

2 TRANSCRIPTION:

3 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: [00:00:00] Make sure
4 we have enough time to give everybody an opportunity
5 to speak. Those who want to speak. Thank you and
6 welcome to this is the 2017 FY funding for the city
7 of Mount Vernon Community Development Block Grant
8 Program. This funding year we have approximately
9 \$1,400,000.00 in community development block grant
10 funds. An additionally \$355,000.00 in home funds.
11 This is the public's opportunity to give us input for
12 the proposed plan for the use of the FY 2017
13 Community Development Block Funding. I encourage
14 everyone to take an opportunity to speak. This is the
15 citizen participation piece of the city planning,
16 it's annual action plan for the proposed use of these
17 funds. This is your opportunity to make your voice
18 heard and I encourage everyone to be participatory in
19 the process.

20 We're going to start out, the city
21 engaged consultants to assist the department with the
22 plan. We have two consultants with us today, DOM
23 McCoy and Sylvia Bolivar who are going to be making a
24 presentation prior to allowing the public to
25 participate and speak. So, what I'm going to do right

1
2 now is turn it over to DOM. DOM is going to highlight
3 the plan and tell you the details of the plan and
4 then we're going to open it up after DOM and Sylvia
5 present to the public so that the public can actually
6 give us input on what you think the proposed use of
7 these funds are or should be. Thank you.

8
9 DOM MCCOY: Thank you for that opening,
10 Danielle. Again, my name is DOM McCoy. I'm joined by
11 Sylvia Bolivar. We've joined the city and URA (SIC)
12 as consultants. So what I'd like to do today,
13 actually, before I start let me just remind folks if
14 anyone hasn't signed in we have a signup sheet right
15 here with name and affiliation. And when we get to
16 the question and answer portion we will just work
17 down the list. And folks will be given an opportunity
18 to ask questions. In the interest of time, if folks
19 can limit themselves to five minutes that would be
20 great. Just so that everyone gets an opportunity to
21 speak.

22
23 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: I just wanted to say,
24 when he said Q & A, you can make questions or if you
25 have questions about the plan after the presentation

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2 that will be the time to do so and then after the Q &
3 A we're going to open it up again to public comments.
4 So that again you can give us... (CUTS OUT)

5
6 DOM MCCOY: **[00:02:49]**... Year 2017

7 proposal, draft annual action plan and then the
8 second document is a document I'm going to talk from.
9 It's just a presentation of the plan itself. So, let
10 me just thank everyone for being here today. This is
11 the second public hearing. We held one at the public
12 library on Saturday from 10 to noon and so I
13 appreciate everyone being here on a Monday afternoon.

14 So, if you want to follow along I'm going to
15 go from the presentation details that you have in
16 your hand. So turning to page two, what is the
17 purpose of this meeting. As Danielle just mentioned
18 this is a public meeting and it's an opportunity to
19 provide input to the City of Mount Vernon in response
20 to the draft program year 2017 action plan for the
21 use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
22 Development Entitlement Grant Funds. Specifically,
23 these are funds from the Community Development Block
24 Grant Program and the Home Investment Partnership
25 Program. In both cases these are annual funds that

1 the city receives. These are not competitive funds.
2
3 The city is a CDBG entitlement community therefore it
4 gets a percentage every year. For the home program,
5 the city is what's called a participating
6 jurisdiction meaning it gets a direct allocation of
7 grant funds as well. So these are the two funding
8 streams that we are here to talk about today.

9 Comments on the draft plan itself can be made from
10 today's presentation by mail, email until 12 p.m. on
11 Monday, August 7th. The deadline for submission (SIC)
12 of the draft annual action plan to the Department of
13 Housing and Urban Development is August 16.

14 So, As Danielle mentioned Mount Vernon's
15 allocation for fiscal year 2017 is \$1,435,516.00
16 that's for CDBG. And \$355,206.00 in home funds.
17 Moving down further on the page, which funds are
18 covered? So we're talking about CDBG and home
19 program. These are grant funds. As I said funding's
20 allocated on a formula basis each year. The draft
21 annual action plan is based on the city's five year
22 consolidated plan. That plan runs from 2015 through
23 2019. So that set the general parameters and then the
24 annual action plan is the document that actually
25 executes on the five year plan based on how much

1
2 money is available to the city. The next page is a
3 chart that basically shows the HUD entitlement grant
4 process. Funds get allocated, HUD awards funds to
5 jurisdiction across the country. The city has already
6 been notified of its allocation. It's then incumbent
7 upon the city to develop an annual action plan, to
8 finalize and submit that plan by August 16 and then
9 the city is able to, once that plan is approved the
10 city is then able to fund those organizations that
11 were finalized in the annual action plan. The final
12 piece of that is filing on an annual basis. So at the
13 end of the year what's called CAPERS report.

14 Basically that's a performance evaluation report on
15 how the funds have been spent. Have the goals been
16 achieved, have low and moderate income residents, and
17 communities benefited? That type of thing.

18 So, turning to page four, how did Mount
19 Vernon get these funds? As I indicated before, Mount
20 Vernon is an entitlement community. It's an
21 entitlement community because of its size.
22 Jurisdictions that have over 50,000 residents. I
23 think Mount Vernon has close to 70,000 at last count.
24 It's an entitlement community. Which is a good thing.
25 It get a direct allocation of money. It does not have

1
2 to compete with other funds as a non-entitlement
3 jurisdiction. Turning to page five, what are the
4 priorities for these funds? So, the draft plan that
5 you have in front of you, the 2017, has a number of
6 priorities. One strengthen public safety, for new
7 investments in public infrastructure and later on in
8 the slide deck you will see that traffic lights are
9 part of that. The second is invest in the city's
10 youth for employment and job training programs. The
11 third, invest in our children through after school
12 enrichment and athletic programs. Fourth, is urban
13 development, new affordable housing and the fifth is
14 continue foreclosure prevention counseling to assist
15 residents and in particular to assist in elderly
16 residents. The next two charts, the first one is
17 2016. It's a pie chart showing general categories and
18 how funds were spent. Then turning to the next slide,
19 page seven, that shows the proposed allocation of
20 funds for 2017. The next page, slide deck eight is a
21 breakdown of both the proposed funding for both the
22 CDBG allocation, the \$1,400,000.00 and then the home
23 program allocation, \$355,000.00. There are four
24 columns, they are meant to show the agency, the
25 program that that particular agency whether it's a

1
2 city agency or non-profit or church, what that
3 particular program is about. The third is a general
4 category. It's categories that the Department of
5 Housing and Urban Development uses. Then the fourth
6 is the proposed amount of funds. So the next slide is
7 linked to what we're here to talk about today. These
8 are... in working with the Department of Housing and
9 Urban Development it's become known to us that
10 there's two pods of unspent funds. So in the first
11 instance, the city has roughly \$786,000.00 in home
12 funds. So those are home funds dating back to fiscal
13 year going up to 2016. The amount is varying, but the
14 total is roughly \$786,000.00. The home program is
15 geared towards affordable housing. So whether it's
16 new construction, renovation, home ownership. That's
17 what those funds are for. We'd welcome any comments
18 as to how the city should think about using those
19 unspent funds. The older funds need to be spent more
20 quickly than the newer funds because there is a
21 statutory requirement that cities, other communities
22 that receive HUD funds need to spend those funds
23 within a five year period. The risk of not doing so
24 is that those funds get returned to the federal
25 government, the U.S. Treasury. So the second pot of

1 money is \$67,440.00 it's called emergency solutions
2 grant funds. These are grant funds for homelessness
3 activities. So it serves those who are homeless and
4 those funds are from fiscal year 2010. Turning I
5 think to the... that's the action plan timeline. I
6 kind of touched upon all of these dates already. I
7 think they speak for themselves and I would say just
8 we welcome comments. And again, we appreciate
9 everyone being here today. I know this is an
10 important part of the process for the city and
11 putting together its annual action plan to spend
12 these funds. The last thing I will say and then turn
13 it over to Sylvia for anything I might have skipped
14 over by accident is there is certain... in going
15 through the list of applications that we received.
16 And that was actually a very good turnout. We
17 received I think 27 applications in total which was
18 great. One of the things in the application materials
19 itself we talked about conflict of interest waivers
20 (SIC) and that's just something whereby the city is
21 trying to make sure that the funds are spent based on
22 HUG program rules. Just to make sur that everything
23 is transparent. So, with that, let me stop there...

24 (CUTS OUT)

1 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: [00:12:46] And home
2 funding for 2017, I want to make a disclaimer, if you
3 have a comment about something not related to
4 Community Development Block Grant you can speak to us
5 about that afterward. Again, I want to keep it
6 focused on what we're here for today which is the
7 proposed use of the 2017 CDBG funds. The other thing
8 I'd like to mention is that in October we are going
9 to quickly turn around and start planning for 2018
10 funds. So there will be another opportunity for those
11 of you who are interesting in funding to reapply for
12 funding again in October for the 2018 funds.
13 Applications will be available then. So now I'm going
14 to go get the sheet and we're going to open it to
15 comment from everyone. And if you don't want to speak
16 and you decline, just say decline when we call your
17 name. The first speaker looks like Melvin...I can't
18 make out the last name. I'm sorry (I don't think
19 that's the first sheet) you're right there's a sheet
20 behind it . . . you're absolutely right. . . he's
21 very honest and nice . . . thank you for being honest
22 . . . Ricky D. Childs (SIC) is the first person?

24 RICKEY D. CHILDS: No comment.

25

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2 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: No comment, okay. The
3 second one is Steven Eshwhyer (SP?) Would you like to
4 speak?

5 STEVEN ESHWHYER: Decline.

6 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: You're declining as well.
7 Jeffery Anderson?

