NYC CEC Meeting 060121 945a

[Captioner standing by]

>> I was talking about rank choice voting and post site language access. The e‑mail that you sent us so that we could share with our community with the spreadsheet if we were going to write all the people that we invited or we submitted it to.

Because I was trying to share it and it just wasn't going out the way that it should, the links wasn't actually ‑‑ I don't know if anyone else had problems with it. It might be my computer. That is why I brought it up. Do you remember what I'm talking about?

>> The link to get into this meeting, Donna? I'm sorry.

>> Sarah sent an e‑mail to share with our network about poll site language access and rank choice voting with the prompt cards and things like that. I was trying to send it out, but every time I tried, it wouldn't act right. I sent it to myself and the link, I wasn't able to access the link.

It wants to print out the whole thing. I'm not sure what can be done or if it is my computer not allowing me to send it. Even people I sent it to say I can't access it. I don't know what that problem ‑‑

>> I think this was the e‑mail I sent on the 26th of May?

>> Yeah.

>> Yeah. I just checked it. The links seem to be working but we can double‑check if we sent you that afterwards.

>> Yeah. I didn't have any trouble, no got back to me saying they had trouble with the links, so.

>> I also had no trouble.

>> Thank you.

Good morning everyone. We have quorum.

>> Thank you, Frances, I will go ahead and get us started.

Good morning everyone. We're going to call the meeting to order. Welcome and thank you for joining us today. Including two members of the public. And our partners are here with us. As usual I will start with our reminder about technical instructions, special for anyone here for the first time. As you all know, during this public meeting, we have audio enabled for Commissioners. We ask you to mute yourself if you are not speaking. And to have your video cameras on, please.

Unless there is a good reason why you are not. And then to all other participants, you are muted upon entry. The moderator will enable audio during the public comment period. We ask you to during the public comment period we call on participants in the order they registered for public comment prior to the meeting. Then folks who have registered during the meeting.

And you may sign up for public comment in today's meeting up until noon.

And if you are dialing in via phone during the meet and don't have access to a computer monitor, we would like to ask you to text your name and affiliation to the number on the screen. To offer public comment. And others who are here have access, put your name into the chat if you would like to make a public comment during the last half hour. Again, sign up by noon. We will call the folks who put the names in the chat first and then call the dial in folks by name in the order their text was received. You may enable closed captioning under more options. Thank you to our captionist here with us. Under more options, first you click on the dot dot dot ellipses and look for more options.

Click on the option for closed captioning.

For some reason I'm trying to do that, and I don't have more options under my ellipses.

I don't know if anyone else has that issue, but. It may just be something wrong with my screen.

>> I think it's the host that has to enabled that.

>> It is enabled for everyone. Once you click on the ellipses, you should have a closed captions option.

>> I don't have it either.

>> Brilliant.

Great.

I will trouble shoot. We can continue with the meeting.

>> You know what it is, there are two ellipses, two dot dot dots. One is next to the reactions button. Another one is next to chat.

>> It's the one next to the chat.

>> Yeah., the one next to chat. Let's update these instructions so we are clear. I didn't even notice there was one next to chat until just now. Thank you. Great. So then we're going to turn next to the agenda. We are going to, I'm going to put this into the chat in case ‑‑ we will start with attendance, and I'm going to call your names. Please just say here when I call your name. Chuck?

>> Here.

>> Murad.

>> Here.

>> (indiscernible).

>> Here.

>> Alley Bonner. I'm breed low.

>> Here.

>> Mark Diller.

>> I'm here.

>> Lori. Gonna Gill.

>> Here.

>> Anthony Harmon. Jose Hernandez? Michael.

>> Here.

>> Lilliam Perez.

>> I'm here.

>> You're here?

>> I am.

>> Annetta?

>> Here.

>> Anastasia.

>> Here.

>> Thank you.

Thanks everyone. We are going to turn to looking at the minutes and just for the record, again my name is Sarah Sayeed.

So turning to the minutes from April 27th. I hope everyone has those. We took your advice in our discussion last time and added the topics discussed to the minutes. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes prepared? Sorry. (indiscernible).

>> I move to approve as submitted.

>> Second.

>> All in favor.

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed? Okay. Great. We're going to go forward and approve the minutes for April 27th.

Thank you everyone.

Okay. The next item on the agenda is program updates and, in this section, I want to just talk briefly about our budget and what you know what has been added to our budget for the next fiscal year, what we're still working on for the next fiscal year budget wise and after that we will get into the amendment we are voting on today. Some of you heard this information in our smaller conversations with staff, but for those who didn't make it, I wanted to let you know that we are allocated additional funding to increase the number of poll sites served in fiscal year 22. I'm sorry, in the next fiscal year, 23. So beginning in November, what we will be doing is serving up to 100 poll, 150 poll sites for the coming election.

We were allocated $800,000 for that program funding. And then we are still for this and other areas, we are still looking, talking with (indiscernible) about staffing increases because we obviously need more staff to run the program at a larger scale. We're in conversations about that. In addition, we received an allocation for our participatory budgeting process to be implemented in the 33 neighborhoods.

For each neighborhood, we received an allocation of $40,000 in expense funding that we will be looking to have residents decide how to spend those funds in support of recovery.

And this will be woven into the program that we are currently running in those neighborhoods. Helping to support coalition building we know is already happening on the ground. The program will be youth led, similar to what was done this past year when we worked with young people to create a participatory budgeting process for a hundred thousand dollars and gave $20,000 to five organizations.

So we will have a youth‑led process again. I want to be clear that this is not the same as a city-wide participatory budgeting allocation, it will however allow us to ‑‑ that we are building for expense participatory budgeting. As you know, in the past (indiscernible) implemented largely a capital process.

So we are trying to be innovative and build an expense wing of participatory budgeting which you know this allocation will help us to continue to do that.

And we are working again with OMB on the personnel and staff increases needed to fund this piece of the program as well. And for city wide participatory budgeting, what we are looking to do is create a program plan projection that will help us build the staffing infrastructure to run city wide PB in the next year before the projects are finalized and allocated in the next fiscal cycle. The process has to run and then the projects are selected and are allocated in the next fiscal cycle.

So, we really do need to have staff in place to run that process in FY23.

So, that is what we are working on with OMB and also talking with OMB how we can run those from our capital process as well. Just in terms, just to note for this year, we have been grateful for help from sister agencies to help us execute the program (indiscernible) this year. Again we are continuing to, been doing a phenomenal job of doing a lot of great work with a very small team. And we want to make sure that we are adding staff to the team going forward. Strong push on that front and people are generally being helpful which is nice.

Does anyone have any questions or concerns about anything I have shared so far regarding the budget?

>> How much more money, how much more funding is the commission receiving to do language access at the poll site.

>> It is 800,000. That is just program funds.

You know, hiring the interpreters and dealing with vendors who transport furniture and things like this. It is not just (indiscernible).

>> Okay.

And this budget, this is going to be in this, like this is money that is already being allocated to the commission or in the FY22 budget.

>> It is in the, it is for starting November, the next fiscal year. It will be in the adopt, and it will be, it is for anyone looking for CEC budget, you will find it under do it and it is not really broken out by programs when it is listed there. It is just listed as PS and OTPS. That is why I wanted to give more detail what those numbers are about.

