson County
22 and I'm an advocate. I'm with a number of
23 organization. I'm just coming as a resident of
24 Jersey City.

25 Thank and you for the Alzheimer's. My

1 grandmother is 84 and do I know firsthand what we do
2 need for that. And we do need more funding for that
3 because I haven't seen that over the years. I know
4 about the consolidated plan. We got the
5 gentrification going on. I questioned about the
6 home dollars not being used, because on the Federal
7 level you could use some of those home dollars if
8 you are not using rehabbing housing for rental
9 systems, so I would like to request more dollars for
10 the rental systems.

11 So I would like to see more funding
12 for rapid rehousing dollars. Because of the fact
13 that we got the re-val that's about to come up and
14 we are going to have a lot more people losing their
15 homes because they can't handle the new taxes that's
16 going to go across the city and we got to get ready
17 for that wave that's coming through. So we
18 definitely need more dollars and more outreach
19 dollars to get the word out in the community where
20 to go and how to get the help.

21 We also need more dollars for economic
22 development because we do want people to be able to
23 work and stay here. We have a lot of people that
24 lived here with the blight -- the blightness that
25 was going on throughout the city. But right now the

1 Housing Authority is under attack and they can't get
2 access to these dollars. So we need more economic
3 development dollars to help offset those families
4 that are being pushed out of public housing.

5 Because you go downtown to 16th
6 Street. There are major developments around that
7 and encroaching. That's one of our largest homeless
8 shelters, St. Lucy's. They are offering millions
9 and millions of dollars to shut down to purchase
10 that property so where are our people going to go.
11 We have to get prepared for that.

12 And I do know there's limiting funding
13 coming in but we have to be more targeted in a sense
14 that we want people to stay in place here in Jersey
15 City. We lived through the worst of time and we
16 earned the right to stay here through the best of
17 times that's coming.

18 And I would like to see some more work
19 and some more money for the CBDG, not only for
20 recreation -- okay. I didn't know what was going on
21 with the baseball, but I am going to get the word
22 out to the parents and may have been we can start
23 frying some chicken and making we can start raising
24 some dollars for the baseball team because I didn't
25 know. I really don't know.

1 (Clapping.)

2 MS. GAZON: Thank you. All right. So
3 I don't have a name on this card but the Waterfront
4 Project. Is somebody here from the Waterfront
5 Project.

6 DINAH HENDON: I am.

7 MS. GAZON: Just please state your
8 name for the record.

9 DINAH HENDON: Okay. Hi. My name is
10 Dinah Hendon, D-i-n-a-h. I'm the executive director
11 of the Waterfront Project. The mission of the
12 Waterfront Project is to assist Hudson County's
13 economically disadvantaged individuals and families,
14 the working poor, seniors, veterans, and people with
15 disabilities by providing information, advice and
16 pro bono representation, working to ensure fair and
17 equal access to the New Jersey justice system.

18 We already received funding from
19 Jersey City and we are so appreciative, Carmen, you
20 and your staff, thank you. We have currently a pro
21 bono estate program working with low income seniors
22 in the senior housing buildings throughout the
23 county, where we travel to the senior buildings, do
24 presentations on the importance of having a will,
25 health care directive, power of attorney, take

1 intakes from those seniors, bring them back to our
2 office, do telephone consultations and go back --
3 and travel back to them so that they do not have to
4 travel.

5 We have funding from the county to do
6 this work. We do not have funding from Jersey City
7 to do this work. We really, really would like
8 funding from Jersey City to expand that pro bono
9 estate planning program.

10 We also have a housing counselling
11 program where we have -- we are a certified -- we
12 are a HUD certified housing counselling center, the
13 only one located here in Jersey City. Currently we
14 do tenancy counseling. It is an absolute natural,
15 and beneficial, and valuable compliment to that
16 tenancy program to be able to do financial
17 counseling with those tenants.

18 Currently an average one-bedroom
19 apartment in Jersey City is \$1,235 a month. A
20 person making minimum wage, \$8.38 an hour, would
21 have to work 113 hours -- a household would have to
22 work 113 hours to be able to afford that apartment.
23 52 percent of the renter-occupied households have an
24 income of less than \$50,000 in Jersey City. So most
25 of these households are spending more than 30

1 percent on their rent. That is a disaster
2 financially.

3 I just want to mention this
4 foreclosing counseling. You have nobody in Hudson
5 County located here in the county doing foreclosure
6 counseling and that is a much-needed service, almost
7 3000 foreclosures in Jersey City currently pending.
8 That's awful. Thank you.

9 (Clapping.)

10 MS. GAZON: Thank you very much.
11 Monica Aguilar from Action 21.

12 MONICA AGUILAR: Good afternoon
13 everyone. Thank you so much for all of the
14 information today. My name is Monica Aguilar,
15 A-g-u-i-l-a-r. I'm a director of Action 21. We are
16 a group of volunteers. This organization has been a
17 501c3 for 15 years. I've been a volunteer for the
18 past 9 years. All the volunteers and talented
19 members of the community sustain the organization.
20 We have not received funds and I'm here for that
21 today.

22 The way that we evaluate is going door
23 to door to evaluate the quality of life of the
24 families in the community. And then after that we
25 walk with them to solve the problems. And I was

1 taking some notes from the different organizations
2 here because that's how we go to the different
3 organizations to solve the problems. We look for
4 the solution. We don't just say, you know, we don't
5 -- we just take people to directly to where they
6 should be.

7 We help families with domestic
8 violence. First of all giving the training to
9 families about what domestic violence is. We teach
10 English as a second language, citizenship classes
11 and we also give art therapy to families because
12 during these times many of the immigrant families
13 are traumatized. Even though they are U.S. citizens
14 we still need to work with them so that way the
15 parents can be strong enough for the kids that they
16 are raising. And those are the kids in our future.

17 Besides that civics and morals,
18 history classes, reading, writing, motivational
19 seminars, meditation and relaxation. And we just
20 added music classes which will include guitar and
21 piano. And thank you so much.

22 (Clapping.)

23 MS. GAZON: I would like to call up
24 somebody from Rising Tide Capital. There is no name
25 on the card.

1 ALECIA DELIA: Thank you, Alecia Delia
2 from Rising Tide Capital. Hello. Thank you. I'm
3 excited to be here. Rising Tide Capital assists low
4 income entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses.
5 We started in Jersey City 12 years ago and we've
6 expanded.

7 Jersey City is where our hub is on
8 Martin Luther King Drive. We've supported 1800
9 entrepreneurs to date. About 700 are currently in
10 business, another 700 are starting their businesses.
11 We have classes through -- we have classes 4 in
12 Spanish and 12 in English -- I'm sorry, 4 in Spanish
13 of the 12 that we have. So we are growing in
14 Spanish as well as in English.

15 We want to thank Carmen and the team
16 for all of the funding that they've been able to
17 provide Rising Tide Capital throughout the years.
18 We know that in the climate that we are living in
19 supporting entrepreneurs, particularly in low income
20 communities, the talented men and women who dream
21 about starting and growing their businesses and need
22 the level of support that we can provide will
23 probably be more and more important.

24 We support women, victims of domestic
25 violence, immigrants, refugees and even the formally

1 incarcerated to start and grow business.

2 So, again, we are very grateful,
3 Carmen, and it's nice to see a room full of people
4 dedicated to Jersey City. Thank you.

5 (Clapping.)

6 MS. GAZON: Okay. Dominique Smith
7 from Living With a Purpose.

8 DOMINIQUE SMITH: Good afternoon
9 everyone. My name is Dominique Smith. I am not new
10 to Jersey City but definitely new to this process.
11 I'm advocating for funding for youth movement,
12 specifically in leadership development.

13 I, you know, grew up in Jersey City.
14 I went to Montclair State. I went to Rider
15 University to study organization leadership and
16 higher education. And having been a graduate of
17 County Prep High School I recognize across the
18 board, not even at County Prep but just everywhere
19 in Jersey City, there is a need for leadership
20 development in our curriculum.

21 I know that there is a desire to focus
22 on 21st Century redevelopment. I believe that that
23 is part of 21st Century development, understanding
24 of self, understanding of personal passion, goal
25 setting, decision making, what are ethics, what do I

1 want to do.

2 That whole entrepreneurial mindset
3 comes from understanding the inner self. And I need
4 to know that that is incorporated in our day-to-day
5 conversations. I tell everybody that I talk to A
6 square plus B square hasn't gotten me anywhere. I
7 have studied English, creative writing. I'm not an
8 author just yet, maybe eventually I will get
9 published, but I know that it's important for us to
10 know where we are going in order to know that we
11 need to have those internal discussions and
12 conversations with ourselves.

13 So I'm developing a curriculum. I'm a
14 speaker. So I want to I teach at Montclair State
15 University so I know what I'm talking about. I
16 promise. And I want to share that with our high
17 school youth in Jersey City. That's all.

18 (Clapping.)

19 MS. GAZON: So I want to call up Brian
20 Loughlin from Positive Impact.

21 BRIAN LOUGHLIN: Hi. I'm Brian
22 Loughlin, executive director of Positive Impact. We
23 are a very new non-profit community developer. We
24 hold the strong belief that not one -- that one size
25 does not fit all when it comes to affordable housing

1 here in Jersey City.

2 And so we are working with communities
3 and neighbors to build not just affordable housing
4 but housing that is affordable, and affordable to
5 all incomes and households of all types and sizes.