8 JEFFREY ANDERSON: **[00:14:32]** Good
9 afternoon, my name is Jeffrey Anderson. I'm with
10 Westchester Residential Opportunities in White
11 Plains. I came here to talk about... well, first I
12 want to say that we are pleased to have worked with
13 the city of Mount Vernon over the past 15 years with
14 their CDBG program. In terms of your CDBG program
15 this year we would like to see more work done around
16 fair housing education, source of income law (SIC) as
17 a large Westchester county and a lot of renters are
18 being rejected or turned away because they have
19 public subsidies, social security to pay their rent.
20 So that is a serious concern of ours as a source of
21 income. The other piece is a lot of folks including
22 community leaders (SIC) need to know what their fair
23 housing rights are and what their cities (SIC) and
24 their obligations are from the Fair Housing Act. In
25 addition to that we believe mortgage foreclosure

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2 counseling is an essential part of retaining equity
3 in the community. We actually would like to proceed
4 *exclusively* to continue... to provide fair housing
5 **(INAUDIBLE)** with mortgage counseling, education and
6 services to homeowners. Especially seniors who are
7 house rich sometimes and cash poor. A layer (SIC) on
8 top of that, one of the reasons I'd like to... is
9 that we actually have access to what is called
10 mortgage assistance program where we can make loans
11 up to \$40,000.00 to any home owner that is behind on
12 their taxes or behind on their mortgage. And this is
13 an interest free loan that you don't pay back unless
14 you die, move or sell your home. So these are some of
15 the resources we'd like to see be made available to
16 homeowners in the City of Mount Vernon and that
17 hopefully we will consider those in our city ...
18 Thank you.

19 **DEBBIE BOREL BUTLER: [00:16:40]** Good
20 afternoon. My name is Debbie Burrell-Butler (SIC) and
21 I'm the youth employment service coordinator for the
22 City of Mount Vernon. I wanted to say thank you for
23 awarding us this grant through the Youth Bureau... we
24 have an extensive experience of planning and
25 implementing workforce development programs for

1 youth. Not only disadvantaged... But all youth and so
2 with this money that you awarded us will able us to
3 provide employment and training for approximately 90
4 (SIC) youth. We have employment cycle (SIC) one which
5 will be coming up very shortly starting September 11
6 and running out for the Summer they employed (SIC)
7 throughout the entire city even in the government
8 building here that we work. And through this award it
9 allows our youth to gain transferable skills and
10 build a strong foundation for them to be more
11 employable when they get older. Not just within Mount
12 Vernon, but when they go to college and they no
13 longer need Youth Bureau as far as providing this
14 opportunity. When they actually do that, in return,
15 it shows us that we are actually doing what we should
16 be doing and making these kids self-sufficient.
17 According to data there is approximately 60 percent
18 of unemployment rate amongst ages 16 (SIC) to 19. And
19 19 percent among the ages 20 to 24. With the money
20 that you fund us, we are lowering that unemployment
21 rate and not only do that we do hands on work
22 experience but we provide them with job everyday
23 skills, occupational skills and have them become well
24 rounded. You guys do know that based on the CDBG . .
25

1
2 that Mount Vernon is considered one of the
3 poorest... unemployment per capita in Westchester
4 County and that goes to say our youth with residing
5 (SIC) within the household, they are very low income.
6 So we also take that into consideration to help the
7 family by employing the youth. So, overall our goal
8 as far a Youth Bureau (SIC), is within six weeks of
9 employment that they work within approximately 50
10 plus work site within the city is that they become
11 self-sufficient and hopefully one day give back to
12 their community. So, in essence I just want to say
13 thank you and continue to support not just the youth
14 bureau but the youth that reside within our city.
15 Thank you.

16 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is Jill
17 Bradshaw-Soto.

18 JILL BRADSHAW-SOTO: [00:19:30] My name is
19 Jill Bradshaw-Soto and I'm the attorney in charge of
20 the Mount Vernon office of legal services for the
21 Hudson Valley. Legal services is the sole provider of
22 civil (**INAUDIBLE**)... Legal services is the sole
23 provider of civil legal services in this county and
24 six counties going upwards. We have an office in
25 Mount Vernon which is celebrating this year, 10 years

1
2 in that location and we, last year, helped over 600
3 families. The majority of the work we do is eviction
4 prevention. We handle all types of civil matters, but
5 eviction prevention is by far the greatest need that
6 all the clients come in for. We'd like to thank the
7 mayor and the department of planning for the support
8 of our organization. They helped to fund our new
9 court outreach project which started in Mount Vernon
10 City Court last year and without that support we
11 couldn't have done that. Homelessness really affects
12 all of the priorities in your priority presentation,
13 **(INAUDIBLE)** presentation because homelessness
14 destabilizes communities and families in a lot of
15 different ways. If you're unemployed it's hard to
16 keep... if you're homeless it's hard to keep your
17 job. It's hard for the children to get to school in
18 the district they should be in. So homelessness
19 prevention is paramount. So we're asking that in
20 considering with next... these funds that still need
21 to be paid... used, be spent on preventing evictions
22 and funding civil legal services for families who are
23 in need particularly in Mount Vernon where the
24 housing is... there's a lot of protected housing, but
25 there's a lot of issues surround that. So we would

1
2 ask that the committee consider those option when
3 deciding where those funds should go. Legal Service
4 is an established organization and we've been doing
5 this for many years in this community. And but for
6 us, evictions would happen... there is no other
7 organization with attorneys that are representing
8 tenants. So we ask that you consider us when you're
9 making these difficult decisions. Thank you

10 **(INAUDIBLE)**.

11 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker, Sasha Blades

12 SASHA BLADES: **[00:21:50]** Good afternoon. My
13 name is Sasha Blades and I am from Saint John, Paul &
14 Clement Church summer camp on Ninth Avenue in Mount
15 Vernon. Our . . . the plan ... that you have... that
16 is funded for us. We have not received any of the
17 funding in 2016 and for this year also. The Mayor
18 said that he would send us a check but we haven't
19 received any checks from last year and this year. And
20 this those checks we invest in our children by... by
21 giving them enrichment and education, not only just
22 recreation. We have hired a teacher and she teaches
23 the students every Tuesdays and Thursday for summer
24 camp. A lot of our kids that we get are from the
25 projects of Mount Vernon and a lot of our

1
2 congregation, we try and help fund those children
3 because the parents of those children cannot pay the
4 total amount for our summer camp. So with this
5 funding we invest in those children so that they can
6 get education during the summer also. And we also to
7 take them on excursions. A lot of these children,
8 they don't have the opportunity to have experience.
9 They are isolated in their community where they have
10 nowhere to go. So with this we... the funding it
11 would really be helpful to see... to let our children
12 see that there is so much in this world that they can
13 do and even in their future, that there is so much
14 they can venture out in. Thank you.

15 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is Alvia
16 Gumbs (SP?) and I just want to make a correction for
17 the record, Mount Vernon does not have a public
18 housing authority. We do not have a housing project
19 in Mount Vernon. I just want to correct the record.

20 ALVIA GUMBS: **[00:24:10]** Thank you. My name
21 is Alvia Gumbs and I'm from Saint John, Paul &
22 Clement, the director of the summer camp at that
23 church and I do hire I have the youth working for me
24 and maybe the high school students, the college
25 students. And I have the children in the lower

1
2 income... very, very low income and like Sasha
3 mentioned before, none (SIC) of those kids are not
4 able to pay for those children to attend the camp.
5 And I appreciate the grant CDBG Grant.... and I use
6 that to take those children to the museums and
7 different places that they need to look at... So I
8 really appreciate that help and thank you for the
9 **(INAUDIBLE)**.

10 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is Alicia
11 Phearson-Anderson (SP?).

12 ALICIA PHEARSON ANDERSON: **(INAUDIBLE)**

13 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Decline, okay. Next
14 speaker is Dennis Henry (SP?).

15 **DENNIS HENRY: [00:25:25]** Hold on, I'm here
16 (SIC) I'm name is Dennis Henry I'm the executive
17 director of Mount Vernon United Tenants and just as a
18 follow up to Jill Bradshaw-Soto's comments about
19 homeless and things I have to say that housing
20 insecurity underlies all other economic security
21 issues. When people are insecure in their housing
22 they can't function properly in their job, in their
23 school, in their community. It's just a totally
24 debilitating process for people when they're facing
25 eviction. Always worried about that. So give that, I

1
2 would like to thank the... whoever makes the decision
3 about our grant for \$25,000.00 is very, very
4 important and everybody in this building when this
5 was... when they... they hear about people facing
6 **(INAUDIBLE)**... go see this, go see **(INAUDIBLE)**
7 everybody is sent to city hall **(INAUDIBLE)**... some of
8 those people so we're never short of clients
9 **(INAUDIBLE)**... but I'd also like... that's probably
10 our **(INAUDIBLE)**... stuff about **(INAUDIBLE)**...
11 evictions a year. Additionally though I'd like to
12 suggest maybe funding a little bit of our tenant
13 action project. Our Tenant action project is where we
14 organize tenants to better protect themselves
15 **(INAUDIBLE)**... and things like that. When you talk
16 about a permanent, let me just tell the four
17 buildings in the middle of town here, **(INAUDIBLE)**...
18 so we come to organize **(INAUDIBLE)**... are Saratoga,
19 the Lennox and the Williamsburg, 416 of the tenants
20 in the building through our help have received rent
21 reduction orders **(INAUDIBLE)**... the landlord in that
22 complex now is investing hundreds of thousands of
23 dollars **(INAUDIBLE)**... of seven figures it's
24 happening only because of tenants organizing. Okay?
25 That's an incredible return on investment on a couple

1
2 (INAUDIBLE)... less than 20-30 thousand dollars. I
3 see a million dollars in return there in city
4 investment and that's happening right now
5 (INAUDIBLE)... parking garages for all the buildings
6 right now. They do roofs on a few buildings and
7 elevators and that's all a result of the tenants
8 being organized. That's one of the things that we and
9 it's like I said, you can't get a better return on
10 investments (INAUDIBLE)... thank you for this
11 (INAUDIBLE)... and consider that as well. Thank you
12 (INAUDIBLE)...

13 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is
14 Stephanie Kinlaw (SIC).

15 STEPHANIE KINLAW: [00:28:00] Good afternoon
16 everybody, I'm Stephanie Kinlaw. I'm a city employee
17 and (INAUDIBLE)... member of this community. I just
18 want to say thank you for the CDBG grant that funded
19 the college program (INAUDIBLE)... This program
20 helped me get to where now I'm only two classes away
21 from my bachelor's degree. It helped me to go back to
22 school, to further my education and to grow (SIC). I
23 would like to definitely continue to see that this
24 program continues to receive funding for that also in
25 (INAUDIBLE)... as she is now in college. So this

1
2 program is essential to this community to watch the
3 people grow. To help our students reach goals that
4 they probably would never look to see if there wasn't
5 some kind of assistance. So I just to say thank you.
6 Please continue to fund that program and if you can
7 **(INAUDIBLE)** so we can further offer it to more
8 students it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

9 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is Lamont
10 McCray (SIC).