Mark, I see your note. Will I definitely send you that and look for the link if I can post it during the meeting, I will.

>> Later is fine. It is not urgent now. Thanks.

>> Okay.

Any other questions or concerns about the budget?

>> Fully support the idea of additional staff. To do this project right, especially with the language access, it requires an appropriate staffing level. I had another smarter comment to make, and it is now flown out of my head. If I think of it, I'll put it in the chat.

>> Thank you. Thank you for that support.

Okay. If there are no further questions or concerns, I'm going to move us to the next section, to look at the poll site methodology amendment. I assume everyone has the word document with them.

As you recall for this particular amendment, this is related to our, the way in which we are choosing the number of poll sites allocated to each language. At the end of, I'm going to go through it briefly and we will take a vote on the amendment. If you remember we heard lots of feedback including comments from and concerns from all of you about the methodology and one is a concern about whether our data is up to date. Could it be more up to date. Since this is, since we are using census data there is a lag from when data is selected and when it is publicly available. We agreed to update the data each year when new data is made available. As you remember, the analysis uses American community survey data from. Census bureau the CEC methodology uses a data set that compiles five years into ‑‑ that is updated to include the latest available year end data. Last year when we approved this methodology, we used the 2014 to 2018 data set and the data set now available is 2015 to 2019. We are using this data as you remember to estimate the number of citizens of voting age and limited (indiscernible) who live in your city. We take that number in turn and compare it to other languages that we're providing in our program. And assign the proportion of poll sites to each language.

So the amendment has been edited to reflect the data from the 2015/2019 data set. If you check table seven, it includes the old numbers in brackets, and the new numbers are underlined for each language using this new data set.

When you look at each row, will you see that some of the languages have slightly increased in the number of voting age limit (indiscernible) citizens and others have slightly decreased. For example, with Arabic, you see that it went from 7.1 to 7.2. Bengali went from 5.2 to 5.5.

For similar slight increases for Haitian creole went slightly down. Every language has a slight change, and it may, you know, affect the number of poll sites by plus one, minus one or keep it the same.

So we will be assigning the number of poll sites to each language based on the updated percentages for this coming primary.

So are there any questions or concerns about the changes before we vote on the amendment? Okay. Welcome Jose and Holly.

If there are no changes or questions or concerns, could we have someone make a motion to approve the edits as specified in the document.

>> So moved.

>> Second.

>> Okay. All in favor of approving the edit to the amendment say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed, please say nay. Everyone has approved the edits, so we will move forward and make an approval to ‑‑ sorry. Approved the edit to the amendment and post the new version up on the website.

Okay.

We might be a little bit, I don't know, is ‑‑ I think we are ahead of schedule. We do have the next section of the meeting was going to be about the racial justice commission.

I thought we would have, usually Commissioners like to discuss amendments. I was sure we would have a discussion tip, but we are not doing that today for some reason.

>> I can provide a filibuster if you need one.

>> So we can just have, you know, let's have a conversation right now until Anusha comes, and I would like to hear from you all about how you are doing and particularly around primaries. What are you seeing on the ground? And how can we, I mean, we just to let you know, I think last time I told you we were doing an event or trying to do more in language event communities. We did one with a couple organizations for the Arabic speaking community. So we are continuing to do outreach and then I'm sure you also are aware that the mayor made a substantial allocation. You should be seeing more adds in public spaces and hearing and seeing them on media as well.

The CEC through some, received some funding also to increase our communication regarding both our services as well as to do more rank choice voter education. We are specifically working on an RCVPSA that is based on the prompt card we showed last time. Those ads will be out as well soon. We're excited that we are able to add more languages. The RCB prompt card has been translated into 22 languages, right?

>> That's right.

>> Oh, look, there is the link to PSAs. Daniel has put that into the chat. Daniel, is this the link to all the PS As or one of them? Could you explain.

>> Sure. That was the link to the rank choice voting piece. I will put in a link that takes you to the page with all three play lists. You can see from there the know your rights early voting and rank choice voting PSAs and all of the 14 translations.

>> Okay. Great thank you. We had the early voting and know your rights PSA last time. They were updated to reflect new dates for the primary.

Thank you so much to the team for adding the links. The PSAs are how long Daniel?

>> Sarah, I just looked, they're about a minute long, which is perfect.

>> Do folks want to see the PSA since it is new?

>> I have a question. I would like to know what is the plan for outreach to ethnic press? When I talked to community members, a lot of people I interact with are baffled by it. Like not even sure, don't really know that rank choice voting is happening, what does that mean, how do I go about it. It is a little bit scary to me, so yeah.

>> Yeah. No thanks for raising that.

There is going to be a lot of people who don't, I mean, there is clearly a lot of work that needs to happen in a short amount of time. We did an ethnic and community media roundtable to connect with different communities or try to do better outreach, but I think there is a big gap between what happening on the ground that a lot of media work happening, I think we're going to continue to need to continue to push on that. And yeah. I don't know Daniel do you want to add anything about the media roundtable we did to give a sense of, like, what languages might have come or media might have come to the event? How did it go?

>> Sure. Yes. So we participated in the community ethnic media roundtable, and I believe there were 20 to 30 outlets that joined. I can go back and find the list. We also, you know, shared our, sent out our press release widely regarding our services and we will send follow up e‑mail out with the PSA links because those were finalized after we sent out the release about the services themselves.

And then as Dr. Sayeed referenced, we're placing the ‑‑ placing assets in radio, print, digital, a little bit of TV and some other unique mediums as well, like live electronic billboards and things like that. In terms of community and ethnic media, we're placing them in print, radio and digital, online versions of the publications.

>> The other thing ‑‑

>> Those should start this week. Sorry to interrupt.

>> So the roundtable you held, you had about 30 participants?

>> I would have to go back and look at the exact list, but it was somewhere between 20 and 30 I believe.

>> Was there a good representation from various ethnic groups across the city?

>> There was definitely a mix, but I don't, I don't know if every single language was represented, you know, I would have to go back and look. The invite list does cover the full list and invites were done in partnership with democracy NYC and we utilized ‑‑ along with our own internal city list. Invites should have gone out to most publications if not all of the main ones. Really all of them but turn out could always be better. Several invites were sent by all the different participants.

And some of them, I just want to say, that was the number of people who signed in live. Some choose to watch it later because the recording does go up. I can't say that number is the ceiling of how many actually took advantage of the content shared.

>> Thank you.

>> Another thing to note on this piece as far as connecting with communities is that, you know, there is going to be and there is already work with organizations on the ground to do more outreach. If you recall, we are as part of the coalition work that CEC is working on, we are asking each organization that is leading coalitions to do rank choice voter education in their neighborhood with their coalition members. So we are going to be actually excitingly doing an orientation for some of those organizations later on this week.

There are about 23 or 24 organizations in 24 neighborhoods at least. There may be a few more that will come to the orientation that will be given RCV training and provided all kinds of materials for which they will use to do outreach over the next couple weeks in the 33 neighborhoods. So that is with the coalition work and then there are other organizations that the city is partnering with to do, to do more outreach on the ground as well.

So, I'm hoping that the number of people who understand RCV will grow over the next couple weeks.