6 There are a few other people that came
7 up here earlier that very eloquently stated the
8 desperate need affordable housing in Jersey City. I
9 have actually come up here before and talked about
10 the desperate need affordable housing in Jersey
11 City.

12 I can't state enough how important the
13 public comment portion is to the continuation of
14 this funding whether you are interested in home, or
15 CDBG, or what have you. But if we don't get the
16 public in Jersey City to turn out and talk about how
17 important this funding is, whether it's for what we
18 are trying to do in terms of affordable housing or
19 what the Roberto Clemente league is trying to do in
20 terms of baseball, or any of the other groups that
21 are up here that are equally deserving and they
22 really have strong, strong, strong missions.

23 That funding is going to go where --
24 Ben Carson got appointed or confirmed yesterday.
25 And he did so in an administration where funding for

1 programs like everything we have heard talked about
2 is seriously, seriously in jeopardy.

3 So if you didn't come up here and say
4 anything pleasing fill out a card so you can come up
5 here and say something, because it's important that
6 you are on the record. And if you do come up here
7 and say something please go home and write a letter
8 to your congressman. Please go home and write a
9 letter to Ben Carson. Please go home and write a
10 letter to your governor.

11 It is extremely, extremely important
12 and I know I'm preaching to a very big choir, but go
13 tell your friends. Go tell your family. Otherwise
14 those seven things that were up there at the very
15 beginning of today, that seventh one is going to be
16 the only one we have to rely on, which is winning
17 the lottery. Thank you.

18 (Clapping.)

19 MS. GAZON: Okay. Layla Amirhamzeh.

20 LAYLA AMIRHAMZEH: My name is Layla
21 Amirhamzeh, A-m-i-r-h-a-m-z-e-h.

22 Good afternoon everyone. Again, my
23 name is Layla Amirhamzeh. I'm with the New Jersey
24 Citizen Action Education Fund. We are a statewide
25 non-profit organization that provides a variety of

1 free financial empowerment services across the
2 state, including HUD certified housing and
3 foreclosure counseling, financial education, free
4 health care enrollment assistance, free tax
5 preparation, and most recently as a result, due in
6 large part to the funding we received from the City,
7 we launched a new program, our financial coaching
8 program here in Jersey City, for Jersey City
9 residents.

10 And I do want to really echo a lot of
11 the things that everyone has said here today. There
12 is a huge need for free financial empowerment
13 programs and services. And our financial coaching
14 program is really an important compliment to the
15 affordable housing services that we've heard about
16 today as well as to the employment training and the
17 vocational training services that folks are
18 providing, because when the clients that we work
19 with are able to improve and take control of their
20 personal finances.

21 They in turn will increase their
22 opportunities to access better employment
23 opportunities, to access more affordable housing
24 opportunities and it will also obviously give them a
25 greater ability to access fair and affordable credit

1 and basic financial services.

2 So we are really hoping that with
3 additional -- or with renewed funding from the City
4 that well be able to expand our financial coaching
5 services. Right now we offer those services
6 primarily out of the Bethune Center. We would
7 really like to be able to expand those services to
8 partner with more agencies with those of you that
9 are here, so that we can even come on site to your
10 locations and provide those services directly to
11 your client.

12 So we thank you for the support and we
13 really hope that we can get some renewed funding.
14 And thanks, everyone here, for the great services
15 you provide.

16 (Clapping).

17 MS. GAZON: So as of right now this is
18 the last speaker on the list, Carmine Tabone, from
19 the Education Arts Team.

20 CARMINE TABONE: Carmine Tabone,
21 T-a-b-o-n-e.

22 Did you know that children from low
23 income families come to the age of six with
24 one-third the vocabulary, one third, of children
25 from families of professional parents, one-third.

1 And what are the effects; they are emotional, social
2 and academic. And it follows them throughout their
3 lives. That's why for 40 years Educational Arts has
4 been providing powerful, engaging, learning
5 activities for young people in Jersey City.

6 Thanks to these grants from you we've
7 been able to help thousands of low income youth,
8 develop language skills, get along with others,
9 succeed academically and imagine a more positive
10 future. Thank you.

11 (Clapping.)

12 MS. GAZON: This concludes the public
13 speaking portion, unless there's anyone else who
14 wants to go fill out a card and come on up. Do you
15 have a card? Bring it up. Thank you very much. Is
16 there anyone else? If there's anyone else that
17 would like to speak after this gentleman go out to
18 the table where you registered at the beginning of
19 the program, fill out a card and have a staff member
20 bring it back to me.

21 Oh. Okay. State your name for the
22 record, please.

23 MOSS ALLEN. Hi. My name is Moss,
24 M-o-s-s, Allen, A-l-l-e-n. I'm from the Hoboken
25 Shelter, a homeless shelter in Hoboken. And I'm

1 here to speak on behalf of the Emergency Solutions
2 Grant for Jersey City and for basically all of us.

3 We are in Hoboken but we have a
4 sizable percentage of people that come from Jersey
5 City. Homelessness is a problem in Jersey City, and
6 Hoboken, and Kearny, and Union City. It's pretty
7 much all over the county. And unfortunately,
8 there's not enough shelter beds for the amount of
9 homeless that we have.

10 The county estimates somewhere between
11 900 and 1000 homeless people in the county. There's
12 only -- there's only about -- not even 25 percent of
13 that, of shelter beds, distributed to Jersey City,
14 Hoboken and Union City.

15 So the Emergency Solutions Grant is
16 something that benefits everyone. It benefits
17 everyone in Jersey City but it is always shrinking
18 every year. So I'm going to state again that the
19 need is great. The need is great for shelter beds,
20 not only in Jersey City but also throughout the
21 county.

22 (Clapping.)

23 MS. GAZON: That absolutely concludes
24 the public portion speaking of the program. Carmen
25 is just going to say a few closing words before you

1 all go. Thank you again on behalf of myself and the
2 staff at Community Development and the work you all
3 do is really important and it's why I got into this
4 game. So thanks for coming.

5 (Clapping.)

6 MS. GANDULLA: Gigi Gazon is always a
7 community advocate you can always pick her up. She
8 has been going on, what, 16 years?

9 MS. GAZON: There is another speaker.

10 MS. GANDULLA: What? Is there another
11 speaker?

12 MS. GAZON: You got the hook. Sorry.
13 So Jewel Savvides from Suits For
14 Success. Did I pronounce that correctly?

15 JEWEL SAVVIDES: I get a lot of weird
16 pronunciations. You did well. It's J-e-w-e-l,
17 S-a-v-v-i-d-e-s.

18 Hi everyone. I'm Jewel Savvides. I'm
19 from Suits For Success. I am the professional
20 development officer there. And before I talk about
21 my organization, I would just like to say that the
22 HUD programs for affordable housing is a really
23 great program. My husband and I bought a house a
24 year ago on it. It is a beautiful house and it was
25 an incredibly economically viable decision for us.

1 And for so many people that are in Jersey City,
2 especially as economically unchallenged people move
3 in and drive up the cost of buying and renting it's
4 really important. So please fund that.

5 Okay. That being said, Suits For
6 Success, if nobody knows about it, what we provide
7 our community with is not just clothing. It is the
8 first and foremost thing we do. We do it for both
9 men and women. We provide interview suits and then
10 we provide a week's worth of clothing, that's how
11 our clients get their job, so that they can spend
12 their checks on their children, their bills, food
13 the more important things than their clothing.

14 We also provide a computer class that
15 we are trying to get money for. We are providing a
16 computer class so when people say they have
17 Microsoft Suite skills they actually mean it. We
18 are not providing it just for resumes. We are
19 providing it because these are skills that you need
20 to live nowadays. And that's especially important
21 to older communities, young communities, people who
22 need direction.

23 We provide professional development
24 skills. We are taking people who either have just
25 left a job, or been fired from a job, or people who

1 have not worked for years. And we are trying to
2 teach them to find confidence, and find focus, and
3 to go after what they really want, not just a job to
4 have a job but a job for financial stability in
5 their future. We are teaching them to go out there
6 and get a career. And so that's what we are hoping
7 for. Thank you.

8 (Clapping.)

9 MS. GAZON: So we actually have two
10 more speakers. I would like to call up Verna Sims
11 from the Lilly Pearl Foundation.

12 LILLY SIMS: Good evening Verna Sims,
13 Lilly Pearl Foundation. We are under the umbrella
14 of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, which
15 is sorority that was founded in Jersey City about 95
16 years ago.

17 We are all educators and the purpose
18 of our program is to feed hot dinner meals to after-
19 school children. So if you have any children in the
20 public school system they are probably receiving the
21 meals. So with more funding we would be able to
22 reach out to other children. Thank you.

23 (Clapping.)

24 MS. GAZON: Our next and so far final
25 speaker is Jim Nelson. Please come up. All right.

1 Thank you.

2 JIM NELSON: Jim Nelson, a veteran of
3 the Shank Place, but here more as a citizen to thank
4 you for what is happening. It's a process. Yes,
5 I'm active with Hunger Free Jersey City, but I think
6 what we recognize is that we need these
7 opportunities to get to know each other, so that as
8 we are better able to address Community Development,
9 in that philosophical and pragmatic spirit build a
10 collaboration so we can flush out what program
11 indicators need and yet how to meet the needs of our
12 neighbors.