11 LAMONT MCCRAE: **[00:29:15]** Hello, my name
12 is Lamont McCRay (SP?) currently working for city
13 hall **(INAUDIBLE)** Mount Vernon as a receptionist (SIC)
14 **(INAUDIBLE)**... I'm here to talk about your
15 scholarship and the benefits and how it's going to
16 help me further my college career instead of what I'm
17 doing now. I've been currently going to college since
18 the Spring of 2016. And I took the summer off because
19 I've got no more financial aid but I should be going
20 back in the Fall and I wanted to say that the funding
21 for this scholarship is a really huge help towards my
22 tuition because I want to **(INAUDIBLE)**... because of a
23 whole bunch of decisions that I've made and
24 **(INAUDIBLE)**... carry on with business administration
25 and so this scholarship is going to really help

1
2 improve and it's going to help a lot of residents of
3 Mount Vernon also. Especially coming from high school
4 where if you sign for the associate scholarship
5 (**INAUDIBLE**)... to be basically capable of having that
6 scholarship. So with the Mayor scholarship I feel
7 like it's an opportunity to make it through because
8 it's not the requirement so much as just being
9 enrolled in college and be there and participate. So
10 I really appreciate the opportunity the City of Mount
11 Vernon gave me (**INAUDIBLE**)...

12 DANIELE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is MELVYN
13 TANZMAN

14 MELVYN TANZMAN: **[00:31:20]** Good afternoon,
15 I'm MELVYN TANZMAN. I'm the executive director of
16 Westchester Disabled On the Move which is a non-
17 residential independent living center for people with
18 disabilities. Although our offices are in Yonkers, we
19 serve all of Westchester County. I really thank you
20 for the opportunity to provide comments today on
21 proposed CDBG action plan. I'm going to provide
22 comments that will focus on two planned goals.
23 Neighborhood revitalization and the availability of
24 accessible affordable housing. Westchester disabled
25 on the move is very pleased that Mount Vernon has

1
2 committed \$762,740.00 to the installation of new
3 traffic and cross walk signals. We urge that this
4 include accessible pedestrian signals for individuals
5 who are deaf or blind and can communicate safety
6 information using non-visual means. Including
7 auditory and tactile signals. I'm providing a 2016
8 update from the New York State Department of
9 Transportation regarding their ADA transition plan.
10 Mount Vernon is planning for the installation of new
11 signals should identify priorities of intersections
12 which will have fully accessible pedestrian signals.
13 I must say that we're... Westchester Disabled On the
14 Move is a little disappointed that the action plan
15 does not really adequately address the affordable,
16 accessible housing needs of its residents with
17 disabilities. Individuals on fixed incomes often have
18 incomes of between about \$750.00 to \$1,500.00 a month
19 according to a national study that identifies
20 Westchester County residents with disabilities as
21 having to spend between 140 to 160 percent of their
22 income to afford a modest studio or one bedroom
23 apartment. That problem of affordability is
24 exacerbated by the fact that many of the existing
25 affordable housing units are inaccessible for those

1
2 with mobility impairments and sensory impairments. We
3 applaud Mount Vernon's commitment such as eviction
4 prevention and fair housing counseling. However, what
5 are the options for people with disabilities of all
6 ages including seniors should they be evicted.
7 Homeless shelters cannot adequately meet their needs
8 and nursing facility residents often become trapped
9 in place there due to their loss of income. There are
10 many individuals in nursing homes in the community
11 who are there simply because they can't afford
12 housing they (SIC) find accessible (**INAUDIBLE**).
13 Westchester disabled on the move understands that
14 this is a complex problem and surely can't be
15 resolved by the City of Mount Vernon by itself,
16 however, other municipalities have funded specialized
17 housing, counseling and advocacy targeted to people
18 with disabilities. For instance, the City of Yonkers
19 which has an inclusive zoning (**INAUDIBLE**)... which is
20 affordable housing ordinance that mandates all
21 developments of 100 or more units have 10 percent
22 affordable. This year the Department of Planning and
23 Development in Yonkers at the mayor's urging mandated
24 that 10 percent of those affordable units be actually
25 set aside for people with mobility and sensory

1
2 impairments. I realize that part of the planning does
3 not pass legislation. I do believe that funding would
4 risk (SIC) to address the relocation and placement of
5 our most at risk residents could by providing
6 counseling (**INAUDIBLE**) by raising awareness and
7 reaffirming the rights of all residents to safe,
8 affordable, accessible and integrated housing and
9 facilitate change and save Mount Vernon residents
10 with disabilities from needless expensive
11 institutionalization. (**INAUDIBLE**)... facilitated this
12 in Yonkers and other municipalities and we truly
13 would like to expand as a resource in Mount Vernon.

14 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is Reverend
15 A. Thomas.

16 REVEREND A. THOMAS: Declined.

17 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Declined, okay. Next
18 speaker is Cheryl Dennis.

19 CHERYL DENNIS: **[00:36:10]** Good afternoon
20 my name is Cheryl Dennis and I am CEO for
21 (**INAUDIBLE**)... community (**INAUDIBLE**)... and I would
22 like to speak to you on input regarding the
23 (**INAUDIBLE**)... emergency solutions (**INAUDIBLE**)...
24 Currently in Mount Vernon we have... we put a lot of
25 effort into establishing low income rentals. I would

1
2 like to see more affordable co-ops, affordable condos
3 and just the renovation of dilapidated housing that
4 we currently have on the market. I think also it
5 would be good... I would think for the entire city
6 because it would also increase our revenue which is
7 much needed. So that is mine...

8 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is
9 Assemblyman Pretlow.

10 GARY PRETLOW: [00:37:50] Good afternoon, my
11 name is Gary Pretlow I'm the state assemblyman
12 representing Mount Vernon and Yonkers. I've looked
13 over the proposed budget and find that all of the
14 programs being funded are actually laudable. My
15 problem though is what's not in this budget. There is
16 \$95,000.00 being cut that was in current year budgets
17 that have to do with youth. If you look on page five
18 of your handout one of the priorities of these grants
19 is for our youth and young people yet this budget is
20 proposing to cut (**INAUDIBLE**) proposing to cut
21 razorbacks (SIC) proposing to cut the (**INAUDIBLE**)...
22 the other one... the Boys and Girls Club. These are
23 all programs that definitely help our youth. And
24 hunger is something people Don't like to talk about,
25 but there is a lot of hunger in Mount Vernon. Soup

1
2 kitchens across this city serve tens of thousands of
3 meals every year and for the help with these food
4 distribution in this city being cut I think is
5 unconscionable. I think in these proposals that the
6 final poll that goes through that all these programs
7 should be reinstated. Thank you.

8 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is June
9 Creasy (SP?)

10 CROWD: She's not here.

11 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: She's gone, okay. Next
12 speaker is Mary Fleming.

13 MARY FLEMING: **[00:39:01]** My name is Mary
14 Fleming and I'm the director of scholarship programs
15 for the City of Mount Vernon and I am here to speak
16 on behalf of our scholarship, the noted amount that's
17 listed. For those who are not aware, what the Mayor's
18 scholarship is about, this scholarship was
19 implemented in 1977 and it is offered to the city
20 residents low to moderate income families. Now I do
21 know that this scholarship has been an instrumental
22 component within the city's planning because we have
23 those who have been exemplary (SIC) recipients who've
24 done well and come back to the city and provided
25 their expertise. I do thank Stephanie Kenlaw who

1
2 left, had to leave, but she is an example of one of
3 the recipients. She works for the recreation
4 department and also I have Miss Vorel (SIC) who is
5 with the City of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau. I urge
6 that you look at the amount that you've addressed. It
7 does not give a good (INAUDIBLE) because more and
8 more students and recipients are coming, I mean, more
9 and more applicants are coming and applying for the
10 scholarships. I would hate to have to turn anyone
11 away. If \$30,000.00 and if I have 30 applicants and
12 I'm giving them \$1,000.00 that's only a book for a
13 semester. So we need for those are not very well
14 versed of what higher education is all about it has
15 drastically... it has just gone up. So we need to
16 address the fact because Mount Vernon... the numbers
17 here are showing that Mount Vernon has a low to
18 moderate income families. And those kids are seeking
19 to elevate themselves and why would we be in a
20 position to turn our backs on them. We have those who
21 are reentering who come to me and there is a... one
22 person I know who has reentered this community and
23 done very well, applied to college and is on the
24 presidents (SIC) list. Now what other recommendations
25 are there when we can show that this scholarship is

1 something that is needed. So I would like that you
2 think about it and readdress the fact that \$30,000.00
3 is really not enough to offer our applicants who are
4 coming in and seeking money to further their
5 education. Thank you.

7 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is Jim
8 Pilleron (SP?).

9 JIM PILLERON: **[00:42:30]** Good afternoon
10 and good afternoon to everybody here. It's an honor
11 to be with everyone that is here and the City of
12 Mount Vernon has worked so hard to make it a better
13 Mount Vernon and to the people who dedicate their
14 lives and service and I always commend you for
15 **(INAUDIBLE)**. We have been blessed to work with the
16 City of Mount Vernon for over 25 years. We've helped
17 with building homes on Third Street initially and we
18 have across the **(INAUDIBLE)** of Westchester County
19 worked on zombie homes, helped with foreclosure
20 assistance. We get many requests from Mount Vernon
21 from seniors for rehabbing their home and when you're
22 on a fixed income with high taxes it's a challenge.
23 We have a neighborhood... aggressive neighborhood
24 revitalization program. One area we've targeted have
25 been the gateways. I call it the gateways off of

1
2 Mount Vernon Avenue. Some of the houses... city
3 council members here and present (SIC) know we have
4 been working that area. We've rehabbed churches here,
5 painted the Boys Club. Helped make... rehab a
6 building which now the Chamber of Commerce is in.
7 We've also distributed planters throughout this city
8 which youth helped us to build. We have a big
9 commitment, we think every youth should build and
10 learn to grow food. Made two community gardens most
11 recently on Third Avenue and one on Quest (SIC) and
12 Mount Vernon Avenue. Rehabbed churches, one that was
13 specifically hit by hurricane Sandy which became a
14 relief center at night in the gateways neighborhood
15 off of Mount Vernon Avenue where we helped fire
16 victims. We also helped a number of fire victims
17 because we know... I know, at the end of... once
18 there's a fire and there's really no affordable
19 housing. We're in a crisis of affordable housing in
20 Westchester County which is kind of... I can't
21 believe that we Don't talk about that more. We're the
22 number one home builder in the country and 14th in
23 the world. The hardest place for anyone to own a home
24 is New York, New York. We want to change that and we
25 love Mount Vernon and we would like to help you...