And again, we welcome, you know, you to share, hopefully we can make the links work for anyone they didn't work for and encourage you to also continue to share through your networks as well.

And then you asked about faith organizations and so our last discussion we are partnering with the center for faith and community partnerships. When I say we, I mean the city is working through the center to reach faith organizations.

CEC is specifically now also working on an event with the inter faith center of New York to educate them both about the Civic Engagement Commission, share resources on RCV at that event and also have a presentation from the racial justice commission as well as that event will be happening hopefully next week.

So, and then we did have an intern start with us who will be happening with faith engagement. I know some of you indicated last time you would love to be part of that conversation, so I will be sending her towards you for further conversation or maybe set up a smaller meeting to discuss that with you all. And then (indiscernible) have been working hard to help voters (indiscernible) yes that is also true.

>> I've been seeing a lot in the subway and on link NYC trying to make sense of rank choice voting. They haven't done a good job of telling the public that some races are conducted through rank choice voting and others are not, like the district attorney in Manhattan anyway. That may be a source of confusion when people get to the ballot box, but otherwise it does seem to be ramping up on the street as it were and in the subway.

>> Great.

>> Yeah. There were also, I know we put out ads in bus shelters. Gaugin do you want to say more about the outreach happening through DNYC and other partners?

>> I think you and Daniel covered a lot of it, but like Dr. Sayeed said, we partnered with both DNYC and CEC with different community-based organizations on rank choice voting to do workshops in language and that includes workshops in Spanish, Bangla, Arabic and others. I can post the list. Many to most were regarded and are accessible in Facebook or different links. I will post that in the chat. I want to note one thing that we had our interpreter, our first interpreter training this past week.

Last Thursday. And supervisor training as well. The board of elections kindly shared materials on that -- updated materials on rank choice voting and also on the two ballots that voters will be seeing when they go to cast their vote this cycle. First ballot is, will be, that will be the ballot folks vote for local offices and will be ranked. The second ballot has judges and DA race and that is not ranked. We incorporated that to make sure interpreters were aware of that information. Those are, I feel like I kinda diverted there, but I wanted to share that piece on the interpreter training as well. I will share the link to the workshops.

>> BOE training for poll workers. To give each voter a prompt card to explain (indiscernible) and not engage in any discussion. Sorry. Could you explain Amy what you ‑‑

>> Yeah. Poll workers are being trained to give a palm card from the BOE to every voter. We know those will not be in every language. I haven't had a confirmation which languages are covered but I assume the languages will be on the palm card. Workers are told not to engage in any conversation about rank choice voting, to direct the voters to the palm card.

To get the information.

So, I just want to say that I think our palm cards are going to be really, really important for all the voters to have in terms of the 22 ‑‑ sites know we have the palm cards and how many get them preapproved or something like that so we don't have sites where we could be accused of election nearing because of handing out materials close to, too close to the site.

>> Did you want to say anything about what we are sharing at the poll site?

>> So based on our last conversation with the board of elections team, they will be having, they will have palm cards on‑site and Amy, of course, they're not the ones, they're not CEC and the 22 languages but they will have their palm cards in addition to banners that also voters may refer to. Our interpreters have, of course, been, they have seen our palm card, just because we think that it is very simple, and it breaks it down in a way that rank choice voting is easy to digest and we also want our interpreters to have the palm card in language, so they are comfortable with the language they are orally translating for voters. That is something they prepare with. We have a know your rights one pager that interpreters prepare with which includes information on all of the offices that are up for election in addition to rank choice voting.

In addition to a glossary that they prepare with as well. That doesn't answer your question. Your question is around whether we can have the CEC palm card at poll sites. So on that piece the board of elections has seen our palm card. They gave very kind feedback and approved, and said the language is consistent with the CFBs and board of elections. What we can do is circle back with folks we work with, the central team, and see if it is possible to have our printed palm cards (indiscernible) or if possible, to even share links to it that may be shared with poll workers that poll workers may refer voters to as a resource. We can look more into that.

>> Thank you go begin. Having printed palm cards in the languages we are serving at those sites would be helpful if we can do that.

>> Thank you, Amy. Yeah, we will talk to the team.

>> Thank you for that.

>> Thank you for that. What might be the gaps you are seeing with outreach or awareness that maybe we could think strategically together about. Like how to, I'm sure you are talking with Moya about this but I'm curious since you have a bird's eye view of things.

>> Yeah. I think that there is an enormous amount ‑‑ can you hear me?

>> I can hear you, yeah.

>> I think this year could have been better at using the opportunity of time to educate more people. I think, you know, it is great to have the influx of money come in a couple weeks ago, but I think it was needed back in January to be pushing out more information to RCV and on the flip side, I think the city should have invested in community-based organizations to be able to do that very targeted outreach and education that they do very well and thinking about groups like Arab American organization.

Know how to speak the language of the community, know how to speak to the community, and I kinda feel that that was sort of a missed opportunity in this moment.

And getting dollars out to organizations doing the work significantly early in this process. I know that we are in different types, but I think there is something I said in the previous hearing, that we have to invest in democracy, and we can't do that if we're going to continuously be talking about austerity and, you know, what we can't do if anything the last place that should have had a hit in the budget is anything related to democracy as we move forward with one of the biggest elections of this decade.

I think there is more work to be done. We have 21 days to do it and folks should be, you know, we're doing a lot of education at the NYC and sending a lot of information, but I don't know, we need to do more aggressive education outreach on it. And we haven't really been able to do that in a way because of COVID but also because of the lack of resources that there are for education on RCV.

>> If you have suggestions for communities where you think we could do more outreach, I really welcome that kind of feedback and we can see based on the time we have and resources that are available just like try to get to as many communities as possible and support, you know, you all as you are trying to also share the information. How about community boards? Is that, I mean, I know we have already done outreach with the district managers, but is that a space that you are seeing education happening in? Or not so much?

>> I think pre‑COVID it would have been.

COVID has changed dynamics of how people get information.

People would go to community board meetings and those are people who were somewhat engaged in local government.

But I do think that, you know, unfortunately right now community boards are not where people are getting information. They are going to the places where they're assisting with rental assistance, cash establishes, food distribution and just keeping them alive in this moment and able to survive. Those are the same organizations that have been doing voter education historically and outreach. I think that is where the pistons are firing but missing each other and really being able to connect to where people are going right now.

You know, in the first place, folks are going to when they need help is to their trusted community-based organization.

And I don't think that there is, I don't even need to give a list of organizations. You can look at the organizations doing the work in communities across the city.

You know, I think that they, any one of them would do an amazing job at starting to educate focuses on RCV. Some are doing it on their own without funding, but it is not something they have to the capacity to do intense education on.

>> Yeah. I believe, thank you for that comment. We will look back and see how this particular south Asian and Indo Caribbean communities, who are the folks the city might be connecting to. If we can get that list, I'll share it with you and be in touch with you more of the other places we should connect to.

There is an effort, so, you know, through this new funding approved by the mayor to work with CBOs. I'm not sure exactly which CBOs are going to receive funding and how that funding will be allocated. I don't have the latest information, but I can look into that and share more information with you all.

And everyone who said it is absolutely right. We are trying to do a lot in a short amount of time.