13 And so the various networks that we
14 are cultivating, the kind of overlapping circles
15 between the city, the school district, the civil
16 space and other business partnerships will make and
17 break and enhance the quality of life.

18 So thank you, Carmen and the whole
19 team, for bringing us together. And I encourage all
20 of us to keep on networking formally and informally.
21 And that's it. Thank you. And the value of
22 community resource directory.

23 (Clapping).

24 GIGI GAZON: We have one more. One
25 more. I'm actually moving Denise to the back table

1 over here so we don't have to go all the way out.

2 If anybody else wants to speak, please feel free to
3 go to Denise.

4 So Deborah from the Astor Place
5 Neighbor Association, of Neighbor Association.

6 DEBORAH ALSTON: Okay. Thank you.

7 GIGI GAZON: Thank you.

8 DEBORAH ALSTON: Deborah, like
9 Deborah. Aston is A-s-t-o-n.

10 My name is Deborah Alston for Astor
11 Place Community Neighborhood Association. Community
12 garden has been existing for six years June 30th.

13 We have a garden that we feed the
14 community. We teach them gardening so they can feed
15 their family. A lot of children don't never
16 experience fresh corn, string beans, lima beans,
17 watermelon, kale.

18 Some of them don't know how to cook so
19 we encourage them to cook also fresh foods, but in
20 our community where we at it's not that many local
21 fresh produce in the neighborhood. It's so
22 important for our family to have fresh food, organic
23 fresh foods.

24 I was 180 pounds 6 years ago. I went
25 down to 110 and my doctor encouraged me to put a

1 little bit more weight back on. I didn't plan to
2 lose weight. It just happened because you eat your
3 way through the garden. Because we had like five
4 different variety of tomatoes, different mint. I
5 didn't know it was chocolate mint. I didn't know
6 there was chocolate the name of a mint, orange mint,
7 peppermint, spearmint. I didn't know there were
8 different variety of tomatoes. I have acid reflux.
9 Since I've been eating fresh, organic tomatoes it
10 doesn't bother me like it used to.

11 So eating healthy, it's so important
12 for a community that we should go for eating
13 healthy.

14 (Clapping).

15 MS. GAZON: Thank you. So now we are
16 calling up -- is it BITE? Okay. Thank you. And
17 when you get up here please state your name, okay?

18 ALIMA WATSON: Sure.

19 MS. GAZON: Okay. Thank you.

20 ALIMA WATSON: Good evening -- good
21 afternoon everyone. Alima Watson from BITE, Black
22 Interest Team Enterprise. I come from a family of
23 leaders, my father being a predominant community
24 leader, Robert Watson, Elnora Watson, the president
25 of the Urban League of Hudson County. And she

1 cofounded BITE three years ago to develop leadership
2 within or community, as far as ownership and think
3 tank development. BITE is new. It's only three
4 years old right now. And we are interested in
5 creating leadership as much as anyone here. I'm a
6 little nervous because I'm on the spot right now.

7 So, like I said, this is community
8 leadership, ownership and getting our community some
9 sense of, I don't know, pride. And what we -- being
10 from Jersey City, you know, coming up as young
11 leaders in the community.

12 I feel like I'm all over the place.
13 So Black Interest Team Enterprise, BITE, located in
14 Journal Square, developing leadership and ownership
15 in the community. Thank you.

16 (Clapping.)

17 MS. GAZON: Anybody else? Okay. That
18 concludes this.

19 MS. GANDULLA: All right, guys. It's
20 10 minutes to 5. Thank you for spending your
21 afternoon with us. Thank you for providing public
22 comment. Like Brian said. This is important. This
23 is a really critical, important part. And in
24 designing this in the last two years and getting
25 public comment, my first year I had my first public

1 comment, public hearing, and I think I had two
2 people show up. I had to write the strategic plan
3 and said we have to do it again.

4 And so this year I heard people saying
5 wait. You are having your technical assistance and
6 your public comment all at the same time. Yes, I
7 am, because I need to be strategic and planning in
8 getting comments for this plan, on these annual
9 plans, because it is important, because when you are
10 facing the ability of being de-funded, being cut in
11 half, it's very critical.

12 Like I said before, you guys are a
13 special group of people to want to work in this
14 space. Not everyone does it. And, you know, for me
15 two weeks ago I had to bury my cousin in Trenton,
16 New Jersey, 30 years old and died of a heroin
17 addiction.

18 So I've been kind of sort of
19 navigating my cousins and my family through this
20 space in Trenton and connecting with people. And
21 knowing I do this up here professionally. On a
22 day-to-day so thank you. I wish you well. If you
23 have any questions or need any assistance please
24 call my office and we will see you in a couple
25 months. Thank you.

1 (Clapping.)

2 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

3

4 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded

5 at 4:52 p.m.)

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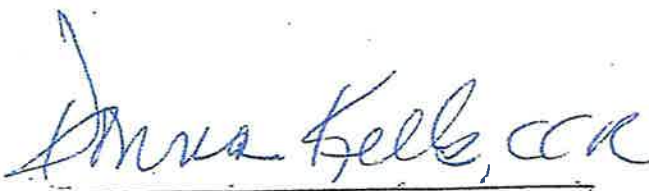
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1
2 C E R T I F I C A T E
3

4 I, DONNA KELLS, a Certified
5 Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of
6 New Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true
7 and accurate transcript of the stenographic
8 notes of the deposition of said witness who was
9 first duly sworn by me, on the date and place
10 hereinbefore set forth.

11 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
12 attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or
13 employed by, any of the parties to the action in
14 which this deposition was taken, and further
15 that I am not a relative or employee of any
16 attorney or counsel in this case, nor am I
17 financially interested in this case.
18
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City Hall Council Chambers – 280 Grove Street 2nd Floor, Jersey City, NJ 07305

Monday, April 17, 2017 – 5:00 - 8:00 PM

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BEVERLY	BELL	201-275-6659		11

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Myra	Lopez			
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Sarah	Fishtein	sarah@percshelter.org		
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Marielle	Boswell	billiardsbroad64@gmail.com	NO	
Teresa	Lyon	teresa@educationalartsteam.org	✓	
Angelina Lirio		—		

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CITY OF JERSEY CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCE
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

PUBLIC HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF

PROCEEDINGS

ORIGINAL

City of Jersey City Municipal Council

280 Grove Street

Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

April 17, 2017

SCHULMAN, WIEGMANN & ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTERS

216 STELTON ROAD

SUITE C-1

PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY 08854

(732) - 752 - 7800

1 B E F O R E:

2

3 CARMEN GANGULLA, Director

4 GIGI GAZON, Assistant Director

5 RODNEY HAIRSTON, Real Estate Officer

6 ANGELA RUSSO, Program Analyst

7 GOLDA SPEYER, Project Manager

8

9 TRACEY R. SZCZUBELEK, C.C.R.

10 LICENSE NO. XIO1983

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1 MS. GAZON: Good evening, Everybody.
2 Okay. Got some kick in it. All right. Welcome to
3 City Hall. My name is Gigi Gazon. I am the
4 assistant director for Division of Community
5 Development for the City of Jersey City. We are a
6 division within the Department of Housing, Economic
7 Development and Commerce. Our director is Anthony
8 Cruz. And also on behalf of Mayor Steven Fulop we
9 welcome you here to City Hall for this public
10 hearing.

11 Just little bit about Division of
12 Community Development. If you don't already know,
13 we work in partnership with a wide range of public
14 agencies and nonprofit organizations and developers.
15 And we provide vital community programs, and we help
16 to develop affordable housing opportunities for
17 residents of Jersey City. And we are responsible
18 for administering Federal grant programs funded by
19 the Department of Housing & Urban Development,
20 lovingly referred to as HUD. We also assist in
21 managing Jersey City's Affordable Housing Trust
22 Fund, which is a municipal fund. But that also
23 plays a key role in establishing and setting up and
24 providing affordable housing to our residents.

25 So I just wanted to let you know that

1 for this hearing we are going to have our staff
2 people just give a brief presentation to talk a
3 little bit about our grants and just can go around
4 very specifically what this money is -- what the
5 mission of the money is, so that when you come up to
6 give your public comments, we are sort of speaking
7 all about the same thing and that we're all on the
8 same page.

9 In other words, if you are here
10 because you don't have stop signs on your corner or
11 something like that, that's not specifically what we
12 do. So our staff members here will give you two
13 brief presentations about our programs and the
14 funding and the services that are provided in those
15 plans.

16 I also would like to mention if
17 anybody here isn't English-proficient or needs
18 language services, I do speak Spanish. Our staff in
19 the front also speaks Spanish. So I can help with
20 Spanish interpretation. If there are any other
21 language needs, we will provide those languages on
22 the web site; and we can translate the materials
23 that will be available at our web site, which will
24 be in the Power Point presentation once it begins.

25 And with that I would like to bring

1 up my colleague Rodney Hairston. He is our real
2 estate agent. And he will kick off the
3 presentation. Thank you.

4 Rodney.

5 MR. HAIRSTON: First off, good
6 evening. Why is it important for public engagement?
7 Why is this necessary? So it is necessary because
8 it helps us to establish priorities for affordable
9 housing for our Community Development and Economic
10 Development on the Federal entitlement grants, our
11 Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment
12 Partnerships Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant and
13 final is Housing Opportunities for Persons With
14 AIDS.