1
2 work in partnership with the city and HUD and these
3 great community partners on looking at taking some of
4 these zombie homes, getting them on the tax roll
5 (SIC) so that Mount Vernon residents own them and
6 help to revitalize the neighborhood because once
7 we're in a neighborhood (SIC) we actually have our
8 recycling restore here that a number of people here
9 have gone to and said bring it back and that became a
10 catalyst for us to do neighborhood revitalization of
11 the Third Street, Mount Vernon (**INAUDIBLE**) where we
12 helped to hire local Mount Vernon residents, generate
13 sales tax, helped build a green environmental store.
14 There are 800 of them in the country and we'd like to
15 bring another one back probably to the Sanford Avenue
16 Boulevard area because we have so many that love it
17 and so many that come from Mount Vernon in a way
18 (SIC) that we could fill it to help the community. We
19 work closely with the Mount Vernon court system on
20 community service to help people to have a chance to
21 do community service and good Habitat is and we just
22 would love to see an increase of ownership, getting
23 into the zombie homes and working on neighborhood
24 revitalization. And on rehabilitation of a number of
25 homes. And it really is a challenge in some of the

1
2 homes we go into, but we see some horrific
3 situations, some real dangerous fire... we see a lot
4 of fires as part of that as it's so hard to pay the
5 taxes and to replace electric and plumbing that have
6 become older and that becomes a fire burden for not
7 only the resident and the family, but the whole
8 neighborhood. So, thank you for the... again, for
9 everyone that's sharing. Keep up the great work.

10 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is
11 Roberta APUZZO (SP?).

12 ROBERTA AAPUZZO: [00:46:15] Good
13 afternoon. My name is Roberta Puzza. I am executive
14 director of Community Services Associates and I'm
15 looking at this and I'm assuming that there must be a
16 mistake. That I Don't see any funding for Community
17 Service Associates. I've been the executive director
18 for 24 years. We serve those that are in desperate
19 need of food, socialization, a safe place for them to
20 come to eat. We have over 700 volunteers that walk
21 through the doors and we have (**INAUDIBLE**) and I would
22 say instigated to join our organization as volunteers
23 since I became the director. Community Service
24 Associates is in its 31st year. We have been good
25 neighbors where everything has been situated. We just

1
2 moved to the armory in May. I am appalled beyond
3 belief. I find this to be totally unfathomable that
4 we are not on this list for a dollar. I just Don't
5 understand how that can be. Everyone in this
6 community knows the work that we do. Can anybody tell
7 me why we are not going to be funded in any way
8 whatsoever? I believe housing. I believe youth
9 programs. I believe affordability is extremely
10 important, but if we Don't feed those people that are
11 the neediest, you're going to see more crime in our
12 state.

13 DOM MCCOY: So I'll take that question. I
14 appreciate (**INAUDIBLE**)... the excellent work that
15 Community Services Associates is doing for the
16 community. And so the reason that the 2017 draft does
17 not allocate any proposed funding for Community
18 Services Associates has to do with the conflict of
19 interest provisions that are part of the Community
20 Development Block Grant program.

21 ROBERTA AAPUZZO: What does that mean?

22 DOM MCCOY: So, a conflict of interest...
23 so in the application (**INAUDIBLE**) itself that for all
24 of those organizations who are here today, for those
25 who aren't here who applied, the 2017 application

1
2 tracks HUD regulations. And so with HUD regulations
3 one of the things that HUD regulations stipulates is
4 that there can't be a conflict of interest. And so
5 what that means is the organization that is applying
6 for funds, the outside profit organization cannot
7 have a relationship, a fiduciary relationship with
8 anyone who is an elected official.

9 ROBERTA AAPUZZO: That is not true. We went
10 through this when I first became a public official 10
11 years ago and that was totally settled by HUD. That
12 that was not conflict of interest in anyway.

13 DOM MCCOY: So, for the record, if you can
14 submit that document that piece of paper that...

15 **(INAUDIBLE)**

16 ROBERTA APUZZA: But it's at... it is in
17 City Hall someplace in HUDs... someplace in the
18 planning department, Danielle? I know that you were
19 there and I know that you remember what happened and
20 there's got to be some documents. We applied for it
21 last year, the regulations were the same...

22 DOM MCCOY: **(INAUDIBLE)**...

23 ROBERTA APUZZO: We applied for it the year
24 before. Regulations were the same and I just... this
25 is just politics at it's very worst...

worst

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2 DOM MCCOY: (**INAUDIBLE**)...

3 ROBERTA APUZZO: It's politics at it's

4
5 and it is unconscionable that his mayor cannot
6 believe that we are serving the neediest of people.

7 DOM MCCOY: Well, let me back up. This is a
8 draft proposal. There were many organizations who do
9 excellent work that submitted allocations year 27 as
10 I mentioned and the conflict of interest regulations,
11 I can read them to you briefly. It's at 24
12 (**INAUDIBLE**)... 70.6 6.1B (SIC), but it states under
13 conflicts prohibited... no, I understand, no, I
14 understand and that's why I said it would be helpful.
15 I mean we can have a....

16 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: We can have a
17 discussion...

18 ROBERTA APUZZO: I think that we need
19 to... there should be a discussion (**INAUDIBLE**)...

20 DOM MCCOY: Well, we want to keep it on
21 the record and...

22 ROBERTA APUZZO: A discussion on this
23 because this is... was founded through the Clinton
24 Administration that apparently there was a conflict
25 of interest. We've worked with HUD, we got everything

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2 settled and there was no conflict interest. In any
3 way. So we could talk...

4 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: (**INAUDIBLE**)...

5 DOM MCCOY: I would love if...

6 ROBERTA APUZZO: We could talk
7 afterwards...

8 DOM MCCOY: But if you can...

9 ROBERTA APUZZO: But is the first... this
10 is the first time in my 23 years...

11 DOM MCCOY: I understand.

12 ROBERTA APUZZO: That we haven't been
13 funded in any way whatsoever.

14 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: So we also, for full
15 transparency because we also contacted the New York
16 field office and asked and they said that this would
17 be a conflict of interest. So we spoke with the New
18 York field office and the New York field director for
19 the CDBG program indicated that this would be a
20 conflict of interest.

21 ROBERTA APUZZO: What would be a conflict
22 of interest?

23 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Providing funding for
24 your organization since you are an executive director
25 and also in city council.

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2 ROBERTA APUZZO: I'm not going to be in
3 city council after January... After December 31st.

4 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Okay. And we're just
5 letting you know (**INAUDIBLE**)...

6 ROBERTA APUZZO: I'm not going to be on
7 city council after December 31st so that should
8 eliminate that...

9 DOM MCCOY: Well that... well that would
10 eliminate for the October application that Danielle
11 just mentioned... for 2018.

12 ROBERTA APUZZO: It should eliminate it
13 now.

14 DOM MCCOY: That would likely eliminate the
15 conflict of interest, you're absolutely right. But
16 for this program year which is right now, 2017, that
17 conflict of interest does exist...

18 ROBERTA APUZZO: Well I will definitely look
19 into that further.

20 DOM MCCOY: Okay. Thank you.

21 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next one is Jarred
22 (SP?) APUZZO.

23 JARRED APUZZO: I decline. I think Roberta
24 said it all.

25

1 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is Janis
2 Durante.

3 JANIS DURANTE: I decline.

4 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is Lisa
5 (SIC) COPELAND (SIC).

6 LISA COPELAND: **[00:53:30]** I do not decline.
7 Certainly thank you for this opportunity. I Don't
8 think I need think I need this mic and going to try
9 not to raise my voice too loud so it... it may sound
10 intimidating. But I am offended by this proposal that
11 cuts funding from Y-COP, the Boys and Girls club,
12 family services of Westchester, the Razorbacks which
13 was founded by one of our colleagues on the city
14 council. Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church and
15 Sts. Paul, John and Clements who were in the same
16 room last week when I had them here and provided
17 lunch and had a good time and I see (**INAUDIBLE**) here.
18 I am additionally offended by the decrease in
19 scholarship money when the cost of education is going
20 up. Now the governor has introduced a scholarship
21 program, but it won't take effect until 2018. And to
22 fund 30... each kid get's \$1,000.00 for a full
23 college year and that barely buys... that barely buys
24 three books. And I also see where the mayor has
25

1 funded My Brothers & Sisters keeper \$42,000.00.

2 Currently the school district, which I checked

3 before... I always have the facts. Has a grant for

4 \$150,000.00 already. So I Don't know why an

5 additional \$42,000.00 is necessary. (**IAUDIBLE**)...

6 what was I going to say... and the soup kitchen she

7 spoke (**INAUDIBLE**)... but I am offended. I've stood

8 with the mayor when I thought he was right, but he is

9 definitely wrong on this and if this budget goes

10 through he will make an enemy of me. Thank you.

