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BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD

May 18, 2017

In Attendance:

Presiding: Jessica Mates, Chief of Staff; Aldrin Bonilla, Deputy Borough President; Matthew Washington, Deputy Borough President; Lucille Songhai, Director of Community Affairs; James Caras, General Counsel and Land Use Director; Andrew Chang, Community Liaison; Diana Howard, Community Liaison; Yissely Ortiz, Community Liaison

Council Members: Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito (represented by Stephanie Arroyo), Hon. Rosie Mendez (represented by John Blasco) , Hon. Corey Johnson (represented by Cory Gardner)

Community Boards: Anthony Notaro, Jr. (CB 1); Terri Cude (CB 2); Jamie Rogers (CB 3); Greg Lewis (representing Vikki Barbero) Rick Eggers (CB 6); Roberta Semer (CB 7); Jim Clynes (CB 8); Padmore John (CB 9); Diane Collier (CB 11); Shahabuddeen Ally (CB 12)

Members of the Public: Marie Winfield, CB 11 member, Tricia Shimamura, CB 8 member

Minutes: Brian Lafferty, Special Projects Liaison

Agenda for April 20, 2017 Borough Board – Adopted

Minutes for April 20, 2017 Borough Board – Adopted

Presentation: Upper Manhattan Re-entry Taskforce, Manhattan DA Office

Presenters: Karen Sheehan, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer; Chauncey Parker, Executive Assistant District Attorney and Special Advisor; Allie Myers, CUNY ISLG

Karen Sheehan: Since 2009, the New York County/Manhattan DA's Office and its partners have obtained nearly \$12 billion through deferred prosecution agreements. Of the \$12 billion, our office by statute has \$807 million for the Criminal Justice Investment Fund to improve criminal justice process, law enforcement efficiencies, and an array of improvements to the way law enforcement interacts with community. Of the \$807 million, \$250 million is committed to



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community based initiatives. Our mission is to invest in impactful, sustainable and data-driven ideas to improve the criminal justice system and promote public safety in New York City. Our goals are to support the mission of the Manhattan DA's Office by improving public safety and enhancing fairness, promote collaboration between law enforcement and community partners, ensure efficiency in the criminal justice system, support interventions with measurable results that can be rigorously tested, and comply with state and federal asset forfeiture guidelines.

The New York County/Manhattan DA's Office realized that it could not achieve its mission or accomplish its goals alone. Consequently, it sought out key thought partners and reached out to the CUNY Institute of State and Local Governance, *CUNY ISLG*. *CUNY ISLG* is led by Michael Jacobson, who was previously Commissioner of the Department of Corrections and President of the Vera Institute of Justice. He built a team of incredibly knowledgeable criminal justice policy and government analysts. ISLG is the technical assistance consultant to DANY for CJII. CUNY ISLG formulated recommendations for funding. It also oversees the solicitation process and provides performance measurement and program oversight for all awardees. ISLG has conducted extensive outreach as part of its solicitation process, speaking with over 250 stakeholders to identify gaps, strengths, and opportunities in the criminal justice system.

Investments to date include:

Law Enforcement Initiatives:

- \$101 million in funding for NYCHA security upgrades to three NYCHA complexes in Manhattan (as well as 15 in other boroughs) in collaboration with the Mayor's Office. These upgrades included permanent exterior lighting, security cameras, and layered access.
- \$90 million in funding allocated in collaboration with the NYPD for its mobility initiative which has deployed more than 40,000 mobile devices including tablets and handheld electronics for police officers in the field.

Victim Services:

- \$11.4 million in funding for services that improve access to victim services for special needs communities, including immigrant communities, LGBTQ communities, and those with disabilities
- \$1.4 million in funding for an abusive partner intervention program



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Community Based Crime Prevention:

- \$45.9 million in funding for Youth Opportunity Hubs (in both capital and expense/programming) which provide wraparound and comprehensive services such as education, mentoring programs, and mental health screenings, and create support networks for your people. There will be five youth opportunity hubs in Manhattan - the Lower East Side, East Harlem, Central Harlem, Washington Heights, and SoHo.
- \$5.3 million in funding for education, employment and housing programs for youth aging out of foster care (between 16 and 24 years of age) without traditional supports.
- \$12 million in funding for youth and family development programming for those who have an elevated risk of future contact with the criminal justice system.