15 What is the annual action plan? I'm
16 certain you have heard of that before. The annual
17 action plan is a strategic plan that provides yearly
18 summary of actions, activities and specific uses of
19 the City's Federal entitlement funds. It is
20 required every year on annual basis. It ensures the
21 City's -- that the City is implementing its
22 five-year consolidated plan goals.

23 The consolidated plan covers
24 April 1st, 2015 through March 31st, 2020. Annual
25 action plan also covers -- the annual action plan,

1 which is a yearly plan, covers April 1st, 2017
2 through March 31st, 2018.

3 What's -- now what's -- what are
4 contents of the annual action plan? It is an
5 assessment of housing needs. It is an assessment of
6 homeless needs. It has the annual goals and
7 objectives for the use of funds. Also, the eligible
8 activities to be undertaken beginning April 1st,
9 2017 through March 31st, 2018. That is our year.

10 The annual action plan programs,
11 which we talked about earlier, we have CDBG, HOME,
12 HOPWA, as well as ESG.

13 Now, some of the eligible activities
14 of the CDBG, housing rehabilitation, homeownership
15 assistance, public facilities and improvements,
16 blight removal, demolition, site preparation, code
17 enforcement, economic development, acquisition,
18 disposition of real property and also public
19 services.

20 CDBG public service -- services,
21 eligible activities, employment, crime prevention,
22 child care, health, drug abuse, education,
23 homelessness, energy conservation, recreation needs,
24 as well as youth services.

25 Under the HOME eligible activities,

1 we provide funding for homeownership assistance, as
2 well as for the creation of housing, be it rental or
3 homeownership.

4 Under the HOPWA program, eligible
5 activities, rental assistance for low-income persons
6 living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

7 Facility-based housing assistance. Supportive
8 services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

9 ESG eligible activities. Street
10 outreach to the homeless, emergency shelter
11 programs, rental assistance programs to prevent
12 homelessness or rapid rehousing -- for rehouse of
13 the homeless.

14 At this time the second part of our
15 presentation will be given by Angela Russo.

16 At this time would like to introduce
17 Angela Russo.

18 MS. RUSSO: Good evening. Great to
19 see so many faces after -- on Monday after a
20 holiday. We didn't expect this many, so thank you.

21 So before we open up to public
22 comment, as Rodney said, we are really going to be
23 hearing your public comment on our annual action
24 plan; but our annual action plan is what is --
25 ensures that we are meeting what we basically state

1 in our consolidated plan. So before I get begin,
2 open up to public comment, what I want to do is give
3 you an idea of the public comments and public
4 information that we did receive that is really kind
5 of a backbone to our consolidated plan. Then we
6 will open it up to the floor to hear from you guys.

7 So the strategic plan covering the
8 five years of the City -- we gathered that public
9 information throughout a variety of ways. One are
10 these public meetings. Also did one-on-one
11 interviews with key people in the City. We attended
12 several stakeholder meetings. And we also had a
13 City-ide on-line survey.

14 So, of course, because of how
15 assessable the on-line survey is, this is really a
16 bulk of where a lot of our input in the community
17 came. We received 971 responses. Ninety-one
18 percent were City residents. And they stated that
19 the highest needs for those who were low or moderate
20 income residents was to create more jobs, improve
21 nonprofit facilities, create more affordable housing
22 and improve City facilities.

23 The top five public facilities needs
24 that were identified were youth centers, educational
25 facilities, facilities for abused, abandoned and

1 neglected children, homeless facilities, parks and
2 recreation.

3 The five top infrastructure and
4 neighborhood improvement needs were, one, streets,
5 neighborhood cleanup, cleanup of contaminated sites,
6 sidewalk improvements, storm water and drainage
7 improvements.

8 And the top five public service needs
9 identified were youth services, emergency housing
10 assistance to prevent homelessness, crime awareness
11 prevention services, employment training services
12 and transportation services.

13 The five economic development needs
14 that were identified were financial assistance for
15 low moderate income business expansion and/or job
16 creation, storefront improvements to low or moderate
17 income neighborhoods, financial assistance for low
18 moderate income to create small businesses, public
19 improvements to commercial/industrial sites and
20 micro-enterprise assistance for business expansion.

21 The top five housing needs identified
22 were energy efficiency and sustainability
23 improvements, code enforcement activities within the
24 low and moderate income neighborhoods, increase
25 affordable rental housing inventory, permanent

1 housing for the homeless and housing for other
2 special needs.

3 The survey also gauged input
4 regarding housing discrimination that residents
5 have. About 15 percent reported housing
6 discrimination, and seven percent were unsure.
7 37 percent of discrimination incidents involved
8 rental apartment complexes. Fifty-two percent
9 reported discrimination based on race, and
10 50 percent reported that the landlord/property
11 manager as the one who -- who actually were -- who
12 discriminated. Again, this, of course, demonstrates
13 a need for fair housing education, outreach, testing
14 and enforcement.

15 So really, now, this is when we hear
16 from you to -- to makes sure that when our action
17 plan is being formed that we are meeting the needs
18 that we stated within our consolidated plan and,
19 also, if there are other priorities within the
20 neighborhood that aren't captured here that we
21 should be aware of. So really, it's about what do
22 you think are the most important needs in Jersey
23 City.

24 So the public hearing format is you
25 fill out the comment speaker cards. You should have

1 saw them when you were signing in. At any point if
2 you want to -- if you haven't written a card or
3 submitted it, you can go to the back and write one
4 out while we are giving comments. Just make sure
5 that -- when you do write, just make sure that you
6 submit it back out to the front, and then she'll
7 bring it back in to -- to make sure that your number
8 is called.

9 You will have two minutes to speak,
10 no more than two minutes. So as soon as your two
11 minutes is up, we will kindly ask you to -- to close
12 your comment. When you come up to the mic, please
13 say your name and spell your first and last name
14 clearly.

15 And if you need to leave before your
16 number is called, we are still receiving or taking
17 comments at the e-mail that is listed up there. So
18 JCC-Plan@jcnc.org.

19 MS. GAZON: Check one, two. Before
20 we begin I just want to double-check. Did anyone at
21 least not catch the instructions for the public
22 speaking that needs me to translate the instructions
23 into Spanish.

24 (Whereupon, a Spanish translation is
25 given.)

1 MS. GAZON: I'm sorry, I don't speak
2 any other language. Is there anyone else who needs
3 another language spoken? We can jot it down, get
4 contact information and send that information back
5 out there. Anybody else?

6 Okay. With that I will begin. I
7 will call your name up.

8 And again, we'll leave these
9 instructions up so that you know how -- what we
10 would like to do.

11 So can I get Paula Mirk -- I hope
12 that's correct -- from New Jersey Citizen Action.

13 MS. MIRK: Thank you. Thanks for the
14 opportunity. I am addressing you -- all right?

15 MS. GAZON: Yes, that's fine.

16 MS. MIRK: So my name is Paula Mirk.
17 It's spelled P-a-u-l-a M-i-r-k. And I'm with New
18 Jersey Citizen Action, a nonprofit organization.
19 And I'm here to speak in support of our financial
20 coaching program. I'm a financial coach with them.
21 And we were fortunate to receive funding to initiate
22 this service in 2016, and we are looking to continue
23 and expand our services in 2017.

24 Our financial coaching services are
25 one-on-one, confidential and free. We serve low and

1 moderate income consumers at a number of locations
2 in Jersey City. And we work with people to evaluate
3 their financial situation, help them establish new
4 financial practices, then support and maintain those
5 practices over time.

6 Financial literacy increases people's
7 knowledge with money and how it works. We work
8 alongside people one-on-one as they put that
9 knowledge into practice and develop the habits to
10 sustain those practices.

11 I can tell you from the people that
12 I've been working with that this is really
13 potentially life-changing work. I have had many
14 individuals I'm working with in the past few months
15 who are setting aside money for the first time in
16 their lives, dealing with student loans that they
17 were far behind on and understanding their credit
18 score and how to improve it. In the past year we
19 have been able to work with a number of great
20 organizations here in Jersey City, collaborating to
21 reach their constituents, offering our services
22 sometimes at their locations and we're very much
23 looking forward to continuing to offer these
24 services and to continue to grow this program.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. GAZON: Thank you. Thank you
2 very much.

3 Folks, I would please like to remind
4 you, please silence your cell phones. And if you do
5 need to take a call, kindly step out of the
6 chambers, so everyone can hear the public comments
7 and so that our stenographer's hearing is not
8 impeded by your conversation de.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is it okay that we
10 can videotape this session or no?

11 MS. GAZON: I don't think that's a
12 problem.

13 Carmen, can you tell --

14 Okay. That's fine.

15 Our next speaker is Kristine Allen
16 from the Act Now Foundation.

17 MS. ALLEN: I'm a little tall here.
18 Hi. I am Christine Allen from Act Now Foundation.
19 K-r-i-s-t-i-n-e. Allen, A-l-l-e-n.

20 So Act Now Foundation is an
21 Alzheimer's resource center. We are a 501(c)(3)
22 nonprofit organization that provides support,
23 education, evaluations, testing and resources for
24 families who are struggling through Alzheimer's
25 disease or any related dementia.

1 But I am here to tell you guys that,
2 if you might not know, Hudson County actually has
3 the fourth highest rate of seniors in the country
4 living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.
5 The fourth highest rate in the entire country. And
6 actually, 50 percent of the seniors are walking
7 around with undiagnosed dementia.