11
12 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Next speaker is

13 Councilman Marcus A. Griffith.

14 MARCUS GRIFFITH: [00:55:22] Thank you

15 (**INAUDIBLE**) and thank you board members. First I want

16 to make sure that I start with the positive and that

17 I recognize some of the good groups that are being

18 funded. I do question how much they are being funded,

19 but I do know that the youth bureau does an

20 incredible job with any funds that they have. As a

21 councilman whenever any legislation comes before us

22 with the youth bureau it is pretty much unanimous

23 that we pass it because the youth bureau does an

24 incredible job for our students. I also want to make

25 sure that I say I (**INAUDIBLE**) like (SIC) the funding

1
2 for Mount Vernon United Tenants. That Dennis Henry
3 does an excellent job with all of the people in our
4 community who have rent issues. I am a landlord and
5 when I have tenants that have rent issues I send them
6 directly to Dennis and that organization. When I have
7 questions, I make sure I call them to make sure as a
8 landlord I'm doing the right thing. So I definitely
9 like the funding there. I do have problems with some
10 of the organizations that mysteriously are not being
11 funded this year. We're not talking large amounts.
12 We're talking amounts that are around \$10,000.00.
13 First Y-COP is an excellent organization that
14 provides camp services mostly in the summertime but
15 it's also beginning to expand to support students
16 after school around the city. Another program that I
17 absolutely know is critical for Mount Vernon is
18 Community Service Associates better known as the
19 Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen which I have met people on
20 the street that have basically said to me, without
21 the soup kitchen I Don't know where I would be. And
22 without Roberta APUZZO and her caring for people in
23 the deepest of need, people who are hungry. They have
24 said to me, I Don't know if I would be alive today.
25 So I really Don't understand why that program has

1
2 been completely defunded. Another thing I want to say
3 is that some of these programs need to be weaned off
4 because they are now established programs. Cutting
5 them off at the ankles is not the right way to do it.
6 if you want to, you should talk to those programs and
7 you get to reduce their funding if anything. Another
8 program that I have familiarity with is Sts. John,
9 Paul and Clements, of which I at the age of 16, I was
10 a counselor and even though I was compensated for
11 some pay the biggest compensation for somebody that
12 lived on the Northside was the understanding the
13 needs of my community in an area where children
14 didn't have a lot. I remember vividly getting
15 breakfast which consisted of muffins and things that
16 are just quite basic, but the community needed it.
17 And at the end of the camp program of which I was
18 there just for one semester, I remember the students
19 personally and how much they meant to me and what
20 their challenges were. So I am offended that they
21 would be cut off (**INAUDIBLE**)... I have great
22 experience with this program. I sat on the
23 Westchester County planning board for 10 years and we
24 debating which funding program we could serve for
25 around the communities of Westchester County that

1
2 didn't reach the level that Mount Vernon and
3 Yonkersville has where they can have their own
4 program. So, I've seen parks being built, things that
5 have continued to serve communities. So I was... and
6 that some capital projects could be used, but the
7 capital projects that need to be built are ones that
8 mostly children and seniors and once again the people
9 in the most need can use. So if you were to build...
10 redo parks or something that children can see year
11 over year, I would understand. And again, nothing
12 against supporting some of the organizations, but I
13 believe we need to diversify some of the funding's
14 that's there and the funding that I have seen that is
15 proposed does not seem to be diversified at all. A
16 lot of weight is sent in one direction and a lot of
17 people in this community simply want to help things
18 that they see. Government is not the answer for
19 everything. The churches that are around our
20 community are hands on, know what's going on and need
21 to support the groups that they see. They know where
22 to aim their funding. We know that right now. I know
23 for a fact that Sts. Paul.... John, Paul and Clements
24 would have all of their students (SIC) here, but I
25 know that with the years that they've been doing this

1
2 they have a process of getting waivers for parents to
3 know where their children are going. All of this is
4 great process, but I'm sure if they had the time to
5 be aware of this ahead of time every single student
6 would be here today. Including students from Y-COP,
7 but I'm sure right now the kids that could be on the
8 street getting in trouble are probably at the movies
9 or at the pool or learning tennis or swimming or
10 doing something that they actually wouldn't have done
11 because their parents are someplace at work. Trying
12 to raise the money that they need to do due to
13 housing. So I want it to be clear it is, once again,
14 yes I believe fully political to chop off some of
15 these organizations that have done nothing but to
16 support this community in the best way that they know
17 how. We need to reorganize this and once again fund
18 the groups that need the funding to continue doing
19 what they're doing. Thank you.

20 DOM MCCOY: Thank you for that. And I
21 would just say, I appreciate this passion. The
22 proposed recommendations were based on the submittals
23 from 27 different groups and they were based on
24 applications themselves. So it wasn't (**INAUDIBLE**)...
25 meant to say it's not a political process...

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2 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: (**INAUDIBLE**)...

3 DOM MCCOY: So but again I appreciate
4 everyone's passion.

5 MARCUS GRIFFITH: Just one more note that
6 I forgot to mention. The prior years awarded amounts
7 have not been paid out. So a lot of these
8 organizations that were awarded amounts of money last
9 year are still waiting for that money. So, listen, as
10 city councilmen we know that this program has gone
11 through some bookkeeping problems in the past. I know
12 that the last mayor has tried to repair those
13 programs. I know that the new mayor... people in
14 place working diligently to make sure that the
15 funding and that the procedures for HUD was put in
16 place. Now we've had difficulties in the past, but
17 once again, we've cut off some organizations that
18 need that money timely because some students, like
19 myself in the past, need that little bit of money to
20 go to college with. So, yes, it's good to give
21 scholarships for \$1,000.00, but I think a better
22 message is for students to begin to work and to learn
23 from God fearing organizations so that they can earn
24 the money to realize why they have to go to college
25 to get an education. To have an education to get a

1
2 job. So we have to really look into who is working on
3 the prior year's funding and why these organizations
4 didn't get the money last year. So what an insult, to
5 not pay them for last year's funding and then to cut
6 them off for this year as well. So how do you expect
7 these small organizations that usually work on mostly
8 volunteerism to continue to sustain their program for
9 the community when Mount Vernon isn't doing what it
10 needs to do to fund them correctly. So if anything we
11 need to talk to these programs before you cut them
12 off and let them know, hey next year we may not be
13 able to fund you or we're looking to reduce your
14 funding so that they can prepare to find other
15 funding and I'm sure that they will. So I believe we
16 should reinstate them, get their money from last
17 year. Continue to fund them for this year and then
18 have a discussion with these excellent programs that
19 have been doing it for decades. Thank you.

20 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you. Next speaker
21 is Marlene Burtick (SP?)

22 MARLENE BURTICK: **[01:03:22]** Thank you so
23 much for giving me the opportunity. I'm Marlene
24 Burtick, Clinical Director for the Family Service of
25 Westchester and I want to begin by saying thank you

1
2 for funding us in the past. But I noticed that in
3 your draft we are left out. I just want to take a
4 minute or two to explain the program that is so vital
5 to Mount Vernon seniors. The program I'm speaking of
6 is Elder Abuse (SIC). One would be surprised, I know
7 I was when I joined Family Service of Westchester in
8 July of last year. But the number of seniors in Mount
9 Vernon who experience financial elder abuse often
10 times at the hands of their children and other family
11 members. Our social workers go into the home and
12 establish a relations and over a cup of tea or coffe
13 our seniors begin to tell our workers why they Don't
14 have food in their pantry. In their refrigerator.
15 Many times the seniors will say, will you help me
16 fill out food stamp application, and that's part of
17 our job. But under further investigation we find that
18 they're not eligible. They have sometimes a pension,
19 Social Security, and yet no food. And why is this?
20 Sometimes, more often than not, their own family
21 members are taking their Social Security check and
22 pension. So our job is to get to the crux of the
23 problem and to correct it. I have to say, in
24 listening to fellow residents and my city council
25 people, hearing about the cuts it's just devastating.

1
2 I'm not only advocating for Family Service and the
3 good work that my clinical social workers do, I'm
4 advocating for children. For people who do not have a
5 meal and you want to stop the soup kitchen in Mount
6 Vernon that has had over 20 years of experience in
7 helping people in this community. If anything, they
8 should have an increase. When it comes to housing, so
9 many people in Mount Vernon, the clients we see are
10 working two and three jobs in order to pay the rent.
11 And some of their apartments need so many
12 improvements. I really hope that you will reconsider
13 your decision because this draft does not make sense
14 when we Don't support the Boys and Girls Club, the
15 soup kitchen of Mount Vernon and so many other
16 programs that has a direct impact on the citizens of
17 Mount Vernon. Thank you very much.

18 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Thank you. The next
19 speaker is Kevin Bunch.

20 KEVIN BUNCH: Decline.

21 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: The next speaker is Edith
22 Haye (SP?) (**INAUDIBLE**)...

23 EDITH HAYE: **[01:06:50]** Good afternoon. I am
24 the executive director for (**INAUDIBLE**)... Development
25 Cooperation and (**INAUDIBLE**)... Development

1
2 Cooperation... (**INAUDIBLE**)... Grace Baptist Church.
3 I'm here representing (**INAUDIBLE**)... and in looking
4 at this we realize that our programs have been funded
5 through providing services to the Mount Vernon
6 community for years is not even considered. And
7 speaking... (**INAUDIBLE**)... Mount Vernon has been
8 suffering for a lot of situations (SIC). We have been
9 working, the Grace Baptist church, in keeping our
10 doors open for afterschool programs and some open
11 (SIC) currently. We have enrolled over 76 students.
12 The church has offset a lot of our costs. We have
13 received funding from the Westchester County and we
14 have a reputable program that keeps children safe. We
15 have not... there a lot of parents who come without
16 (SIC) We have to help these programs that
17 (**INAUDIBLE**)... and turn them away. We have tried
18 (**INAUDIBLE**)... after care because most programs in
19 Mount Vernon stop at three o'clock. We provide a
20 program up to six o'clock and this is something
21 discretionary (SIC) to our understanding of the needs
22 of the Mount Vernon community residents. We know that
23 there is limited (**INAUDIBLE**)... however, we ask that
24 there has to be some consideration for what we are
25 trying to do to establish some partnership with

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2 (INAUDIBLE)... because we're not doing it for... it's
3 a partnership. This is a partnership with the Mount
4 Vernon city and we're asking you please to reconsider
5 that our program (INAUDIBLE)... cooperation received
6 some consideration. Some acknowledgement for what we
7 have been doing (INAUDIBLE)... for 10 years and I'm
8 speaking as executive direction and also for my
9 chairman (INAUDIBLE)... Thank you. (INAUDIBLE)...

10 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: That concludes the
11 registered speakers. I'm now going to open it up to
12 see if there are any other individuals who want to
13 speak before we close out the session.