This would have been ideally done a long time ago, started a long time ago for sure.

Okay.

Any other questions or comments on the RCV outreach?

>> I would jump in that my experience with community boards may be a little different from Marauds and that community boards are often connected to CBOs you are coordinating with.

COVID actually has been a boom to community boards because when you had to schlep to go to a meeting, we often had audiences of fine of to 10 people. Now we are getting 20 to 100 depending on the issue. That said, we can do a better job of interacting because I think Maraud was right saying people who are finding their way to a meeting are already civically engaged and don't need, they may not be the ones that are the target audience for the outreach we need to do. As a slight difference of circumstance but I think it leads more or less to the same conclusion.

>> Donna you hold an RCV training with your community board.

>> Yes, I did. We did this way back because I was very intentional about it. We did it way back in January, February or March.

I wanted the community to know what was coming. And as you know Sarah, in our community, it was a little controversial the rank choice voting. I wanted everyone to understand it was coming, it was something you needed to be aware of the controversy or not, we know we have to do it.

I was very insistent with my chair. I had a lot of push back, but I was insistent, and we did have rank choice voting training and we had it at least at two of our meetings. Very early on. I was concerned as everyone else is that they, the information wasn't being given out and to give it out now as I hear a lot of my other Commissioner's concerns, it is a little late. You know, and it is confusing in Manhattan as Mark was saying because though we're teaching people about rank choice voting, we have a district attorney race and judges that are not ranked. Our voters will be confused about that, and no one is speaking to that. Every meeting I attend, I try to bring it up or put it in the chat so that people are not surprised when they get to polls. Additionally Amy, I happen to be a poll worker, and yes, I was very concerned about what they, the training said you give out a palm card, but you don't engage with the voters. So, you just handout a card and say read the card, read the sign that is there, and I think the comfort level of someone getting a card and reading it right before you go into the poll to do the voting is really not enough information given at that time because people are confused anyway.

You know. So I was a little concerned about, yes, as maraud said we needed to start this in January, but we appreciate the influx of funding that has come out, but I feel like it is a whole lot, but it is a little late.

And I have been looking, seeing, I have been seeing the ads, our ads, you know, the ads in the train station, buses, things like that. People are not paying attention to those.

Those ads.

You know, I don't think anyone, well I'm not sure I can't speak to for the whole of New York City, but a lot of people are just happy to be vaccinated, not wearing masks and being able to get out. Rank choice voting is not something they are thinking about. They are going to have to seriously think about it when they get into the polls when early voting starts on June 12th.

One more thing I have to say. I don't feel that the information about bringing someone in with you to the poll site for interpretation is really widespread or given to the voters that they have that choice. I know we had a discussion about it. I know that it is available. But I feel like that also should have been something, that should have been a message that we gave to the voters so that they understand that they can bring in someone to interpret for them and they have the right to do that. Because I think a lot of people don't have a right to do that. I will get off my soap box now. Thank you.

>> It is an important soap box. I mean now that the know your rights PSAs are ready, again we will send the links to you and just please share them and like wherever you have an opportunity, I think you are right that, you know, there is a lot more work that needs to happen around that basic right as well.

I mean, I do, I have heard that, you know, people tend to bring family members with them. I think we can do more to encourage that. Especially where we are not providing services because we are not at the particular poll site or not serving a language and can't be at every poll site in the city, so.

And we are also working on the PSAs will be placed in different ethnic media outlets and we can send you where they are going to be placed. Daniel we've been working with (indiscernible) on placing those ads.

We can share those with you too.

Okay.

Yeah. Amy, do you want to just share what you wrote?

>> Yeah. I wanted to voice Donna's concern to too which I have voiced to you Sarah and a couple commission members. It seems the BOE is still pushing forward that the only interpretation at the sites are these official interpreters. And they are not really promoting that you can bring someone else in.

And that, you know, and they make no mention, of course, of the CEC and the interpretation that we will be providing at certain sites. I wanted to voice with Donna that there is a real concern here that we are still having a hard time getting interpretation for people at the sites.

>> Thank you, Amy.

So, yes. We will continue to push that boulder up that hill or mountain.

And with all your help; we will also try to circle back with colleagues at BOE on messaging to make sure that we have a better understanding of what we can do, you know, to address that gap.

So, any other comments on this section? I think.

>> And monitor some of the things that go on at those sites. I spoke to you once before for any of us to walk into a polling site without any official identification or anything, who are we to speak on behalf of the commission? I think the staff has probably an ability and anyone that we're hiring will have some type of ID, but I'm more than happy as a commissioner, you know, I get around pretty well in the city, particularly in Queens that if I walk in there, no one is going to stop me from expressing my views of what should and should not be done there. We are official entities of the city, and we monitor the board of elections. Why shouldn't we have the capability as individuals, as Commissioners to do that?

>> Thank you, Michael. I think there is definitely, it is helpful to have as much information as possible so what is happening on the ground, right, between during the elections process. So, I'm not sure last year we did have DNYC during the last election we did have folks on the ground, but first CEC staff in particular, we are focused on our language assistance program operations. So that is all we are doing during the elections period and as you know we're a small team so, you know, I think we just have to continue to work with, you know, folks on the ground our CBO partners, rely on them to share information and certainly you all have reports on election day as to what you are seeing. Do let us know and BOE has been responsive to issues coming up during elections to try and address the concerns that might be coming forward to the city.

We can try to work collaboratively with everybody to make sure that people are getting the resources and help they need.

>> But after the fact, I think by having as many eyes and ears at these sites, there will be a report that will probably need to be generated in terms of what people have observed besides what goes on internally from the Board of Education, board of elections and everybody else and I just, you know, I obviously have pun done this and many of us have been around elections. Just our way of reporting by being available and by being the participant and not just a passive observer.

I think that would be helpful.

>> Yeah. He mean I think if anyone sees like real immediate pressing issues that need to be addressed during elections, please let us know.

>> Yeah. But going in, though ‑‑

>> During the election.

>> ‑‑ if Chuck goes in or Mark, somebody goes in and says, by the way, I'm a member of the CEC and I have observed that you are not giving people an opportunity for translations or to have somebody help them, you know, it gives a little bit of officialness to this thing.

>> Yeah. I mean CEC doesn't have oversight overboard of elections to make that super clear.

>> Over the language issue. This is an election we're involved in and committed to by spending money to make sure rank choice voting is done properly. Questions are being answered in multiple languages, by being there and sharing the experiences of the voters are going to have by having some position to do that. That is all I'm saying.

>> Yeah. Yeah.

>> I could do it as a journalist, but I think it would be more impactful, you know, as a member of the city civic engagement commission. That also gives it more stature to being a member.

>> We can look into what is possible that way and get back to you.

Making a note to follow up.

Annetta. Wrote something.

Number of organizations that do this kind of monitoring such as (indiscernible) American legal defense and education fund and others.

So we can also share information on which orgs monitor (indiscernible).

>> I will quickly add that (indiscernible) partners with a number of CBOs to do this kind of monitoring.

>> That is helpful, thank you.