8 So what does that mean? They are
9 receiving no support, no treatment, no financial
10 planning, no education about a disease that will
11 unfortunately end their life. So Act Now Foundation
12 is here to provide a program that we have so --
13 hopefully -- requested funding from CDBG for a
14 program called the Alzheimer's Care Project. And
15 it's aging-in-place care management. It is a
16 four-pronged program that provides assessment, which
17 is treatment and diagnosis, the treatment part,
18 support, education and legal, financial planning.

19 Basically the program is meant to be
20 with the senior citizen from the moment they are
21 diagnosed all the way through to end of life. It's
22 a way for -- the ultimate goal of the program is to
23 hopefully increase the quality of life with our
24 seniors living with dementia and improve the maximum
25 amount of independence.

1 Our goal is to keep our seniors
2 living at home for as long as we possibly can, even
3 with a cognitive decline. And that means that they
4 need support, they need a national treatment plan
5 because most of them are going undiagnosed because
6 doctors are not diagnosing, as well, and a whole
7 support system. And we are there for them to
8 provide the resources and the evaluations, testing.

9 Thank you very much. We kindly ask
10 for your help with our program. Thank you.

11 MS. GAZON: Our next speaker is Stacy
12 Hutsell, also from the Act Now Foundation.

13 MS. HUTSELL: Good evening, Everyone.
14 My name is Stacy Hutsell. That's s-t-a-c-y
15 H-u-t-s-e-l-l. And I'm here to reiterate what
16 Kristine said about Alzheimer's disease. It's one
17 of those things on the macro level that will
18 bankrupt Medicare and Medicaid, our benefit programs
19 that today help low income and moderate income
20 individuals.

21 That's our focus. That's where we
22 spend our time. That's where we are in the
23 community, helping these individuals.

24 On a micro level Alzheimer's can
25 destroy families financially with a lot of financial

1 burden. The cost of care is extreme. It's not
2 getting any better. It's particularly terrible in
3 this part of the country and in our county. So our
4 plea to you is to help -- help us provide new
5 services, so we can help stop this cycle of poverty
6 that's compounded by diseases like Alzheimer's.

7 MS. GAZON: Next speaker, George
8 Rodriguez from Cornerstone.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: How are you doing?

10 MS. GAZON: Hi.

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Well, I didn't know
12 that I have to do this; but I'm not going to speech,
13 public comment. I'm from North Bergen, but I got
14 HIV -- oh, my name?

15 MS. GAZON: Yeah, say your name and
16 spell it.

17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: George Rodriguez,
18 G-e-o-r-g-e R-o-d-r-i-g-u-e-z. I don't know what to
19 say, but since 1997 -- since 1997 I got that, you
20 know, HIV. I lost a sister with that and -- and
21 I -- Cornerstone is paying part of my rent. And I
22 was on the waiting list for housing for seven years.
23 And that's what I looking for. And, you know, I
24 need some help, so -- I can't afford to pay my rent.
25 Wintertime my house get cold. And I am looking for

1 housing for seven years, and I still waiting on
2 waiting list. Thank you for -- thank you. I got
3 no -- I don't know what to say. I wasn't -- I
4 wasn't prepared -- I wasn't prepared for this, you
5 know.

6 MS. GAZON: Okay.

7 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I didn't know that I
8 have to speak out on this. I got a little shy. You
9 know what I'm saying? Only help I got now is
10 Cornerstone, you know.

11 MS. GAZON: Okay.

12 MR. RODRIGUEZ: They told me to come
13 here. So I didn't know I have to do this. Okay.

14 MS. GAZON: All right. Thank you
15 very much.

16 All right. Before I call up the next
17 speaker, you don't have to feel obligated to take
18 two minutes. And if you are a member of the
19 community and not a professional, you know, service
20 provider or anything like that, please don't be
21 ashamed. These dollars are for the community.
22 These dollars are to help you. So tell us about
23 your needs. We need to hear from you, particularly
24 members of the community who are not professional
25 service providers. It's very important that we

1 understand where your critical needs are, where
2 the -- where the gaps are, where the money may be
3 falling through the cracks and not getting to you.

4 So don't feel obligated to be
5 polished or to feel like you need to take up the
6 full two minutes. If it's something brief and just
7 something you want us to know about a need that's
8 not being met, please go ahead; and that's fine.
9 Don't be embarrassed at all.

10 (Whereupon, a Spanish translation is
11 given.)

12 MS. GAZON: So thank you very much.
13 I just wanted to put everyone at ease.

14 I am going to call up the next
15 speaker. So I don't have a name. Just says,
16 "Garden State Episcopal CDC." Is there a member of
17 Garden State that's coming to speak? I don't have a
18 name on here.

19 Okay. All right. So please state
20 your name and spell it.

21 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Gabriel,
22 G-a-b-r-i-e-l, Concepcion. I broke down the agency.
23 Garden State. I go to work for Garden State. I
24 work for PERC shelter, Union City. I worked for
25 Garden State as a -- in the outreach program.

1 The -- the outreach program has been very, very
2 important in terms of getting people, especially in
3 the winter months, getting them to the warming
4 center, making sure that we are making contact with
5 people, making sure they are not in the street.

6 At PERC shelter we do about -- I
7 think it's 38, 39 percent come from Jersey City. I
8 started there about four years ago. Our numbers
9 have more than doubled, so the need is very great in
10 terms of funding, our shelter and funding the
11 outreach program and the various programs in Garden
12 State, as well, so that we can continue getting
13 people into the shelter, getting people into those
14 different programs, different agencies, get them in
15 touch with the -- the help that they need. So we do
16 need that money. So thank you.

17 MS. GAZON: Our next speaker is
18 Timothy Grant.

19 MR. GRANT: Hi. My name is Timothy
20 Grant, T-i-m-o-t-h-y G-r-a-n-t. I'm homeless.
21 Thank God for the shelters. Thank God for PERC
22 because they opened the door for me and my wife.
23 They took us off the street. I wanted to assist us
24 to get a better life for ourself, to be that
25 productive member of society. I'm homeless, but I

1 don't have to look homeless.

2 And I thank God for 514 PERC program
3 that will assist me because it's like the first
4 step. It's a step to help me get my life together.
5 And I appreciate what they stand for. And you know
6 and I know they need funding. Please, I'm begging
7 you. Because if it wasn't for them, tear drop away
8 from being in a cardboard box. We need affordable
9 housing. And thank God that we have shelters we can
10 go to. And know what the true definition of a
11 shelter means and what it represents. And thank God
12 for the people with these organizations and
13 everything else which try to help us. And I would
14 like to thank you for your time. Thank you.

15 MS. GAZON: Thank you. Next speaker
16 is Christina Gozzer. I hope that was correct.

17 MS. GOZZER: Hello. My name is
18 Christina Gozzer. C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-a, Gozzer,
19 G-o-z-z-e-r. And I am also homeless at PERC
20 shelter. I'm nervous, sorry. This is my first time
21 speaking.

22 PERC shelter, they do good with the
23 funding that they have. It's a lot of like -- it's
24 a lot of like people that, you know, that they
25 house. And it's a lot of people -- besides that,

1 it's a lot of people on the street. And I think if
2 they have more funding, then they can do a lot more
3 things with housing people.

4 That's all I have to say. I'm sorry.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. GAZON: Our next speaker is, I
7 believe, David Piligian. I'm sorry for
8 mispronouncing your last name. You can correct me
9 when you come up here.

10 MR. PILIGIAN: Hi. My name is David
11 Piligian. D-a-v-i-d P-i-l-i-g-i-a-n.

12 MS. GAZON: Can you spell that slow
13 for the court reporter.

14 MR. PILIGIAN: Okay. Sorry. David
15 Piligian, D-a-v-i-d P-i-l-i-g-i-a-n. I am
16 originally from Massachusetts. I ended up being
17 stranded down here in December of 2002. I came down
18 with a roommate, and his sister from North Bergen
19 who took him in. And I was left homeless in my car.
20 And at the time I had a expired license from
21 Massachusetts. And I had lost my stuff in storage
22 in Massachusetts, so I had nothing. I had no money,
23 no job, no assets or anything, just my car, when I
24 first came down here.

25 And it was December of 2002. It was

1 extremely cold. And I was trying to find spots to
2 stay without being harassed with the police,
3 sleeping in my car. And eventually I had -- I ran
4 out of money; I couldn't run the heater in the car.
5 It was too cold, so I went into North Bergen Town
6 Hall and asked what I could do. They referred me to
7 North Hudson Community Action Corp. And North
8 Hudson Community Action Corp. referred me to the
9 PERC shelter and with Tom Harrigan.

10 And he -- and I went in there in
11 January of 2003, and they gave me a bed. So I was
12 very grateful for that. And I was there for a
13 couple months.

14 And then I moved to the St. Lucy's
15 shelter. Joe Ulicki was there. And eventually,
16 after I was at St. Lucy's for a couple months, I --
17 I -- they told me to apply for Welfare. And I got
18 accepted for Welfare and Food Stamps and then the
19 TRA program. And that was very nice because they
20 set me up in a housing for a year. The only
21 downside was that the dollar amount was kind of low
22 and you really couldn't get a decent -- decent, safe
23 housing because the funding was, you know, less than
24 600 bucks or 500 bucks a month back then.