Diversion and Reentry Initiatives

- \$600,000 in funding for project reset, a pre-arraignment diversion program created in partnership with the NYPD and Center for Court Innovation for eligible 16 and 17-year-olds who have been arrested for low-level crimes.
- \$15 million in funding for the scaling up of existing social enterprise reentry programs that help enable at risk populations to find and secure work opportunities The Reentry Services and Supports Initiative (letter of intent was due June 9, 2017), which seeks to expand and/or promote coordination among reentry services and supports in New York City by promoting benefits eligibility and access, and workforce, educational, and support services (e.g., family strengthening, trauma treatment, etc.).
- \$7.3 million in funding for the creation of new social enterprise reentry programs that help enable at risk populations to find and secure work opportunities The Reentry Innovation Challenge (which closed on May 5, 2017), which seeks to elicit, support and rigorously evaluate new and innovative strategies to fill key gaps in reentry in New York City



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- \$41 million in funding for the Mayor's mental health initiatives, including supportive hours and training police officers to enable them to more effectively assist vulnerable populations, and alternatives to incarceration for vulnerable populations.
- \$7.5 million in funding for college courses for those serving the last four years of their sentences in New York State prisons. Those who do not complete their degrees in prison are connected to education programs upon their release.

Greg Lewis (CB 5): Has there been any consideration for creating a bail fund?

Chauncey Parker: A bail fund typically assists those being held on a bail amount of \$1,000 or less (and are not released on their own recognizance or supervised release). Brooklyn has the Brooklyn Bail Fund. A bail fund is not one of the current DANY investments. However, DANY is examining the effectiveness and success of the Brooklyn Bail Fund.

Greg Lewis: What is the percentage of those on Rikers Island who are there because they could not afford bail?

Chauncey Parker: I don't know the exact percentage. I do know that there were approximately 22,000 people on Rikers Island and that there are currently about 9,000 on Rikers Island. Most of those currently on Rikers Island were convicted or plead guilty to violent crimes. New York State prison held approximately 72,000 people and about half of that population had committed or plead guilty to a violent crime. It now holds about 50,000 people and about 70% of this population had committed or plead guilty to a violent crime. DANY examines the public safety value of each defendant's potential imprisonment. DANY has alternative to incarceration programs, including Clean Slate and Project Reset. Moreover, DANY is open to any ideas.

Chauncey Parker: My job is to make Manhattan as safe as possible with as little jail time as possible so I make decisions through the lens of does it make us safer and reduce jail time. CUNY ISLG will evaluate what we do. DA Vance seeks to go outside of the traditional box of a prosecutor and ensuring effective re-entry programs are a key part of what we do. 20,000 people are released from NYS prisons each year and 3,000 of these individuals return to Manhattan. The aim of the Manhattan Reentry Task Force is to reduce recidivism among those returning to Manhattan from New



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York State prison. Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer will co-chair the task force with DA Vance, CCI, and Parole.

In order to have the lowest recidivism and violent crime rates possible, DA Vance believes that we should be looking at the hardest cases, i.e. those released from prison that are at highest risk of committing violent crime. Tracy Mears, a professor at Yale Law School, started the forums in Chicago, where, for the past five years, those who are released from prison who are at the highest risk of committing violent crimes are invited to a meeting where they are shown respect and informed about the consequences of the choices that they can make, particularly the consequences of choosing to commit violent crimes and crimes committed with guns. After all, Mears theorizes, those who commit crimes are capable of making rational and informed decisions. Consequently, she believes that, if you're clear with people about the consequences of violent crimes, they will be less likely to commit them. In Manhattan, each month the 20 to 25 people released who are at the highest risk of committing violent crime meet at the forums, which are coordinated in partnership with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as community-based organizations.

The forums not only provide information for individuals to make informed choices about the consequences of committing violent crimes, but they also create a platform for community-based organizations to provide resources and services in an effort to create opportunities for success.

In addition to those who are released from prison that month who are at the highest risk of committing violent crimes, the forums also include precinct commanders, the DANY's office, the United States' Attorney's Office, three or four community partners, and people who have been in their shoes who have successfully transitioned back into the community. In addition, the DANY's office created a point of light within the office so that those released from prison don't have to figure out where to go.