Okay. I'm going to move us to the next section of the meeting, which is going to be presentation on the racial justice commission. And people may or may not know this was announced by the mayor and today we have with us ‑‑ executive director of the commission and will provide an overview and I wanted to thank you for being here with us today. She's been really a great partner to us at the CEC. She was formerly at HPD and some of you may know her. She was before the city, she was with the municipal arts society, and most recently the director of NYC service. We have been great, had the great opportunity to work with NYC service on hosting an AmeriCorps fellow. If you recall Lydia with us the first year came to us through AmeriCorps and NYC service provided us a grant to increase our volunteer capacity and we reported that to you Frances talked about that last meeting. So, I would love to turn it over to Anusha to present to us on the racial justice commission that is currently running.

And then we will take some questions after that.

>> Great. Thank you so much.

>> I think this is our first public ‑‑ you are the first folks to hear more detail in a public setting. I'm joined by Jackie Kennedy from my team. Jackie, do you want to introduce yourself.

>> I'm Jacqueline Kennedy from the health department and excited it to be the director of public engagement for this awesome opportunity to address structural racism in New York City. It is nice to be here and nice to see all of you all.

>> Awesome. I have some slides; would I be able to screen share?

>> Yes, you have sharing ‑‑ you have sharing rights.

>> Okay. How does that look? Good. Just to give a little bit of a highlight of what we will go through today, I think we will spend 10 minutes presenting on the commission's work and how we are thinking about our process right now. And then we will have time for Q&A. I will go over the background on the racial justice commission, our mission, a little bit on charter revision. I think you are all probably more familiar than most audiences given the CEC was created through a charter revision commission process, but we will go through that briefly. I will share how we are thinking about approaching our work, our vision and framework then a timeline for the commission, a little bit on our public engagement strategy and then time for Q&A. We also have questions for you that we think you could be helpful in sharing your expertise and input on as we enter the public lick engagement process. By way of background, the racial justice commission was announced in intention at this year’s state of the city address. In February. The mayor announced he was going to form a charter revision commission focused on racial justice ‑‑ with a two-year mandate to root out structural racism. Between that announcement and the announcement of the commission itself, the commission became a racial justice commission and pointed 11 Commissioners including our chair Jennifer Jones Austin and vice chair Henry Garrido. We have held three meetings so far. You may know some of the Commissioners themselves. They all bring incredible experience background connections with communities around the city and expertise on racial just and equity.

They're a fantastic commission and also folks who represent many relationships around the city. I'm sure some of you have worked with them before in their sort of day jobs and primary organizations. Or will be working with them at some point.

They will also be helping to co-lead portions of public engagement where is one place these relationships and networks, they represent are helpful for us.

So, mission of the racial justice commission. I mentioned while it was announced as a charter revision commission, it was reformed in mission as primarily a racial justice commission with the power and legal authority of a charter revision commission.

[READING]

We find it important to note that stating this monitoring mission and I will get in the vision later, the work is necessary because systemic racism has been and continues to shape the systems ‑‑ continues to shape our reality.

We also -- I'll point out the language of beginning to dismantle structural racism. We have a big plan date to propose structural changes within the city charter and other significant policy reforms. We know structural racism cannot be completely dismantled in this short period of time, our commission will be in existence, and we will just be beginning the process and hopefully creating a road map for future administrations, for folks across sectors to continue to build on in coming years.

So just a little bit on the charter itself given that the racial justice commission has the dual mandate of racial justice commission and charter revision commission. New York City charters is that document that sets out the structure or power of responsibilities of New York City government. In it, the charter creates offices, agencies, commissions such as the CEC, tells them what they can do with the power they have what they need to do or can do for New Yorkers, how they must do that, so the processes like budgeting and procurement and how New Yorkers need to be included or consulted in government processes.

Charter revision commissions are bodies that are appointed to review the charter. Comprehensively and report on the things that they think should be changed.

Of course, we have had a number of charter revision commissions of late who have taken this mandate from a different perspective they have all drafted proposed amendments for consideration by voters. They have in recent years been passed. Commissions can do their work in different ways. They're not mandated to invite New Yorkers into the process and ask them to share input, but it is a best practice and one that we will, we non considerably in our process. Charter revision commissions take a broad review or focused review of the charter and the lens we are taking here is really that racial justice lens.

What are the roots of systemic racism, where do they live within the charter and what can we change from a structural perspective in the charter itself? Beginning that work, there are so many places to start. You can look through the entire charter and identify here are a million places where racial equity should be stated as a goal or where racial impact should be considered.

How do we as a racial justice commission even begin this work? We thought it important to ground our work by forming a vision for racial equity. What are we trying to achieve? What changes are we trying to affect within the charter or through significant institutional changes. Our goal is racial equity. A time and place where the worth, talents and contributions of all people in society are valued and recognized.

[READING]

I think, you know, this is our own articulation of racial equity. It builds on many other folks articulations of racial equity as well.

We also wanted to define what is systemic racism as we talk about systemic racism. We are trying to find the ways that systemic racism lives within city processes, but what do we mean. The definition we use is systemic racism in America is embedded in the structural, institutional ‑‑

[READING]

I talked a little bit about where we're focusing our work, but I want to emphasize here again that there are so many places we could. There are so many institutional changes that can be made within city government to advance racial equity. There are so many cultural changes that are necessary in order for us as a society to achieve greater racial equity and racial justice. But the racial justice commission given our Powers at a charter revision commission are focusing in on the structural. The structural within city government. So the foundational laws and values that set up power access and opportunity in terms of approach, that means the charter revision recommendations that will ultimately shift the structural foundations or even things we may as a city want to advocate for on a state and federal level in terms of changes to law that as a charter revision commission, we don't have the power to make. But would have a significant impact on advancing racial justice.

You have heard me a little bit talk about power access and opportunity. In looking at the charter, the commission wanted to define not necessarily the issue areas that we want to tackle first, but instead of lens through which we approach systemic racism and the solutions that we will find in our charter changes. We are looking through the lens of power, access and opportunity. These are areas that can be utilized as instruments of racism to deny access, opportunity, and power. They can also be vehicles for equity too if seen positively.

It is also important as we are identifying solutions to think about how we're creating capacity so you can create a change or open a door about you what is really in place to ensure that people take advantage of the change. How do we ‑‑ are implemented in an effective manner and in the spirit that we intend.

Has been interesting to look through. The city charter and see things that sound great on paper but know that in reality they're quite different and we want to make sure that the changes that we propose are really set up to succeed and that there are significant accountability measures in place.

And consequences if those things are not implemented.

So a little bit on the timeline. I mentioned that our commission meetings have already begun. We have met three times focusing on the framework I shared with you. Our plan for the year, and also giving a space and platform for Commissioners to share a little bit about themselves. Their approach to the work because they will be engaging in communities significantly. We want there to be a chance for them to go get to know each other and people joining our meetings to get to know them. We also started to engage city agencies in the process who will be assisting our research and policy efforts and as well as our public engagement efforts and also themselves will be submitting recommendations, particularly through the task force or racial inclusion and equity in June which starts today we begin our public engagement. Jackie will go into that more in a minute. And then moving into July, August, we will be planning some expert panels, public engagement will continue all looking towards the release of a preliminary report in late September. To be followed by public hearings based on that preliminary report. And then we submit our final report by the end of the year. I will note that in submitting our final report and questions by the end of the year, they won't be voted upon until November 2022. Once they are released into the city clerk's office, they will appear on the ballot next year. I think that is important given we don't know who will be Mayor next year. The commission technically will continue until proposals are voted upon by New Yorkers. With that, I'll hand it to Jackie to talk about her work with the commission.