25 So I ended up in a rooming house on

1 Academy Street. But unfortunately, most of the
2 clientele in there were either junkies or
3 crackheads. So it wasn't a very nice place to live.
4 But I did -- you know, I was there for a year or so.
5 Then I eventually I found -- at least
6 I found some -- oh, okay. I moved on to a friend's
7 house, then I got back on my feet again. And I was
8 living in the Heights for eight years. But
9 unfortunately, my roommate moved out; and I am back
10 at PERC again. So thank you.

11 MS. GAZON: Tom Harrigan from PERC
12 Shelter.

13 MR. HARRIGAN: This is high enough
14 for me, right?

15 Good evening. My name is Tom
16 Harrigan, T-o-m H-a-r-r-i-g-a-n. I am from PERC
17 Shelter.

18 First of all, I would like to thank
19 Jersey City administration for funding us last year
20 and for our programs. However, what's happened now,
21 over the past two years, additional services have
22 been put into place because there is an outreach
23 program. Now, the outreach program is very
24 important -- back too far?

25 MS. GAZON: Yeah.

1 MR. HARRIGAN: The outreach program
2 is very important because what actually happens is
3 the team goes out to find the chronically homeless,
4 the most resistant to services. Their goal is to
5 get people into services. And it's been working.
6 What happens is the inception of the program,
7 because, just like our providers, we've seen -- we
8 have seen a marked increase in our population. At
9 this time last year we -- in our overflow program we
10 were serving about 40 to 50 people per night. As of
11 now we are serving anywhere between 70 to 80 in
12 addition to our beds. These 70 to 80 people are
13 sleeping on the floor in our dining hall every
14 night.

15 I thought last week with the weather
16 warming up it would have been nice. I was there
17 Friday night. When I was there Friday night, we had
18 70 people. We had a slight decrease Friday night.
19 It's been ongoing every night.

20 In 2016 there were -- 38 percent of
21 the population came from Jersey City. That's with
22 us serving 1,000 unduplicated clients per year.
23 That's 380 clients came from Jersey City.
24 Unfortunately, PERC cannot continue this level of
25 service without additional funding. Our client base

1 has gone up. Our staff has remained the same.
2 We're operating with three other people -- three
3 overnight people per night with anywhere between,
4 including the beds and the overflow, 130, 135 people
5 every night. So that's why we had asked for
6 additional funding to help continue this program.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

9 Beverly Ann Wilson.

10 MS. WILSON: First and foremost -- my
11 name is Beverly Ann Wilson, B-e-v-e-r-l-y A-n-n
12 W-i-l-s-o-n. I'm here to speak on HOPWA program.
13 Okay. Good.

14 Okay. As far as a program, I have
15 been with Cornerstone now for four years. I have
16 been in outreach program, my apartment.

17 First and foremost I would like say
18 good evening to all of you on this panel. Thank you
19 for having me. I would like for all to understand
20 why I'm here. My name is Beverly Ann Wilson; and I
21 would be homeless, if it wasn't for the HOPWA
22 program. I had been homeless before, and it's not a
23 good feeling. Without these fundings I really
24 wouldn't be here today.

25 For now I am stable. I have my own

1 apartment. I am a -- a single parent of a beautiful
2 daughter and a grandmother of three beautiful
3 grandkids, two girls and one boy. With the help
4 that I'm receiving from the HOPWA I can help watch
5 my three little angels grow up and help my daughter
6 raise them. If you all don't keep the HOPWA program
7 for people just like me that needs the help, I
8 wouldn't be able to spend time with my kids. So
9 please have a heart and keep the funding for me and
10 others like me, like the guy that just recently got
11 from Cornerstone program.

12 I also want to thank all you guys
13 that is helping me and the Cornerstone program. I
14 couldn't do it without you. Thank you, and God
15 bless.

16 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

17 Beverly Bell.

18 MS. BELL: Hi. My name is Beverly
19 Bell, B-e-v-e-r-l-y, Bell, B-e-l-l. And I'm here on
20 behalf of the Cornerstone Outreach Program. And I'm
21 here because they get a grant from, I guess, ya'll,
22 the W -- the HOPWA.

23 And I'm HIV positive; and without
24 ya'll's help, I couldn't make it. And I'm just
25 hoping that you can keep this program going, so me

1 and my child will always have a roof over our head,
2 for at least a good while. You know what I mean?
3 Although I been with them for a good while, you
4 know; but without your services I won't be able to
5 make it. Me, I'm on a, you know, fixed income. And
6 what I'm making is not -- wouldn't be able to cover
7 rent.

8 So, you know, I'm just asking, you
9 know, that the help could continue -- continue for
10 someone like me and others. You know, it's very
11 hard. It's very hard. And I will be homeless, if
12 the program stops.

13 You know, I'm not much of a speaker;
14 but I tried to say what I can say, you know. I just
15 need you all to know, you know, what I'm feeling,
16 you know. And I just appreciate you listening to
17 what I have to say. Thank you.

18 MS. GAZON: So our next speaker, it
19 just says S-E-L-F. Self, is that -- is there
20 someone by that name or by those initials? It was
21 regarding housing funding, 12th person to sign up.
22 No? S-T-L-F or S-E-L-I? We'll come back to that
23 person. If you were number 12 and you show up
24 again, please let us know.

25 I would like to now call up Patrick

1 Hobbs. Patrick.

2 MR. HOBBS: Hi. My name is Patrick
3 Hobbs, P-a-t-r-i-c-k H-o-b-b-s. I recently have
4 become homeless. And the events of my demise is --
5 I have come to find more people being homeless
6 because of lack of housing, lack of shelters that
7 are closing, placing more people on the streets.
8 And like I said -- I stay at St. Lucy's. Now, we
9 just recently had one, Kearny, close. So now
10 everyone has to expand themselves between two other
11 shelters. You are talking about a place house 60,
12 70 people. And now you close that, all of a sudden
13 another place that could only hold, you know, less
14 than that or fourth of that, now they're full. So
15 you get more people going on the street, nowhere to
16 go, nowhere to live.

17 If we can find a way to make more
18 shelters. And I stay over at the Garden State
19 Episcopal, the 514. I get food, lunch, everything.
20 We have more places like that for the homeless. And
21 we had a little more shelter for the homeless,
22 probably wouldn't be so many homeless. I don't
23 know, but the percentage just seems to be rising.
24 And other things keep closing. Doesn't seem to
25 where we're at even -- even common ground.

1 I couldn't tell you what the answer
2 is. I couldn't tell you what the percentages are.
3 But better housing I would like, would be cool
4 because I got laid off from a job; and that's how I
5 ended up here. And if I could find a job, fine. I
6 could go to McDonald's; but the problem is my rent
7 even at place like, you know, Salvation Army or
8 something, you know, is going to be something that I
9 can't afford. So I mean, we should look into it.
10 Thank you.

11 MS. GAZON: Thank you very much.

12 Laura Marsela or Marsela from
13 Cornerstone.

14 MS. MARSELA: Hi. Laura, L-a-u-r-a,
15 Marsela, M-a-r-s-e-l-a. I receive funding through
16 Cornerstone. I am HIV positive. And I'm on
17 Medicare, so my -- my income is limited. They had
18 been wonderful help -- helping me finance my
19 apartment. If it wasn't for their help, I would not
20 have a place to live. And the rent is high. I
21 cannot work because of other illnesses that I have
22 because of that. I would lose my benefits, if I did
23 get a part-time job.

24 And they just help me tremendously,
25 so the funding is very important for me and, I'm

1 sure, a lot of other people. And they're wonderful
2 group of people that are very kind and helpful with
3 all of the needs of all of us. So thank you.

4 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

5 Teresa Lyon from Educational Arts
6 Team.

7 MS. LYON: Hi. I'm Teresa Lyon,
8 T-e-r-e-s-a L-y-o-n. I'm from Educational Arts
9 Team. They've been around in Jersey City since
10 1974. They are mainly known for Camp Liberty in
11 Liberty State Park. But during the school year we
12 also do literacy engagement programs and in-school
13 workshops and professional development with Jersey
14 City Public School teachers.

15 We're very grateful and fortunate to
16 receive funding and block grant for our Middle
17 School Literacy Program. Our literacy programs not
18 only improve the students' literacy and writing
19 skills, it helps them go deeper into text, learn
20 empathy, learn about characters in different
21 cultures and put themselves into other shoes, goes
22 into choices.

23 We also had third-party find our
24 strategies improve their test scores dramatically,
25 which is something I think is very important.

1 Shouldn't be overlooked is improved student
2 engagement, teacher feedback, increasing social
3 behavior. And strategies are inclusive because
4 Jersey City is very diverse in classrooms. Our
5 strategies help with ESL kids, special needs kids.
6 And the children who normally don't participate in
7 traditional classroom lessons are participating and
8 learning and improving not only academically but
9 socially.

10 A common need that I hear from both
11 the parents at Camp Liberty and from school
12 administrators, teachers and principals is for youth
13 services and child care options, especially
14 affordable child care options, the activities that
15 provide structured and safe, engaging outlets for
16 children, especially teenagers. So that's something
17 that we all think have been requested to collaborate
18 with schools on. If we can find funding for
19 after-school programs, anything like that that helps
20 the students have a very positive experience and
21 activity to do and to kind of stay out of trouble.
22 That's something that Camp Liberty provides with the
23 teen program. And the teens, once they grow out of
24 it, can stay -- usually choose to stay. And our
25 team mentors, counselors -- and kind of grow into

1 the community that we built with our organization.