14 GEORGE BROWN: [01:09:30] Good afternoon.
15 My name is George Brown. I was born and raised in
16 this wonderful city of Mount Vernon. I'm here to
17 support the institutions and truly institutions for
18 instance. I'm an alumni of the 1965 (INAUDIBLE) at
19 the Boys and Girls Club. Boys and Girls Club is
20 (INAUDIBLE)... so much work with so many. One of our
21 best (INAUDIBLE) of knowing who are, our basketball
22 team love (SIC). I'm just take a point (SIC) that if
23 it wasn't for the Boys and Girls club, all the real
24 players came from that boys club. Years and years
25 we've helped put the city on the map. So I wish we

1
2 would reconsider the applications. Also, the soup
3 kitchen, my fraternal organization (**INAUDIBLE**)
4 temple, (**INAUDIBLE**) and my Masonic Lodge, St. Joseph
5 lodge, we do a lot of community service by service
6 the... and we have to, by nature of our organization
7 we've got to do community service and that's one of
8 the services that we really like doing. Going to a
9 soup kitchen and serving the people in the community.
10 There's no greater love, no greater feeling that you
11 got when you are there seeing, putting a smile on
12 somebody's face when you're giving them some food. So
13 I really wish you would reconsider the soup kitchen
14 allocation. Also the Razorbacks. Councilwoman
15 COPELAND mentioned that one of the founders was
16 Councilman Edwards and not only... but what she did
17 mention, Councilman Edwards always talks about one of
18 his students, I mean, one of his that came through
19 the program was indeed the Mayor himself. So I mean,
20 we're going to take away an organization that has
21 produced a mayor of a city. I hope you'll reconsider
22 that. I'm looking at something which I think is the
23 big elephant in the room. To me, I can see where you
24 can save all of these organizations and give everyone
25 (SIC) a piece of the pie. I see you have \$762,740.00

1
2 for the neighborhood (**INAUDIBLE**)... for the traffic
3 lights. It seems that being that the entire community
4 is going to benefit from that, it seems like it could
5 be a capital project venture. Where something like
6 this could come through capital projects. Capital
7 projects would allow all of the community to pay
8 at... at the rate which all the tax holders would be
9 responsible for, but at the same time you could
10 easily, easily, that's the big elephant in the room.
11 That figure (SIC) needs to... to possibly go to
12 capital projects. Some of it you can take care of the
13 soup kitchen, you could take of the Boys and Girls
14 club. You could take care of every organization that
15 I've heard everyone come up here to have some... some
16 concerns about. You can actually spread the money out
17 and everyone will get a little piece of the pie. I
18 really wish you would reconsider all which I have
19 mentioned. Hopefully I got everyone, but I think the
20 big elephant in the room again is that six...
21 \$762,000.00. You could take \$300,000.00 of that and I
22 think that you can give everyone in here a little
23 something that would allow them to continue to do the
24 services... because we're talking (**INAUDIBLE**)
25 services. No one is making a profit on this. These

1
2 are services that are going to be cut from our
3 citizens. Again, I'd just like to reiterate to you
4 one more time that you reconsider the allocations for
5 the traffic lights. Reconsider the fact that that
6 could be a capital project... **(INAUDIBLE)**... we Don't
7 even to take about... I would say \$300,000.00-
8 \$400,000.00. That way I think the soup kitchen can
9 get their... the Razorbacks can get theirs. Dennis
10 Henry's organization. They are phenomenal
11 organization because people come to city council all
12 of the time and complain as Councilman Griffith said
13 we push them to Dennis Henry because he is an expert
14 in the field. So these are services really, really
15 services that would benefit the citizens of Mount
16 Vernon and if you have not done so I suggest... I
17 suggest that you go by the soup kitchen and volunteer
18 to feed the homeless and I guarantee you, once you
19 see what's going on with this money there is no in
20 the world you would **(INAUDIBLE)**... you just, you
21 wouldn't even be able to sleep (SIC) because this is
22 a service that only the underprivileged is
23 benefitting from. No one else is benefitting from me
24 trying to convince you, begging for you to get
25 **(INAUDILBE)** and you're trying to do your jobs, but I

1
2 guarantee if you go to that soup kitchen. You go to
3 those Razorback games and see how our kids... I think
4 we won the championship... we won the championship
5 not too long ago right? The Razorbacks? And see the
6 pride that it puts on these kids. You go to the Boys
7 and Girls and club, the history, history, history.
8 Thank you so very much for your time.

9 DWAYNE BROWN: [01:15:00] Good afternoon.

10 My name is Dwayne Brown I am a lifelong resident,
11 grew up here. I just resigned as the Chamber of
12 Commerce president and I resigned after
13 **(INAUDIBLE)**... because of things that's going on like
14 this today. I'm a politician. I've volunteered in my
15 city for years. And I **(INAUDIBLE)**... maybe great
16 people, but I Don't know how you can decide on our
17 community when you two Don't even walk (SIC) the
18 community. And it's not your fault you just get there
19 and you're just making decisions. You're making
20 decision for a community when you Don't walk the
21 community. Midnight basketball, 42,000...
22 **(INAUDIBLE)**... I take kids with no money, volunteer
23 as the chamber president to help people in this
24 community **(INAUDIBLE)**... I help a lot of people to
25 this day **(INAUDIBLE)**... what are you saying, teach

1
2 kids how to build a business for \$42,000.00. Teach
3 kids how to be independent. Not basketball. Midnight
4 basketball is a... and then you've got it under
5 economic development. What development is that in my
6 community, midnight basketball? I'm a businessman and
7 I learn from my community. I have volunteered in the
8 chamber to make a difference in my community. You
9 have a state champion basketball, you have a big
10 basketball program. Maybe instead (SIC) midnight
11 baseball, maybe instead midnight football, maybe
12 instead midnight lacrosse. Maybe instead midnight tap
13 dancing. I can go on, and on, and on, and on about
14 midnight... but midnight basketball? When you saw
15 this you (**INAUDIBLE**)... stupid midnight basketball.
16 I'm offended as a volunteer and then you turn around
17 and put economic development in my face for
18 \$42,000.00 and call it midnight basketball and I
19 volunteer for over 15 years in this community with my
20 own money... I'm sorry, I'm talking (**INAUDIBLE**)... I
21 deserve that respect in this community from all three
22 of you. (**INAUDIBLE**)... that the first kind of respect
23 that we must have for each other. Don't look at your
24 paper when I'm talking to you. That's very
25 (**INAUDIBLE**)...

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2 UNIDENTIFIED: No, I'm writing notes

3 **(INAUDIBLE)**...

4 DWAYNE BROWN: Okay I didn't... I've paid
5 my dues and will continue to pay, but who's offended
6 by this and who's not. I'm not looking for
7 friendship. I'm looking out for my community because
8 you aren't I am. You see, those couple of shots got
9 fired, I live on 195 Wayne, one person got murdered
10 and another one... in triangle (SIC) of my house,
11 three shooters... look at me when I'm talking please

12 **(INAUDIBLE)**... Okay, now that's why we need to help
13 kids develop their skills. To be people. Not just
14 playing basketball. And my Brothers Keeper,

15 \$30,000.00 you Don't to tell me **(INAUDIBLE)**... when
16 they have people show up, you know when they get 20
17 people to show up at those meetings. They're not

18 **(INAUDIBLE)**... the same five people, and I can name
19 them, show up to those weekends they Don't deserve

20 **(INAUDIBLE)**... put it back in the... put it back

21 where we can **(INAUDIBLE)**... I'm an event planner. I
22 can't get a bride to come to Mount Vernon to spend

23 money for me, over \$20,000.00 because of our

24 economics. So I have to take my business and open

25 another place in White Plains when I Don't want to,

1
2 but I've got to feed my four kids so I can't fight
3 **(INAUDIBLE)**... come on. Do you know why the chamber
4 didn't... I didn't put the chamber up for any
5 **(INAUDIBLE)**... to get the chamber money because I
6 Don't want to... you know, I'm not good at kissing
7 butt so I didn't even want the money **(INAUDIBLE)**...
8 but you've got to think about the whole community.
9 The whole community. Midnight basketball and My
10 Brothers Keeper **(INAUDIBLE)**... under economic
11 development. I want somebody to tell me what does
12 that have to do with economic development. Who are
13 you... **(INAUDIBLE)**... I'm getting a little frustrated
14 **(INAUDIBLE)**... and I Don't want to take it out on
15 your guys, you know what I'm saying, but I'm telling
16 you, you got to be... when you come before the public
17 and speak, I Don't know about **(INAUDIBLE)** when you
18 come before me and speak because I've been here. I've
19 been through four mayors. They come and they go, but
20 you know who's been sitting... you know who's always
21 been here, the community. **(INAUDIBLE)**... and people
22 like me, you know what I'm saying and I can show you
23 when he was... before he got mayor I was taking
24 pictures of him at council... at events. So I
25 Don't... I Don't like **(INAUDIBLE)**... be who you are

1
2 all of the time. I feel for you because you're in
3 front of a battle that you Don't even know what
4 you're getting yourself into, but you've got to fix
5 it. And if you turn away from feeding homeless people
6 (INAUDIBLE)... even do that to people. I Don't ever
7 have to walk in this building again. I always stand
8 with principle when I'm in this building and when I
9 walk around in my life (SIC). You cannot... go to...
10 walk the streets with me. Walk the streets, see what
11 people go through. I've got kids that I help read...
12 I have a young lady who I took to Boston to get her
13 passport because her (**INAUDIBLE**)... I helped her get
14 a driver's license and a passport with my money.
15 Drove her to Boston. Midnight basketball you can't
16 be serious with that.