>> Thank you Anusha. So I'm going to kinda give a high-level understanding of our public engagement strategy. And the first part of that is definitely to listen. It is important to, you know, acknowledge the many people who have been working to address structural racism across New York City. We are going to think strategically about who we engage to understand, you know, what issues we need to focus on. The best process to use right to get through this. And to really get buy in from those focuses who have been on the ground pushing to address racism in New York City. The next step is our expert panels. We want to invite experts from these various categories and kinda sectors who have been addressing all of the issues across New York City. Folks with this lived experience to guide us and give us the tools we need maybe provide us with some of the solutions that they have been advocating for and hear from these experts to really address structural racism. Lastly but most importantly we want to make sure we're in the community that we are using our various forms of outreach to engage the public, to hear testimonials, but to also hear their ideas and get recommendations from every day New Yorkers. We want to make sure we're promoting, right, this opportunity to vote, and impact New York City, and really address structural racism. We are looking at this from all levels. We will be working with several organizations across New York City. We will be working with our city agency partners. We'll be working with you so we are, you know, definitely inviting as much input as possible to ensure that we can come up with some really great recommendations to address structural racism in the city.

>> Great. Thank you, Jackie.

We're guessing that you may have questions for us. Questions about our public engagement strategy but I think I will put in your brain right now before we get into your questions things, we thought you might be helpful with us. Especially at the beginning of the process before we have really begun the public engagement, I think your input would be really helpful on the content level if you have any questions or have any input on the structural change piece, I think, you know, we honed in on this is the focus of the commission's work and so I'm curious to hear if you have thoughts about the types of changes we should be looking at or even what structural change means to you. Second, are there people and organizations you think are critical that we engage, particularly folks that are doing work around civic engagement.

And lastly, you know, I think we want to make sure we're learning from previous charter revision commissions and their work, but especially given that we are focusing on racial justice, we want to make sure that communities who are most impacted by racial injustices historical and present are central in this process.

And we want to make sure that we are engaging communities that haven't always felt included in charter revision processes or even in this type of system change or institutional change. I'm interested in hearing from you what you think will help to create buy in and excited, excitement from communities who haven't always been included and especially not centered in public input processes such as this.

So I will leave it at that for our presentation. I want to thank you all for hearing us out and I look forward to hearing your questions and any thoughts you have for us. I will note that we, I will come back to this but if you want to follow what we are doing, right now we have been putting updates at NYC.gov/charter. I think later today we will have a new website up that will be NYC.gov/racial justice. It's not up yet, but soon. Hopefully by the time Sarah can send a follow up e‑mail to you. We have an e‑mail as well where anyone from the public, from city agencies, commissions, can send us questions or feedback that is racial justice@charter.NYC.gov. Lastly, we're on social media now. We just launched our accounts.

[READING]

So I will stop sharing for now.

So we can see all of your faces and we can move to questions and feedback.

>> Thank you Anusha, that was great. Prey.

>> Okay. Thank you. So comments, questions? Thoughts? I see one hand raised from Amy Breedlove.

>> Thank you so much for your presentation and for the work you are doing.

I just want to put in about looking at city planning and comprehensive planning real estate development, housing, and New York City where we just have a history of inequities that occur in those processes.

And I think this is a huge one in terms of the way we look at zoning and planning and I know President Biden has also asked to look at that in terms of racial just. I want to put that into the mix as something I think is important to look at.

>> Thank you, Amy. I will say on the slide where I went overpower, access and opportunity, those are areas that I see as included under access. How do we make decisions about what goes where in our city encapsulates when to use planning, capital planning, so, yeah. Thank you for your comment. We're at this process the beginning of the public input process where we are asking folks what they think it is important for us to focus on and based on that we're forming the e pert panels that will happen in July. That is helpful to hear.

>> Can I jump in?

>> Go for it.

>> Yeah. If folks want to, I don't know how many people want to comment or ask questions but add your name to the chat and we can go in that order.

>> Yeah. No so I want to echo Amy. Thank you to you and your team for the important work you are doing.

And also, I very much agree with Amy's points around planning. I want to throw in the mix for consideration also is funding for equitable funding for nonprofits serving particularly new American communities and the smaller nonprofits. You may be aware of the 15 percent and growing campaign.

Which is really elevating the fact that Asian American New Yorkers make up 15 percent of the population, yet we continue to only be able to get less than 1 percent of New York City social service dollars. I think that is just one very, very concrete structural problem within city government and funding that needs to be addresses that would have an incredible rippling effect across our communities.

>> Great. Thank you.

>> Next, we have Eve.

>> Hi Anusha. Great to have you here.

>> Hi. Great to see you.

>> You too. Terrific work. I really want to congratulate the commission for thinking these things out.

So, passionately but also in a very levelheaded way.

And I wanted to also echo what Amy said about the linkages between racial justice, the charter, and comprehensive planning specifically, but also, you know, grassroots planning. I think that is, if we're looking at a place, we need to restore trust in government among, you know, BIPOC communities in New York City, it is with the land use process. There is comprehensive planning legislation that is in the council right now if there is a marriage between this charter commission and what that legislation is attempting, it could be very powerful and impactful.

You mentioned like what groups to reach out to, I think it is critical we get to youth in this. And you know, I know that you know many great youth organizations around the city. Arts and democracy has done great work with young people out in south Brooklyn. But also looking at those organizations are really dedicated to developing BIPOC leadership in the communities like Brooklyn movement center, for example. So really great to see this rolling out and I hope that the Civic Engagement Commission can be a full partner.

>> I would absolutely welcome that.

I think right now we're defining our public engagement strategy and starting to have the sort of smaller and more private listening sessions moving towards a more public engagement, especially once we have the more public engagement launched it would be incredible to have all of you share and help to spread the word with all of the folks that you are connected to, how they can engage in the process. Right now continue to welcome anything that will be helpful for our strategy.

>> Before we go to the next person, I want to check since it is 12:30 if we had anyone sign up for public comment.

>> No we have not.

>> Okay.

>> Thank you. So next on the chat is Mark.

>> Thanks and thank you for your presentation.

I think it is probably sub assumed in what aim away was saying about planning but perhaps we should say the things that go without saying. Among the things that planning should be focusing on is a couple issues.

Which in my mind are related? One is homelessness services specifically should be recognized as part of this work; I think.

And for me in some the creation of affordable housing which is part and parcel of zoning and planning is the answer to homelessness. That web of things should be part and parcel of it. I'm not sure how your work can address the inequities in access to healthcare that have been revealed most strikingly in the last 15 months, but I would hope that there might be some proposal that we can enshrine in government and last, of course, inspired by reaching out to youth is that we have a terribly segregated education system. I happen to be in the Upper West Side of Manhattan where we have among the most diverse school districts, but among the least diverse schools.

And that just, that can't continue. There have been certain very important steps taken by our other CEC, Community Education Council and the superintendent have done solid work, but it needs to be a city wide, not just a district-by-district effort. My hope is there is something in the way of a detailed response to that that could come out of the process that you are embarking on. I would be proud to be part of it. Thanks.