2 So that is something that I think is
3 a very important need in the City, especially child
4 care services and educational services. Thank you.

5 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Freddie Salcedo.
7 Freddie Salcedo? No.

8 Viola Richardson. Viola, sorry.

9 MS. RICHARDSON: It's okay.

10 MS. GAZON: Sorry.

11 MS. RICHARDSON: Good evening.

12 MS. GAZON: It's my Spanish kicking
13 in.

14 MS. RICHARDSON: I'm Viola
15 Richardson. R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n. There are a few
16 programs that I'm concerned about.

17 HOPWA was one of those that I'm
18 praying that you don't cut because there are so many
19 people who really need the services, as well as the
20 senior services that, you know, we have for the
21 City. Our seniors can't -- I mean, they are on
22 fixed incomes; and whatever -- whatever service we
23 are able to supply for them, we don't need any cuts
24 in those.

25 And the homeless population is

1 growing at an alarming rate. I mean, Greenville,
2 I'm overrun by people who are homeless. So we don't
3 need to cut services that are going to deal with
4 homeless people.

5 Recreation for our children. You
6 know, we need to have these Little Leagues going.
7 We don't need any of those cuts.

8 And I know that these are difficult
9 times and the Governor is not going to send a whole
10 lot of money here to Jersey City and -- and
11 something has to get cut. But I think when we think
12 about our seniors and our people who are disabled in
13 any way and our children, we have to make sure that
14 they're going to be protected. So I'm imploring you
15 to please -- I know cuts are going to come. They
16 got to come because the money has to come from
17 somewhere. But they are services we just can't
18 afford to cut. And I thank you.

19 MS. GAZON: Our next sheet does not
20 have a name. It just says, "Team Walker." So if
21 there is someone from Team Walker here who signed up
22 to speak. Team Walker? All right.

23 And then I don't have a name for this
24 one either. Says, "Cornerstone Outreach Program."
25 Is there anyone from Cornerstone Outreach that

1 forgot to put their name on the card, number 19?

2 No? Anybody?

3 Okay. We have some more speakers.

4 Let me get the cards real quickly.

5 All right. Our next speaker, Bill
6 Graber. Bill Graber.

7 MR. GRABER: Hi. Good evening. My
8 name is Bill Graber. B-i-l-l G-r-a-b-e-r. I
9 actually had a couple of questions. I just was
10 curious, the grant period that we're talking goes
11 from April 1st until -- through March, correct? So
12 have the funds been distributed?

13 MS. GANDULLA: This is public
14 hearing. Unfortunately, this is not a question and
15 answer.

16 MR. GRABER: All right. I just was
17 trying to understand before I made the comments.
18 Okay. All right. Well, I took the survey on-line.
19 I am just a concerned citizen. I live in Jersey
20 City.

21 I think there are many competing
22 needs. I love beautiful streets and nice sidewalks
23 as much as the next person, but I think there is
24 definitely kind a hierarchy of just basic needs.

25 So my concerns are the homeless

1 population is taken care of as much as possible,
2 definitely HOPWA. I know I have been a member of
3 the gay community and gay activist and HIV and AIDS
4 activist since the beginning of HIV in the early
5 '80s. I know there is a huge population in Hudson
6 County of people living with HIV and AIDS. And a
7 lot of them are disabled enough to not work, so I
8 know programs like Cornerstone provide vital
9 assistance for them. So I was just concerned that
10 those kind of grants continue.

11 And I just think, in going down kind
12 of the many lists of people, you know, that there
13 are the grants available, homelessness, shelter,
14 food, medical care; and my opinion, I think those
15 are kind of the top. You know, the basic needs need
16 to be met for individuals before the City disburses
17 grants for other matters. Thank you.

18 MS. GAZON: Our next speaker is Patty
19 Knott.

20 MS. KNOTT: Patty, P-a-t-t-y, Knott,
21 K-n-o-t-t. I just want to thank you for everything
22 you've done with Cornerstone for us, great group
23 people. Please don't cut that program.

24 And lately -- it's always went
25 through for many years, but lately it just stops.

1 And we don't even know when it's going to stop until
2 a week before; and then we're at risk, you know,
3 even though they do pay eventually. But the
4 landlords, you know, after a while they don't want
5 to hear that. And we -- we really don't know what's
6 going on.

7 Again, I'm grateful for it all the
8 time; but at least if we knew, is it going to
9 continue, is it going to stop. And the pay period
10 you said was from April until March, right? So
11 wouldn't they know if they had the money now?

12 MR. HAIRSTON: Keep speaking. I
13 don't want to cut into your time.

14 MS. KNOTT: Wouldn't they know if
15 they had the money for the time?

16 MR. HAIRSTON: It's not a question
17 and answer session. We are just here to hear your
18 feedback regarding --

19 MS. KNOTT: I am just asking you,
20 please, if you could keep this program going. And
21 at least if it's going to end, can we have like
22 notice, not like three days notice, so that we can
23 make another plan or -- or do something before we're
24 in the street. And again, it's not your fault that
25 we have HIV. But the programs out there, please

1 help us. Thank you.

2 MS. GAZON: Thank you. So I want to
3 be respectful of everyone's time. This question has
4 come up a couple of times about the funding cycle.
5 Yes, the funding runs from April 1st of this year to
6 March 31st of the next year.

7 The United States Government, these
8 are Federal dollars. They come from Washington,
9 D.C. They have to be approved by Congress, and
10 they're part of a budget. So they have not been
11 allocated to us yet. They are still going to do
12 budget process. So for those of you that have asked
13 that question, that's about the best answer I will
14 give without cutting into the public's time. Okay.

15 Any other questions, you can please
16 feel free to get a card from one of us; and we will
17 be happy to do follow-up questions tomorrow during
18 the day.

19 Oh, and our director is going to
20 conclude with comments that may address some of
21 these other concerns about the Federal Government
22 and Federal funding.

23 All right. Our next speaker is
24 Justina from Cornerstone. Justina.

25 (Whereupon, Justina Jerez gives her

1 remarks in Spanish.)

2 MS. GAZON: J-u-s-t-i-n-a J-e-r-e-z.

3 So the next speaker is Carmen from
4 Cornerstone.

5 (Whereupon, Carmen Tirado gives her
6 remarks in Spanish.)

7 MS. GAZON: Carmen T-i-r-a-d-o.

8 Joe Ulicki.

9 MR. ULICKI: That name always gets
10 who I am. My name is Joe U-l-i-c-k-i. I work at
11 Garden State Episcopal Drop-in Center at 514 Newark
12 Avenue.

13 And I am here today basically to just
14 let everyone here know, since the Kearny center
15 closed, we have been getting bombarded with folks
16 coming in, saying, Joe, where do I go tonight?
17 PERC -- St. Lucy's outreach is full. PERC is
18 packed. Where do I go? It's going to rain tonight.

19 And it's really -- I don't know what
20 to tell them. If there was a way to work some kind
21 of plan out, being Kearny is already in use, you
22 know, not looking for a new place but to try to
23 figure out a plan, I would be more than happy to
24 work with you. It's just sometimes really hurtful
25 when you tell folks, Walk around, go to the

1 emergency room. It's really, really a big problem.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. GAZON: Thank you.

4 Evelyn Rodriguez.

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening. My
6 name is Evelyn Rodriguez, E-v-e-l-y-n
7 R-o-d-r-i-g-u-e-z. I work for PERC and Garden
8 State. It's alarming, the numbers are getting high.
9 We have seniors sleeping on floors, disabled people,
10 mental health, drug addiction. And like my coworker
11 said, sometimes we don't have nowhere to put these
12 people. In Garden State, the same thing. They come
13 to us, and we don't have no answers.

14 We have a population that they --
15 some of them do receive Social Security; the next
16 population receives Welfare. But the rent is so
17 high, and that's why they wind up being homeless.
18 We need more affordable housing. If you walk the
19 streets at night, as sometimes I do, you find them
20 sleeping on hallways, streets, in the PATH station,
21 in the parks. It's very, very sad. Especially when
22 you leave PERC Shelter at night and they will still
23 say, Thank you, and you see somebody sleeping on the
24 floor. We need more and more help. And the numbers
25 are growing. Thank you.

1 MS. GAZON: Miriam Mendez.

2 MS. MENDEZ: Good evening. Thank you
3 for having this forum. My name is Miriam. That's
4 M-i-r-i-a-m M-e-n-d-e-z. And like my coworker,
5 Evelyn, I work for Garden State Episcopal. I
6 recently started working there in -- three months
7 ago -- a little over three months ago. And I could
8 tell you that in the short time that I've been
9 there, I have seen a huge rise in the number of the
10 working homeless, families, multiple children.

11 Since we were -- became a sanctuary
12 city I have also seen a lot of undocumented
13 individuals with absolutely no resources.
14 Homelessness prevention funds are at an all-time
15 low. Most people are paycheck away from losing
16 their apartment or their home. I see it every day.
17 I see the desperation in parents' eyes. The sad
18 part is I often don't have all the answers.

19 I see how hard our caseworkers work.
20 We partner up with PERC and so many other wonderful
21 organizations, like United Way. And I know that
22 everybody cares. I can see that and stand here and
23 say that sincerely with a -- that these people care.
24 We just don't have the money. So I'm begging you,
25 give us the funds that we need, you know, to make --

1 to get the job done. Thank you.