Prison reentry often starts six weeks before prisoners are to be released. However, to improve prisoners' likelihood that they successfully transition to society, we follow Steven Covey's adage, "begin with the end in mind," by working to design a reentry strategy at the moment of conviction along with our key partners, including the New York City Department of Probation, the New York City Department of Corrections, the New York State Department of CCS, and For instance, we make sure that those who are convicted have proper ID. After all, about 50% of those released from prison do not have proper ID, which makes transitioning back into the



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community difficult. Moreover, this can inform how effectively they spend their time in prison. They may be more likely to take college courses for example.

Shah Ally (CB 12): Question – Shouldn't all of the money from asset forfeiture go toward preventive work and keeping people out of prison in the first place? In my role as a defense attorney, I know that the moment of arrest and the moment of conviction can alter a person's life irrevocably. It's traumatizing to be arrested, booked, and processed and it's difficult to put a genie back in a bottle. Why not set up a bail fund that loans people who cannot make bail money so that they do not go to jail?

Chauncey Parker: Currently, there's no money from civil forfeiture being spent on the reentry task force. I agree that crime prevention is the answer, but, at the same time, there are 3,000 people being released from State prison to Manhattan so we have to have a comprehensive strategy. Much of the civil forfeiture funds are being spent on crime prevention efforts like Saturday Night Lights. We don't pretend to know all the answers and we are open to suggestions. We are trying to see where we can have the greatest impacts.

Karen Sheehan: We agree that prevention is the key. The historical view of the prosecutor is to react – to react to the arrests and to prosecute the offenders. However DA Vance believes his job is also to prevent crime by improving communities and improving public safety. We are totally revamping our metrics keeping in mind the true measures of a successful prosecutor's office. Youth Opportunity hubs are our largest investment and they are crime prevention initiatives. We wanted to create warm and inviting resource centers for young people to visit.

We know that there are plenty of organizations in communities that are doing great work. However, we don't currently know how to help facilitate referrals from one organization to another. We want to promote and facilitate networks between organizations so we are giving a large grant to one organization in each community and asking that organization to identify five to ten other partner organizations in the same community so that we can provide wraparound services to every person who visits a youth opportunity hub. Approximately 200 million is set aside for crime prevention. From an office social philosophy and outlook perspective, we are focusing on crime prevention.

Padmore John (CB 9): President Trump and Attorney General Sessions have made clear that they expect prosecutors to take a harder line on crime, prosecuting more



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cases and pursuing longer sentences, especially for drug offenses. What will DA Vance be doing? In addition, what is DA Vance doing to help seniors being released from prison?

Chauncey Parker: No matter who is President and who is Attorney General, county prosecutors are elected to set their own priorities. The federal government can have its own procedures and policies so it can ask United States Attorneys to prosecute the highest readily provable counts. However, the Manhattan District Attorney is focused on reducing crime and reducing the jail time while ensuring justice is served in each case. The Manhattan District Attorney is focused on the overdose epidemic. Last year approximately 250 people died of a drug overdose in Manhattan, compared with approximately 35 murders in 2016 so DA Vance created a public health public safety partnership to ensure our communities are as safe and healthy as possible. At the suggestion of the DA's public health partners, the DA has funded the salary of an addiction psychiatrist for the drug court who can advise the judge of the best treatment plan for each defendant. DA Vance's goal is to make sure people are safe and healthy; He does not seek to promote a particular ideology or to launch a drug war. DA Vance has also funded an epidemiologist to track epidemics and trends in the Medical Examiner's Office.

In my particular view, the state should be more effectively addressing the needs of seniors released from state prison. DA Vance is focused primarily on reducing violent crime by informing those who are at the greatest risk of committing a violent crime. My gut feeling is that seniors released from prison are not, as a whole, likely to commit violent crime. CUNY can tell us the data on this. It doesn't mean that seniors being released from state prison do not have important needs. However, with our limited resources, we want to have the greatest impact possible and reduce the amount of violent crime to the greatest extent we can.

Tricia Shimamura (CB 8): The Esplanade in Community Board 8 is very dimly lit in some areas and a police officer was killed on the Esplanade in Community Board 8. Has there been any thought given to investing in infrastructure, in this case, lighting along the Esplanade?

Karen Sheehan: Our biggest infrastructure investment was in NYCHA developments and lighting was a large component of that. The 250+ stakeholders we spoke with did not raise lighting along the Esplanade as a priority. I'm not sure what government agency is responsible for lighting along the Esplanade. However, we would be happy to talk to our partners in Parks and Transportation to learn about what they are currently doing. Sometimes we have found with infrastructure



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projects, that there is money allocated for these projects, but that they are multi-year plans. We can see if it's a true gap in funding or if it is something that is scheduled to be funding in another fiscal year.