>> Absolutely. Thank you for those ideas.

>> I'm going to skip Andy, a member of the team to go to Donna and then we will take Andy's comment at the end.

>> You know, this, that presentation was wonderful, and I thank you for the presentation Jackie, for the outreach.

My question is because I have been getting a lot of questions and concerns from my community which is black indigenous and people of color community. About what this your organization actually does and when how are you going to reach out to the people and who are the people that are on the commission and things like that. So I'm really happy to hear that you are going to be, to have a roll out and reaching into, you know, various communities. I live in Central Harlem. When the (indiscernible) racial justice commission was announced, we are still getting questions about what it is, what it does. What do they consider as racial injustice? Who have they spoken to regarding these issues? I'm happy to hear that you are coming out and meeting the people where they are and educating the public because it is great to have organizations that are involved in this, however I believe that the people that are impacted by it are the best source of information as to, you know, how they, they are, they want this commission to go forward. Or the things they need the commission to look at.

As Mark which I know the CEC he is talking about because I was actually to that education inequality commission at the time when we start, when they started and I'm still part of that, so yes, in one district we're working very hard on the inequality in the education system, but it needs to be city wide as Mark has already stated.

And also with my other two colleagues, the planning and the housing issue because that has been a very huge area of inequality in New York City, I think in the country but in New York City in general with developers and land use and that also needs to be looked at.

Additionally I feel that the issue with the criminal justice system because I have a criminal justice hat that I always throw on and youth that also needs to be looked at because within that system there is a lot of inequality and racial injustice going on starting, you know, with the police, you know, the DA's office, and the incarcerated, the criminal justice system as in addition to the incarceration system.

So I think, yes, this is something that is needed. It should be looked at, but there are some areas that I don't know if you are looking into those areas, but I think you should.

And I just wanted to just add that piece where you need to get to the grassroots and the people that are involved that are impacted so in order to get shared information and lived information as opposed to theoretical information about systemic racism. Thank you.

>> Thank you so much for your comments. One thing I will note on the expert forum is we're looking at expertise in multiple forums. Learned, practiced, lived, we want to make sure it is not just academic folks on there. In terms of engaging your community in particular, I'm excited to hear that people are asking questions and are saying they are excited to see what we will be doing. We're really just getting going in a lot of ways.

If you have thoughts the best way to reach your community members, I'm happy to connect offline with you too, I'm sure Jackie is willing to as well.

>> Absolutely.

>> Thank you.

>> Just a follow up on that Anusha, is there, you might have covered this already, but when will you be deciding the topics for the panels? Like, when will that be finalized, the expert panels?

>> I'm not sure when we will be ready to announce them publicly. I would say probably towards the end of the month. Right now what we're doing is thinking through different iterations of what those panels may be as we're starting to hear input on what, how to focus them.

I will say right now that we are thinking about organizing them in ways that are sort of cross system so not necessarily looking at one issue area or a topic as is traditionally defined, but rather looking at how some of the many systems we talk about intersect with each other. We're just thinking through that now and should have more to share publicly at the end of the month.

Right now if anyone has thoughts on panels or people who would be great on panels, do let us know.

>> Thank you. That is helpful.

Lilliam, you had a suggestion?

>> Thank you so much for the great ‑‑

>> We're beginning to think of ways to work together and attack a lot of the issues that are taking us to where we are today with inequalities all across.

I work in healthcare in The Bronx and that is quite a lot.

Healthcare is violent, healthcare is lack of decent housing, healthcare is garbage in the streets. Healthcare is access to quality foods. Healthcare is lack of education. So when we speak about inequalities, social inequalities, I'm not going to include violence because violence is actually also healthcare. They end up in the emergency department. So you can handle and tackle all the issues together. In the middle of the pandemic, Sarah and I spoke often, and I highlighted a few issues about what we were dealing with, executives in healthcare and the (indiscernible) that is the sickest in our state. It was just the most simple access. I was sitting at home crying because people didn't have food. I said, what can we, I can't do it all but there are two things we need to begin to think differently when we talk about engaging and speaking to this communities. And creating access to the most basic needs. One of the struggles that was really something that I didn't really think about and then it was like oh, my God how did we not prepare for this. It was technology. We couldn't access patients. Telehealth became the only way to care foyer patients. We couldn't access our elderly population in a very, you know, just like a normal way. Phone numbers, they didn't have a phone that was a smart phone for us to set up platforms to engage with doctors or ask whether or not they have food or, you know, do a Zoom with them, whatever platform. They didn't have the proper equipment and then when we get them the equipment, they didn't have connectivity.

So the federal government right now is undertaking some of these issues and trying to fund organizations, hospital systems, health systems to try to, you know, sort of prepare for the next crisis. I'll be honest, the crisis existed. We just didn't pay attention.

So I encourage you all, whatever you do when you talk about, you know, inequality, we have to think about the most basic things that these individuals need because we know that some of it is institutionalized, but at the end of the day, people have learned to live without these things. It is not until they are almost dying, they're like if I had a phone number, I could access my granddaughter, grandson. Talk about that and put it in the context of educating kids which is why we crashed. We couldn't get families to connect. To this day there are Bronx families who haven't been able to have children connect to get the education they deserve. I know families, you know, kids that go to the other neighbor's house to do joint Zooms in the middle of a pandemic. This is bad. You know, I want to think about two things. I run government and community relations (indiscernible) I can't do it all but if I'm able to provide access to connectivity/I'm going to call it connectivity/education ‑‑ they will be able to get a job, be able to connect, be able to go to school. The other piece is quality of food. We have zero in The Bronx. When I was making some of these food donation arrangement, connecting some of the social services here in The Bronx, it is shameful we had to go to Westchester to order the food to bring to The Bronx. And then eventually I was able to penetrate some people we had to call but we finally got someone to connect us with a company out of (indiscernible) that for me to be able to access fresh produce from there, we had to have a crew of people wake up at 3:00 a.m. and literally pack it and put it in bags and bring it, it was a production.

I'm just putting those two things out there. As I said in the beginning of my statement, I think everybody that goes on in The Bronx affects people's health.

And I'm not going to speak about housing because God knows and violence those two things are too complicated to begin to speak about. But those two areas are areas we can quickly help families. I'm going to end my comment with we have new immigrant communities here in The Bronx that African descent, Arabs that are not getting anything. We need cultural competency and really understand the religion, we need to understand why they don't engage, why they don't come out. I'm worried about the children. I'm an immigrant. What we traditionally think of an immigrant community is no longer the same. We are city people and government people need to make an effort to reach out to them. The form of inequality and I concur with my sister Donna, the form of inequality is more layered when you talk about immigrant black people. I will just stop there because it is a lot. Thank you for the presentation. And again I'm share my e‑mails, I am happy to provide, we own Einstein College of Medicine and I'm happy to also tell you that we are talking the issue of inequality to the next level here at the health system. We have a program we put together just launched two weeks ago. I'm happy to connect you with folks already doing the research and the work.

>> That would be fantastic. Thank you so much.

