



*Commissioner John B. Mattingly discusses ACS/DJJ integration at FY 2011 Preliminary Budget Hearing.*

## **DJJ Testifies Before City Council Juvenile Justice Committee on Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget**

The Department of Juvenile Justice testified before the New York City Council’s Juvenile Justice Committee on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

The Department discussed the Fiscal Year 2011 Preliminary Budget and detailed budgetary measures it intends to take to reach reductions set by the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG). ACS/DJJ Commissioner John B. Mattingly was joined at the hearing by ACS Executive Deputy Commissioner Laurence Busching and DJJ Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Policy Jacqueline James.

Commissioner Mattingly detailed the City’s plan, currently underway, to integrate the Administration for Children’s Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Under the integration plan, DJJ will be reorganized and operate as a division of ACS known as the Division for Youth and Family Justice.

The Commissioner defined the goals of the integration plan, citing a commitment to continuing juvenile justice reform, strengthening outcomes for youth in detention, reducing recidivism and reducing costly and ineffective State placement by expanding alternative programs.

To reach the \$13.5 million PEG, the Department outlined a three-part budget reduction plan that includes anticipated revenue through fringe benefits, cost-savings realized by merging DJJ’s administrative and executive functions with ACS and reducing the City’s use of detention. The Department also expressed its intention to reinvest \$1.8 million in savings to expand the availability of alternative-to-detention programs.

The Department also discussed issues related to the New York State budget, expressing its desire to realize savings to the City by reducing expenses paid to the State. By developing a new method of billing for State placements based on the number of young people being served these facilities, new opportunities for investing in alternatives-to-detention and placement programs may be developed.

At the hearing, Commissioner Mattingly stated, “Our efforts in the coming months will greatly enhance our abilities to provide better outcomes for the young people we serve. We are committed to collaborating with all of our partners to provide better care and treatment to you people involved with our juvenile justice system, and to strengthen outcomes for these young people and reduce recidivism.”