Diane Collier (CB 11): Public meetings only allow for five or ten minute presentations so how can we roll out this information and resources to the public, particularly those who are reentering the community after prison. A lot of those reentering the community after prison do not attend community board meetings or watch or read the news. They are concerned about how to find work and housing and how to stay out of prison. We should hold a forum with a community based organization. Finally, there's also an issue with the grand jury system. There are too few people affected by the criminal justice system in jury pools.

Karen Sheehan: We have some strategies, but we want to talk about this more. Up until a couple months ago our efforts to create Youth Opportunity Hubs for example has been theoretical and we've been creating requests for proposals. However, in the last couple months, we've actually identified community based organizations that will be receiving these funds and we can provide you with the names of these organizations. Now that we have identified specific community based organizations, we are at a tipping point where word will stick a bit more. Moreover, our community partnership group will come to any forum of community board meeting to provide information.

Chauncey Parker: Please tell us how in each community board what you believe will be the most effective way to bring people around the table and speak about the ideas that matter most to your community.

Allie Myers: To clarify, all of the investments are in different stages, but no organizations have signed contracts yet. Many of these initiatives have a designated planning period for community input after the contracts have been signed. Although there is not a dedicated funding stream for seniors reentering the community from prison, there is a reentry RFP which was intentionally written to be broad so that it could support work already being done in communities to support those reentering the community from prison.

We have left it open enough, broad enough so that applicants can tell us what they think is needed in each community and where they could use more support. Moreover, there is funding for a resource center in Manhattan Criminal Court for defendants and their families.



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Aldrin Bonilla (BP): There are many doing crime prevention work who are working on a much smaller scale and are not able to submit responses to RFPs. Moreover, many counselors need training and are underpaid.

Karen Sheehan: We're still a city agency so we have to do this through procurement rules. We're hemmed in to having to do a formal procurement process. However, we are exploring whether we can do a microgrant contest. Moreover, in these RFPs we're funding progressive salaries for counselors and enabling organizations to train their counselors. Each of the organizations we are funding have earmarks for technical assistance and all of the organizations that we work with will receive training. CUNY ISLG recognized the need for technical assistance.

Chauncey Parker: If you would like to reach out to me of the DA's Office, my email is parkerc@dany.nyc.gov. The DA's office will have representatives at Borough Service Cabinet meetings moving forward.

Borough President's Report

Lucille Songhai (BP): Thank you. Appointments will be made by June 1st. Terms will end on June 1st 2018 or 2019. Folks will be seated by the June board meetings. We will make sure that you will have contact info for everyone who has applied, including those who have been appointed

Padmore John (CB 9): We have nominations and elections coming up that could be impacted if some members are not reappointed.

Lucille Songhai (BP): We understand that you are holding your elections, but appointments will be announced after this. We're forming a working group on the Garment Center. Thank you to CM Johnson and CB 4 and CB 5 for their work and to all of those who attended the symposium. Our Budget Unit has completed their capital funding and our office is convening a working group on Mount Sinai and Beth Israel. I want to thank Ahmed Tigani for his work on this. Gale sent a letter to the DCAS Commissioner regarding community board space and we have a meeting on the schedule with the DCAS Commissioner. CB 6 has been on us like a hawk. Other boards want to get a jump start on their lease negotiations. We are meeting with DCAS on space and other DCAS related issues. As an FYI, you can apply for a security pass from DCAS and we are more than willing to help you apply. The MBPO will be conducting an empty storefront survey of vacant commercial properties along Broadway. Please see me for additional information. It will take place this Sunday. We also have the Pride March, the Puerto Rican Day Parade, and the Israel Parade



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coming up. Please contact our office if you would like to march with us at any of these cultural events.

On May 23rd, we have an event with glucose testing, diabetes screening, and a healthy cooking demonstration at our Northern Manhattan Office which CB 9 and CB 10 are cosponsoring.

On June 6th, we will have our Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration.

Matthew Washington (BP): On Monday, May 22nd we are hosting an info session with the Regional Economic Development Council – 800 million for financing and grants for nonprofits and businesses for job creation, admin support, job retention, etc.

John Blasco (CM Mendez): June 13th is the Council's LGBT Pride Event and on June 10th Rosie will introduce legislation that will allow gender pronoun options on city forms (Intro. 1604). I have to head to another meeting thanks for letting me cut in front of everyone!