2 MS. GAZON: Henry Lopez from
3 Cornerstone. Henry.

4 (Whereupon, Henry Lopez gives his
5 remarks in Spanish.)

6 MS. GAZON: Okay. I am going to call
7 back up some of the folks that we missed. There was
8 someone Self, S-E-L-F?

9 (Whereupon, Freddie Salcedo gives his
10 remarks in Spanish.)

11 MS. GAZON: Freddie Salcedo,
12 S-a-l-c-e-d-o.

13 Anybody from Team Walker? Someone
14 from Team Walker signed up to speak. Did they come
15 back into the room? Team Walker?

16 And then lastly there was a --
17 someone else from PERC who signed to speak up but
18 didn't give their name. Okay.

19 MS. MENDEZ: Good evening. My name
20 is Marivel Munoz, M-a-r-i-v-e-l M-u-n-o-z. I've
21 been with Cornerstone since 2009. And if it wasn't
22 for them, I wouldn't be able to afford the rent. I
23 honestly need them to have their funding, so they
24 can -- you know, so we can still be paying our rent
25 and not be homeless. I was homeless for four years,

1 and it's nothing great. Okay. Thank you.

2 MS. GAZON: I am going to check very
3 quickly. Is there anyone who did not sign up with a
4 card?

5 You filled out a card?

6 MR. PHARPE: Yeah.

7 MS. GAZON: What was your name, sir?

8 MR. PHARPE: Adam Pharpe.

9 MS. GAZON: Why don't you come up and
10 speak. I will have you fill out a card after. Is
11 there anyone else?

12 Would you please go back to the
13 front, fill out the card; and they will get their
14 name.

15 MR. PHARPE: My name is Adam Pharpe,
16 P-h-a-r-p-e. I am going to read this. To the
17 chairman, members of the committee and public, thank
18 you. On behalf of myself, I personally received
19 assistance from the Hudson County housing resource
20 center Cornerstone. And there is a need to continue
21 funding such programs as this.

22 I worked all my life to the day I
23 became ill. And there is nothing more degrading for
24 me than having to go and ask for help because all I
25 want to do is be self-sufficient. But my reality is

1 that I am sick with HIV and I have colon cancer. I
2 have tried to return to work several times; but
3 while away always fell ill again.

4 My recent treatment from radiation
5 and chemo was so difficult I barely recovered.
6 Because I can't work -- not work at this time
7 because I have serious side effects, and like
8 steroids and things swell my body up. And I just
9 have other private issues I -- you know, without the
10 Cornerstone program I would not be able to fix my
11 meals, take good care of myself. I have no savings.
12 Sickness took all of it away, 401k, all my assets.
13 So the only thing I have left is my Social Security
14 Disability, and it's not sufficient enough for my
15 basic needs. So without real assistance I am unable
16 to take care of myself and be healthy member of the
17 community.

18 I often live in fear and think about
19 what would happen if there would be no funds for
20 Cornerstone, for HOPWA.

21 I just want to say thank you and
22 express my sincerest thanks for approved funding and
23 ask that you continue funding in the future.

24 Thank you for your attention.

25 MS. GAZON: Okay. Rita Estrella.

1 MS. ESTRELLA: My name is Rita
2 Estrella. R-i-t-a E-s-t-r-e-l-l-a.

3 (Whereupon, Rita Estrella gives her
4 remarks in Spanish.)

5 MS. GAZON: Someone else from
6 Cornerstone Outreach Program did not put their name.

7 Anybody else?

8 Okay. If you are going to fill out
9 the card, please do put your name on it.

10 Is there anybody from Cornerstone who
11 asked to speak that did not put their name on the
12 card? Is this you?

13 MS. PABON: Hi. My name is Carmen
14 Pabon, C-a-r-m-e-n P-a-b-o-n. I just want to
15 address the problem we're having with Cornerstone
16 with the fundings. And this has been going on for
17 quite a while now. And we have had problems for the
18 rent being paid. And for the past three months -- I
19 mean, I think there was sometime last year; and I
20 almost lost my apartment because there was no
21 fundings for a while. I am just hoping they don't
22 cut the fundings and they will work on that because
23 we really need that. It's important. Thank you.

24 MS. GAZON: Is there anyone else who
25 signed up to speak who filled out a card whose name

1 was not called.

2 (Whereupon, a Spanish translation is
3 given.)

4 MS. GAZON: Anybody else? Okay. And
5 that concludes -- let me check in the front. Give
6 me one moment.

7 One moment, sir.

8 Any other cards?

9 Okay. That concludes our public
10 speaking portion.

11 I'm sorry, what? Oh, you wanted to
12 speak, sir?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: No.

14 MS. GAZON: Oh, this concludes the
15 public speaking portion. With that I would like to
16 call Carmen Gandulla. She is the director of
17 Community Development. And she is going to close
18 out the public hearing for us.

19 MS. GANDULLA: All right. So as
20 Director of Community Development for the City of
21 Jersey City -- that light is -- so I wanted to give
22 you an update with regards to next steps.

23 Thank you for coming out tonight.
24 Hearing your priorities and hearing your feedback
25 and understanding your needs is very, very

1 important.

2 Two-and-a-half years ago, when I came
3 on as a director and had a first public hearing, I
4 had two people show up. So if -- I'm required as a
5 director to write strategic plans to the Federal
6 Government about understanding the needs of Jersey
7 City. And how we fund this part is important and
8 this part and you guys spending time tonight on this
9 beautiful afternoon and this evening to discuss your
10 needs and what's important in Jersey City. So thank
11 you for coming here tonight and participating in
12 this, that we take your comments and then prepare
13 our plan and prepare our reporting so that the
14 Federal Government can understand and the
15 administration can understand that there should be
16 no cuts.

17 There should not be cuts to cities
18 like Jersey City and to the work -- to the agencies
19 that do great work. You know, thank you for coming
20 out here tonight and discussing and sharing your
21 viewpoints.

22 So as an update, the fiscal Federal
23 calendar Federal budget has not been approved. So
24 the Division of Community Development is a hundred
25 percent grant-funded by the Department -- the U.S.

1 Department of Housing & Urban Development. So as of
2 April 28th they are supposed to be making a decision
3 with regards to funding for this year.

4 So as you saw earlier in the
5 presentation, it gave you the information with
6 regards to our program; and your start date is
7 April 1. So ideally I am starting this year without
8 a budget in place. So they're praying on
9 resolution.

10 So let's say the 28th comes aboard
11 and the local field office gives us our budget.
12 Then the city will have 60 days to turn in and
13 prepare the rest of the annual action plan, which we
14 are kind of sort of already on track and we started
15 already in doing. No plans will be accepted after
16 August 15th.

17 And the meeting that we had last
18 week -- I think we were in Wayne -- the feedback
19 through that field office was to expect cuts. I
20 don't know at this given point how much of a cut
21 we're going to receive, but we are anticipating
22 preparing for those cuts.

23 Some of the things that -- we're
24 still operating on the fiscal calendar income
25 limits -- sorry. Well, I could say that the income

1 limits were published as of today. So when we
2 prepared this slide presentation, it had not. So
3 the Federal income limits are -- should be
4 preparing -- should be with 2017 income limits.

5 We are going to be preparing our
6 annual action plan as it is right now based on last
7 year's funding. So this is funding from Fiscal '16.
8 If we do anticipate cuts and if they keep us on par,
9 would be great. But if they do cuts, we are going
10 to do administratively cuts strategically all across
11 the board.

12 So this is the budget we are working
13 and writing within our plan. We will be having a
14 follow-up public hearing that we will be announcing
15 in June in regards to next steps.

16 So the planning for this year is we
17 have launched our application. So right now my
18 office is reviewing applications and reviewing what
19 needs are going to be for this year. We are looking
20 to make recommendations within the next month or so
21 within May and June. We will be having a next
22 public hearing the week of June 22nd. So ideally at
23 that given point we will be publishing, hopefully, a
24 budget and what the recommendations are.

25 We are looking to have City Council

1 approve this budget in July 2017 and submit the --
2 the annual action plan in July, as well.

3 Again, these dates are all subject to
4 change. This is our anticipated schedule. But know
5 that if a budget isn't passed at the end of this
6 month, it could be extended out any further. We
7 will look to communicate out in the newspaper and
8 through DCD announcement in terms of it getting
9 everyone updated and e-mail blasts as to what our
10 next steps are.

11 For those who attended here for the
12 first time and you want to continue to receive
13 information on Division of Community Development,
14 here are our members. Any additional comments you
15 wanted to provide tonight, you wanted to speak or
16 you wanted to write a little bit more -- and
17 sometimes two minutes isn't enough -- you can e-mail
18 us at JCC-Plan@jcnj.org. I'll also say sign up. If
19 you go to our web page and City's web page, you can
20 sign up to receive Community Development
21 announcement or continue to receive information.

22 That is the end of our presentation.
23 Thank you for coming out tonight.

24 (Whereupon, the proceeding is
25 concluded at 6:50 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, TRACY R. SZCZUBELEK, a Certified Court
Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New
Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of the stenographic notes of the
deposition of said witness who was first duly sworn
by me, on the date and place hereinbefore set forth.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or
employed by, any of the parties to the action in
which this deposition was taken, and further that I
am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
counsel in this case, nor am I financially
interested in this case.

Tracy R. Szczubeler
TRACY R. SZCZUBELEK, C.C.R.
LICENSE NO. XI01983

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