17 DENA WILLIAMS: **[01:20:32]** Bina (SIC)
18 Williams. I'm here on behalf of Mount Vernon
19 Razorbacks. In full disclosure I do wear two hats. I
20 work for the city. However, I couldn't let this
21 hearing pass without asking you to please reconsider
22 funding for the Razorbacks. In the past we have been
23 funded and we really appreciate it. We work with
24 volunteers. There is no one that gets paid on the
25 staff of the Mount Vernon Razorbacks. These are

1
2 parents, these are concerns parents. These are
3 grandparents that bring their children down there so
4 that they can learn the fundamentals of football
5 (SIC) and cheerleading. We were a little surprised
6 that we were not funded. We understand that there are
7 reasons for everything, but there is a lot of passion
8 and a lot of kids down there. There is a lot of love
9 down there. We would like to even expand the program,
10 but we've had difficulty because we Don't have a
11 home. We used to be at memorial field and now thanks
12 to recreation (**INAUDIBLE**)... keep a trailer with our
13 equipment down in West (SIC) Park and we're very
14 thankful for that. But I ask today to please
15 reconsider for the Mount Vernon Razorbacks. Thank
16 you.

17 JANICE DUARTE (SP?): **[01:22:00]** Janice
18 DUARTE, and I declined from speaking earlier because
19 I hadn't quite had the opportunity to review
20 everything but the one thing that does stand out to
21 me and I think needs to be said, given the current
22 climate we know that we're experience cuts on many
23 levels. From the federal level, the state level
24 (**INAUDIBLE**)... So how these monies are allocated
25 locally I think is even more important because

1
2 everyone (**INAUDIBLE**)... so the cuts that they are
3 experiencing now (**INAUDIBLE**)... Community Block
4 Grants could be (**INAUDILBE**)... and I ask that you
5 reconsider the allocations that you have
6 (**INAUDIBLE**)... for many reasons... (**INAUDIBLE**)... but
7 because everyone is experiencing these cuts from
8 other angles as well. (**INAUDIBLE**)... on behalf of the
9 Youth Bureau (**INAUDIBE**)... so I thank you for the
10 support that you have given youth programs. On behalf
11 of (**INAUDIBLE**)... I'm a member of the (**INAUDIBLE**) and
12 we work very closely with that organization
13 (**INAUDILBE**)... hunger in our communities. So I know
14 that that's (**INAUDIBLE**)... and so we feel it's
15 absolutely imperative that you reconsider this. We
16 can't afford to make mistakes at this level. Thank
17 you.

18 ANDRE WALLACE: [01:23:30] Andre
19 WALLACE, city council. I'm really discourages with
20 all of this that's going on. We really need to
21 understand how are we going to make up the difference
22 for the soup kitchen and for (**INAUDIBLE**)... I Don't
23 even know if you guys have a solution for that
24 because I Don't understand... and... Mr. Brown made a
25 good point, who is taking their child to midnight

1
2 basketball? I know I will not bring my child out at
3 midnight. So why is that a priority over a soup
4 kitchen that feeds so many people on a daily basis at
5 summer camp and the Boys and Girls club that we
6 already have to fundraise continuously to make all of
7 these particular things happen? And with the little
8 contribution that is supposed to come in for these
9 programs by you guys, you're cutting it. You're
10 cutting it. I can understand you saying you're going
11 to put some more to the police department because
12 you're going to need it because the people that can't
13 eat or have any place to go will be on the streets
14 now. What are you going to do about that? This is not
15 a game. I've looked at this and my first... and I
16 understand, I looked at everything in all different
17 angles. And my first thing was I know certain
18 **(INAUDIBLE)** of people sit on certain boards and
19 certain responsibilities and certainly to see that
20 help the community. And those are the ones that seem
21 to be talking. And looking at all of these things why
22 couldn't you guys... if you claim that you're working
23 with us, why couldn't you **(INAUDIBLE)**. You can focus
24 on a conflict of interest, but you can't focus on
25 midnight basketball. So why are you focusing on that

1
2 which me, to be in the community, that's been serving
3 the community for over 20 something years and you
4 want to bring in something else. So that is making me
5 think and try to understand what is the priorities,
6 what is your goals? What is your mission? And what
7 are you really looking to do? Because right now
8 they're actually (**INAUDIBLE**)... what type of people
9 can do this? What are you going to say... and this is
10 not... people think it's homeless people that meet at
11 the shelter and eat at the food pantry and all these
12 different places and go to the soup kitchen. It's
13 not. There are a lot of working families that need to
14 make up a little slack and have to go there and this
15 important. And you know, two weeks ago for the first
16 time I really got a really good look at this, when
17 someone had to go to the shelter... get driven to the
18 shelter and turned around and said, I Don't want to
19 go all the way up there because I want to make it to
20 my job. So these people are working. They just need
21 extra help and you're taking it away. I really Don't
22 know how you could really do this and sleep at night.
23 It's ridiculous and whatever it may be for all of
24 those who Don't have... and one day, it could be any
25 of us. I Don't care who you are. I've seen it and

1
2 I've worked with sports figures that was on top, that
3 are right now going to soup kitchens and pantries
4 because (**INAUDILBE**)... So it can happen to anyone. It
5 can be those people today, the three of you tomorrow,
6 but you know the difference? There won't be a
7 tomorrow because you're taking it away. So until you
8 can figure out how you're going to make up this
9 difference I really think you need to go back to the
10 drawing board and figure out how you can recalculate,
11 restructure, rethink what you're doing because you're
12 destroying (SIC) a lot of people and you're sitting
13 there as if it's okay. And it's not. So I think you
14 really need to go back and brainstorm about this and
15 find out what is more important. We are not here for
16 ourselves, we live our lives for other and to bring
17 others up. What are you doing for anybody else by
18 doing what you're doing? Think about that and sleep
19 on that and then let us know.

20 **MARCUS GRIFFITH: [01:28:22]** Can you
21 please just say what you're titles are please?

22 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: I'm Danielle Scholar
23 I'm the deputy commissioner for planning.

24
25

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2 DOM MCCOY: DOM McCoy I'm a consultant on
3 the community development programs for the city, CDBG
4 home and emergency solutions grants.

5 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: I'm Sylvia Bolivar,
6 consulting for the city, for CDBG and HOME as well.

7 **MARCUS GRIFFITH:** Let me just understand
8 this. I know you, Danielle, but you two are
9 consultants for the city?

10 DOM MCCOY: Correct.

11 **MARCUS GRIFFITH:** Do you live in the
12 city? No, do you know the city?

13 DOM MCCOY: No.

14 **MARCUS GRIFFITH:** So how is it that
15 you're able to help us make decisions on things that
16 we know in the community? Now, I'm a councilman and I
17 get that question all the time people come up and
18 ask, do you live here and you know, we go oh of
19 course we do. And then people try to challenge us and
20 we come back with well we know, we understand. So it
21 doesn't work that way. If that works here I'm not
22 understanding how... is this board? Is this an
23 official board? How is it possible that two people
24 that are faking like they know Mount Vernon can come
25 here and make decisions on what we know. I don't

1
2 understand that. And I think we're going to have... I
3 don't know, I think we're going to have another round
4 of questions...

5 **LISA COPELAND:** (INAUDIBLE)... to adopt
6 this? Does it require a vote of the city council or
7 (INAUDIBLE)... to adopt this plan?

8 DOM MCCOY: Adopt the plan... the plan
9 is submitted by the (INAUDIBLE)...

10 **LISA COPELAND:** So it does not...

11 DOM MCCOY: Do you want to take that?

12 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: No it does not.

13 Actually is (INAUDIBLE) urban renewal board
14 (INAUDIBLE)...

15 UNIDENTIFIED: Do the consultants sit on
16 the board?

17 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: These are just
18 consultants for the city of Mount Vernon...

19 **LISA COPELAND:** Who sits on the board, I
20 think the public should know... I'm sorry to be
21 interrupting (INAUDIBLE)... we go way back, sorry,
22 sorry so I Don't mean (INAUDIBLE)...

23 **DUANE BROWN:** (INAUDIBLE)...Don't make no
24 sense

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2 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: You can make that
3 request if you want to know...

4 **LISA COPELAND:** Okay.

5 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: Who the members are
6 you can make the request it's public information. You
7 can make the request and (**INAUDIBLE**)...

8 **LISA COPELAND:** Okay.

9 **MARCUS GRIFFITH:** Are the consultants
10 being paid to advise us on what they Don't know? Are
11 you being paid to consult quote unquote? Because
12 that's more money that could go into our programs.

13 DOM MCCOY: So I think we have one more
14 question...

15 (CROSS TALK)

16 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: **[01:31:00]** The
17 consultants are part of the planning process. what
18 the city of Mount Vernon is... in using consultants,
19 in doing, in providing assistance to get our plan
20 done is not out of what communities do in the
21 planning process for planning their action plan and
22 their consolidated plan. So it's not something that's
23 foreign to this process. Most communities use
24 consultants.

25 (CROSS-TALK)

2 **MARCUS GRIFFITH:** Are you compensated
3 for your consulting whatever...

4 **LISA COPELAND:** Save it for the press
5 conference, that's enough, let them finish... press
6 conference ... *After they clear out of our council*
7 *chambers.*

8 **ROBERTA APUZZO:** I have one more
9 question how long have been in consulting?

10 DOM MCCOY: So we're running outside
11 kind of the parameters of the annual action plan, but
12 to answer your question the answer is yes.
13 Consultants, we're paid consultants. Just like other
14 communities that Danielle just referenced we're part
15 of the planning process and you just heard that it's
16 the board that **votes on** the final plan and just one
17 more thing it was transparent application. We
18 received 27 applications and so we **based** it on the
19 applications. Now the community input from Saturday
20 and today is very important component of that. So
21 that gets part of the record and adjustments can be
22 made. That's what this... that's what this is for. So
23 all of the comments, they're being recorded,
24 that's... any comments you wish to email or however
25

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2 you want to submit that's fine as well. It all
3 becomes part of the record (**INAUDIBLE**)...

4 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: And then the other thing
5 is all of the applications were scored. All of the
6 applications were scored and one of the things we are
7 going to do as well is afterwards to debriefs with
8 any applicant who wanted a debrief to see how they
9 can make their applications much more competitive for
10 the next cycle were we open the applications again in
11 October and that would be open for a lot bigger... a
12 longer period. So we were planning to do that as well
13 so and because we're trying to be in as much
14 transparency as possible and try to make sure that
15 everyone gets an opportunity to hear how they can
16 make their applications a lot stronger as well.

17 **ROBERTA APUZZO:** Excuse me, but how long
18 did you look at these applications? How many days did
19 it take you all, the three of you, to look at the
20 applications? The 27 applications?