Rick Eggers (CB 6): I want to thank John and Rosie's office for taking the lead regarding Washington Irving School.

Community Board Chair Reports

Shah Ally (CB 12): Washington Bridge Terminal – now open two years late, but small businesses are not able to move in yet. We're working with HPD on the redevelopment of the Inwood. Comment period has been extended by HPD.

Diane Collier (CB 11): First Spirit of Service Festival was held to match volunteers with agencies in need of volunteers. Over 100 attendees came and 29 matches were made. We have begun the ULURP for the rezoning. We had our first public hearing where open space and deeper affordability were primary concerns. CB 11 has hired an Assistant District Manager, Thomas Herrera from the Bronx. He worked for/served on Bronx CB 9 Land Use Committee.

Padmore John (CB 9): We're considering a resolution this evening to stop buildings in the TIL program from being transferred to ANCP program. We're working to pivot from HDFCs to NYCHA, which has begun issuing RFPs for infill private development projects in other communities. There are new ads from the Mayor's



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Office describing raccoons as New Yorkers. Raccoons are pests and we haven't seen a response from the city as to the raccoon issue that we have in our board.

Lucille Songhai: MBPO has spoken with NYS DEC since it hasn't been a priority at the city level. If there are particular areas of concern, we can reach out to NYS DEC again for a response.

Padmore John: The areas around Jackie Robinson Park are particularly problematic.

Tricia Shimamura (CB 8): The Esplanade railing and sidewalk in the vicinity of East 89th Street fell into the East River about two weeks ago. It was a spot to be fixed. It was slated for repairs, but the speed of the repairs is an issue. The Parks Department leased the Queensboro Oval to a private entity for another year. It's mapped as parkland, but it is not available to the public. We had a rat academy. 2nd Avenue construction has been a factor in rat infestations. DOHMH and Sanitation helped organize.

Roberta Semer (CB 7): A proposed supertall at Amsterdam and 69th Street is being challenged by the CB and the MBPO. There is a 97-A Plan. Could there be one for all twelve boards rather than one for each board.

Rick Eggers (CB 6): We're currently in a space that's inaccessible to the public. We thought we had a new space, but the ADA accessibility became an issue. We appreciate the letter to DCAS from the MBPO. The East River Fifties Alliance is challenging a proposed 90 story building and CB 6 will weigh in in July.

Jamie Rogers (CB 3): Our economic development committee will have a public forum concerning the development of a special district to promote small businesses and limit chains and big box stores. Land Use committee has been working on comments to the draft environmental impact study for Two Bridges which will be voted on this evening.

Lucille Songhai (BP): I want to thank CB 3 Chair Jamie Rogers for being a catalyst for getting you all together for the MCAP funding information session that will be held after this meeting. Also, Jamie inquired about the storage of HR/Personnel files. Any official HR Personnel files should be sent to the attention of Deirdre Lyles and kept at the MBPO. Copies may be kept at each district office.

Terri Cude (CB 2): We're fighting to preserve Elizabeth Street Garden and that the CBs have the community board borders for rental preference. Thank you to the



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MBPO for having a meeting about school seat calculation. The state does not take into account the realities of Manhattan. We're facing development without infrastructure. CB 2 does not have an admitting hospital. We're at another new high in liquor license applications. We're trying to control the different uses of our sidewalks. There's a new retail model of pop-up shops where people line up days in advance on sidewalks for things that are only available on particular days. These retailers who only operate on a few days are not incentivized to be good neighbors to the community or to the small businesses in the vicinity that are paying rent for the whole month and are often blocked by these lines, the crowds and the barricades that are set up. On the sidewalks, there are also street vendors and planters being put on sidewalks to keep away street vendors, street furniture, mailboxes, bike racks, and sidewalk cafes.

Lucille Songhai (BP): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8 fall in District 2. We would like for there to be a borough board vote in the fall on the school seat calculations for District 2.

Anthony Notaro (CB 1): This evening we will have our third outreach session for Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency. There's mounting frustration regarding the lack of funding, design, and awareness. There is another 80 story building proposed for the historic section of the Financial District. We have limited resources to comprehensively address development in each of our CBs. I'm not sure about a 197 plan, but perhaps there is community development funding to examine the impacts of development.

Lucille Songhai adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30am.