21 DOM MCCOY: It took several days.

22 **ROBERTA APUZZO:** What is several days?
23 Please?

24 DOM MCCOY: Several is more than two
25 (**INAUDIBLE**)... at least three days.

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2 **ROBERTA APUZZO:** [01:33:45] You went...

3 you went through 27 applications in three days?

4 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Yes, because the

5 applications pertain to this year so we had asked for

6 a project narrative on three pages and then we also

7 asked for a budget proposal, a timeline, project

8 cost. So we made it a lot... we streamlined the

9 application to make it easier for all of the

10 applications to apply. And we're more than happy,

11 again, to sit with any applicant **we were planning on**

12 **sending an email to all of the applicants...** to go

13 through how to make your applications much more

14 competitive.

15 **LISA COPELAND:** And for the record it

16 would be much better if this was held in the evening.

17 A Saturday morning and at lunch time, you know, I ran

18 over from a funeral to get here. I was even late, so

19 for the record an evening session would have been a

20 lot and I'm sure this chamber would have been a lot

21 more full. Just for the record, I'm sorry, go

22 ahead...

23 UNIDENTIFIED: (**INAUDIBLE**)... including

24 myself (**INAUDIBLE**)... will not be considered...

25

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2 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: For the 2018 funds anyone
3 can apply. Anyone. It will be open and so whether you
4 received funds or not anyone can apply for 2018
5 funds.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: So you're saying that based
7 on my application you will give me a feedback based
8 on my score and the possibility for me to get funding
9 still exists? Now, that's what you're saying?

10 DOM MCCOY: For the next fiscal year...

11 UNIDENTIFIED: (**INAUDIBLE**)... based on the
12 emails (**INAUDIBLE**)... based on your process you'll be
13 sending out emails and so the emails (**INAUDIBLE**)...

14 (CROSS-TALK)

15 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: So these are proposed
16 recommendations. Nothing is final yet.

17 (CROSS-TALK)

18 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: And that's why the
19 citizen participation is very, very important and
20 will be taken into serious consideration. Once it is
21 final and this is closed for 2017 then we will
22 (**INAUDIBLE**)...

23 UNIDENTIFIED: (**INAUDIBLE**)... is this
24 final?

25 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Not yet, no.

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2 DOM MCCOY: It's a draft.

3 UNIDENTIFIED: And so actually I want to
4 ask you there is still time for me to based on your
5 feedback (**INAUDIBLE**)... there will be time for
6 (**INAUDIBLE**)...reorganize and apply

7 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Now once... once this is
8 final whatever the final document looks like because
9 it's still all proposed. Nothing is final. Once it is
10 final and those decisions are made, an email will go
11 out to the applicants who want to have a debrief and
12 we can talk about how to make your applications much
13 more competitive for the next round of funds, but not
14 right now until... until (**INAUDIBLE**).... we can't
15 have that conversation yet.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: So when you're saying next
17 round of funds that means of 2017?

18 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: 2018.

19 UNIDENTIFIED: So what about 2017?

20 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: It is still the year...
21 this... we are gathering input from all of you in the
22 room and anyone else who wants to submit their
23 comments. This is still very much a draft.

24 **ANDRE WALLACE: [01:37:04]** I have one
25 more question, I know it's really you said you just

1
2 needed several days... maybe two to three days for
3 all of those applications. In the program that I do,
4 for my 20 kids it takes me over two weeks to go
5 through all of that stuff and everything with my
6 whole entire staff and figure out... did you go to
7 the websites? Did you visit the sites? Do you
8 understand what's going on? Did you see the needs
9 **(INAUDIBLE)**... all of that so you could get a clear
10 understanding? Because sometimes what you see on
11 paper is not enough. Did you go to anyone's website?
12 Did you go and break it down? Did you call
13 **(INAUDIBLE)** and have conversations about those
14 particular programs before you made your decision?

15 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: so I can only speak from
16 what I did and I can tell you I review the
17 applications very, very closely and will...

18 **ANDRE WALLACE:** So the answer is no.

19 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: The answer is no in
20 terms of websites but what I did do was look at what
21 you said is the need in a project narrative and there
22 were a whole list of functions in the application...

23 UNIDENTIFIED: **(INAUDIBLE)**...

24 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: And sir, let me just...
25 just one more thing, the other piece of this that the

1
2 city has to do is they need to do a CAPER report
3 which means you have to then provide to HUD how you
4 use those funds and we haven't been doing. And one of
5 the things where they're focused in on to help you is
6 to make sure that you have your strong... the
7 compliance piece that's DOM because the city is at
8 risk of losing funds in the future if we don't comply
9 with all of the HUD requirements which haven't been
10 happening the last couple of years.

11 **ANDRE WALLACE:** Okay. But you didn't
12 visit any sites either . . . or none of that type of
13 thing . . .

14 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: I reviewed the project
15 narratives very closely.

16 **ANDRE WALLACE:** So that's a no.

17 (CROSS-TALK)

18 **DUANE BROWN:** [01:38:50] Let's qualify
19 the midnight basketball . . . I'm stuck on that . . .
20 what qualifies . . . cause I have to do that next
21 time.

22 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: So the mayor is looking
23 at how to address the needs of at risk youth...

24 **ANDRE WALLACE:** At Midnight?
25

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2 SYLVIA BOLIVAR... and one of the things
3 that is being looked at, and again, this is something
4 that everyone should feel free to provide input on.
5 The scope of what the program should look like and
6 looking at doing a program from six to 10 p.m. during
7 the week and it actually not only has basketball but
8 other programs and services provided to the youth
9 while they are there. That is something that
10 **(INAUDIBLE)**...

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Where?

12 **ANDRE WALLACE:** Where? You know, I got just
13 say one more thing. The programs from six to 10 make
14 no sense and I don't know **what type of ass-a-nine**
15 statement that is and I'm not blaming you for what
16 the Mayor is saying because that's ridiculous. If you
17 want to do a program you should do it between three
18 and six when parents need that **program...** not in the
19 hours when the kids should be home studying but
20 instead you want them out playing basketball. Who
21 puts this together? Because that makes no sense and
22 if the three of you are sitting there and you're
23 telling me that you're consultants and you can't see
24 it makes no sense, then **we need to fire you.** (CROSS-
25 TALK)

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2 **ANDRE WALLACE:** Okay, no but I'm saying
3 that should be common sense, but I know common sense
4 is not common, but you are consultants. You should be
5 able to understand that. Do you take your kids out at
6 six or 10 at night? No you don't man, you want
7 coverage because right now you would like ...
8 afterschool programs ... why because you're here
9 (CROSS-TALK)

10 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: So what we will do is we
11 will take that feedback that you have all provided...

12 **ANDRE WALLACE:** Please.

13 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: and bring it to the
14 Mayor.

15 **ROBERTA APUZZO:** I just, I have a
16 question, where is the midnight basketball? Where is
17 it? Where does he propose it is?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: 4th street park.

19 (CROSS-TALK)

20 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: It will be in partnership
21 with the schools.

22 GEORGE BROWN: They're going to have to
23 have it in the schools.

24

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2 MARCUS GRIFFITH: What teacher ...who's
3 going stay?... in schools.

4 (CROSS-TALK)

5 ROBERTA APUZZO: Someone's going to stay
6 and keep the school open until 10'o clock?

7 GEORGE BROWN: I have a question?

8 ANDRE WALLACE: And the school is going to
9 pay for that, right?

10 GEORGE BROWN: Okay, I have just a couple
11 questions. The program administration \$287,000.00 is
12 that the salaries for the administration in other
13 words that's for... what is that, the director?

14 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: That is correct. That
15 is correct, you're absolutely correct. That's for
16 staff to carry out administrative activities for
17 these programs, yes.

18 GEORGE BROWN: So the one underneath that
19 one, the neighborhood revitalization especially code
20 enforcement and is that for individual salary also?

21 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: I didn't hear what you
22 said ...

23 GEORGE BROWN: Special code enforcement
24 neighborhood revitalization?

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2 DANIELLE SCHOLAR: No it that is not.

3 Those are actually funds to... two building
4 inspectors and the building department.

5 GEORGE BROWN: Okay, that's been
6 (INAUDIBLE)... okay but too, sir, what is your name
7 again?

8 DOM MCCOY: It's DOMinic McCoy.

9 GEORGE BROWN: Mr. McCoy, and you ma'am?

10 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: Sylvia.

11 UNIDENTIFIED: Sylvia, do you guys
12 understand when I mentioned to you that this
13 \$762,000.00 could possibly, easily go on as a capital
14 project for the entire city?

15 DOM MCCOY: Yeah we heard your comments, I
16 think if you look at the record where you said about
17 300,000- 400,000 could be shifted funding this
18 account to funding out of general obligation so the
19 City Council will... or the counselors who are here
20 (INAUDIBLE)...

21 GEORGE BROWN: But the City Council
22 doesn't... they're not in control of that. The Mayor
23 has to establish Capital Projects Board. He is the
24 chairperson of that he would establish that board and
25 that's probably one of the reasons why this figure is

1
2 so high is because we don't have one. So I would
3 suggest that you strongly encourage the Mayor and
4 tell him some of the feedback that you got today. We
5 need that capital project board. That capital project
6 board you can set... he can put a smile on
7 everybody's face here because that... this
8 particular... this is something that all of the
9 citizens are going to benefit by... the neighborhood
10 revitalization for the red lights.

11 SYLVIA BOLIVAR: We will provide that
12 feedback. All of the feedback that's been provided
13 today . . . we will provide ... we will go back and
14 provide that feedback, absolutely. I just want you
15 all to know that. And Damani (SIC) I know you wanted
16 to speak as well?

17 (CROSS-TALK)

18
19 STEVEN ESHWHYER (SP.): We just need an
20 email . . . what's the best email? If we want to
21 send anything

22 DOM MCCOY: So the... you can send it to
23 my email address (**INAUDIBLE**)... dmccoy, d m c c o y
24 (**INAUDIBLE**)... dmccoy at c m v n y .com

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DANIELLE SCHOLAR: [01:43:52] For the record it's now 3:02 and I'm officially closing this public hearing for the 2017 Community Block Grant Funding. Thank you everyone for attending. We appreciated your comments. **[01:44:04]**