>> Lilliam, thank you for that and also thank you for continuing to be an advocate of The Bronx, for The Bronx which is also my home. We need to address the systemic inequities there for sure. Any other Commissioners that have any comments or questions for Anusha? Amy?

>> I just want to say quickly, I think when you say about charter revision, that doesn't really mean anything to the general public. They don't know there is a New York City charter. And that is the basis of our government. So I think, you know, having really accessible language and a process of engagement that is really open to hearing many points of view. I know you say we want to do that but the process by which you do that is so important. So many things right now that are called engagement by city agencies, and it is really pushing out to communities rather than dialogue back. So, I really look to you to form a process that is actual engagement to way process and also accessible. I think it is really important.

>> Absolutely. Thank you for that. I think that is part of the benefit of being an independent commission where we are here to hear and listen to input that folks have, you know, there are many city agencies who definitely go into an engagement process with that in mind, but it is hard not to get pulled into what they want to see as the outcome too. We have a little bit more freedom here which is good. In terms of accessibility, the charter comment you make is something we have been talking about. How do we make the concept of structural change and the types of feedback that we are looking for, how do we communicate that in an accessible way? We're trying to figure it out honestly especially given some of what Lilliam spoke to in terms of basic needs people have. Are we able to meet the basic needs right now as the racial justice commission? No. We can look at the ways that we can affect change in the system so people's needs can be better met, and people can be empowered to, you know, take advantage of access to resources and opportunities.

But in terms of, you know, what we can do in the shorter term that is not necessarily what the commission has the power or resources to do. That is not to say we don't have a lot of power and student here. We absolutely do. But it is a somewhat challenging challenge to put forth to people.

In helping folks to figure out what would be the most helpful feedback or input to share. I absolutely welcome your thoughts. I think we have been talking about it and trying to figure it out before we enter more public engagement on this.

>> It would be great to talk more with you Anusha about how we can better educate people about the charter as well. Just like basic civic engagement 101.

>> I think both and. We can do education on the charter, but someone doesn't need to understand the charter to know how systemic racism shows up in their life and how it impacts them and their families. I think it is a little bit of both.

>> Yeah. That makes a lot of sense.

>> Murad, do you have your hand up.

>> Sure. Thank you. Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> I'm having connectivity issues; I apologize for always asking that but at the same time everything I been hearing ‑‑

>> Do you live in The Bronx.

>> No I live in Brooklyn, the south end. It's like The Bronx.

>> I know.

>> So first congratulations Anusha, it is amazing seeing you assume this role and I'm excited for you and the work that you are going to be embarking on. Having known you for over a decade at this point, I think that it is, you are the best suited person to help lead us through this effort. Thank you for taking it on and thank you for speaking with us. I'm sorry if this was said before, but it would be interesting to see if the commission can actually analyze not just how the budget is adding to the fray but also how legislative policy is as well. And in the same vein, looking at how, you don't have to talk to you about this because you come from the world, but going back to every aspect of life. Environment, health, the intersection between, you know, where you live with what care is available to you. And you know, I forgot his name, but he said it earlier and I apologize for forgetting your name. Is that you know COVID literally demonstrated what everyone has been saying for decades which is that communities of color, low-income communities, immigrant communities don't have the resources or supports that they need to thrive in this city.

And unfortunately, they were the hardest hit and had the highest death rate in the city. We're at a point where this commission's work is going to be really important, and I hope that every aspect is layered on to this process. And a solution is created to actually prevent this from continuing to happen. I know Lilliam reps The Bronx really hard. The Bronx has the least amount of doctors per person in the nation. It's not a city thing. It is the nation. It is hard to see that. Staten island is not too far behind. I want to flag that as well. When we are talking about racial disparities, we have to talk about every aspect of it. Food insecurity, health access, language accessibility, because you can have the services, but if people can't understand what services are available because they can't access the information, then it is as if the service is not there.

And then really digging into how the city is actually investing resources.

And, you know, I think once you do that, it will end up coming that pretty many communities of color have been fighting over crumbs in the budget and not really get noting a real share of the pie.

So, I just want to say that, and I congratulate you and your colleagues on really leading this very important work in this moment and I look forward to partnering with you however we can.

>> Thank you so much Murad for your kind words and congrats to you too. I want to thank you all for your feedback, especially on the areas we should be looking at. The many ways in which racial injustices are entangled. We definitely have a lot on our plate. It is helpful to have your input and feedback early on in the process. Thank you. We're here if anything comes up afterwards, Sarah, feel free to share my contact information. Certainly, any members of the public can reach out to the general e‑mail we have set up that I think we can just pop in the chat, so you have them too.

>> I want, sorry, we have like three minutes left in the meeting. Andy was your comment quick.

>> Yes, it is. I want to just make two quick recommendations to the commission.

I directly not only do I just do outreach with CEC, I directly liaise with community board district managers. I want to piggyback on Amy's earlier recommendation. Once you engage with community boards, expect you will get a lot of land use recommendations.

And 2018 last charter with that charter commission many district managers made serious, serious recommendations on the uniform land use review process. And zero recommendations were actually taken by the charter revision. I think another expectation is that when you start to engage with community boards you will get community boards not receptive to the idea because of the fact that previous charter revisions none of their recommendations are every taken up seriously. I think just expect a lot of land use stuff around community boards and a little push back. Once you start to build a trust, that should be that should do and do.

>> Absolutely. And it is our intention to hold a transparent process. We're not able to take up everything that community members and even Commissioners want to see happen, but we want to be transparent about what we are and are not taking up and why.

>> Thank you. Thanks so much to Anusha. And Jackie.

And thank you so much to all of you for your thoughtful feedback.

And suggestions. We will definitely look to stay in touch with you moving forward. As I mentioned, I'm, we are going to have an event with the inter faith center of New York where Jennifer Jones Austin who is the chair of the racial justice commission will also be speaking. That date was supposed to be this week, but it is being moved to next week. I will be sure everyone sends that information out, sorry, has the information. Before we close, we have one minute left, I want to just raise the question to the Commissioners about our meeting times.

I know that based on our calendar we have a meeting now scheduled for July and August. I want to see if what your schedule is like for the summer and do, we want to keep the meeting in August because last year we didn't meet in August. I want to ask you about that before we close for the day.

>> I'm sorry, when is it? August when do you know?

>> It is the last Tuesday of August.

So I believe that is the 31st. Frances is sharing the content.

>> I have it on the 24th.

>> Oh, 24th yeah sorry.

>> Yeah. The 24th.

I think it is really hard to get people to gather during that week. Especially during that week. If it would have been earlier, probably it would be easier.

>> I agree, especially with the start of school. Things are going to be hectic.

>> I bet things are hectic getting ready ‑‑

>> Given we know this year in August what September looks like because we didn't know last year.

>> Right.

>> Well we think we do.

>> We think we do, right.

>> I'm going to be the contrarian. There is a lot going on and as long as we can meet by WebEx, Zoom, virtually, if somebody is attending the meeting in a beach chair in a floppy hat that is fine by me but whatever the consensus is.

>> I agree. If they're remote, it makes it a lot easier.

>> Okay. Well I don't want to keep anyone. I want to, it is helpful to have feedback. We don't know what is happening with open meeting law. I will just right now we will keep the date on the calendar and update you. We will figure out what our internal business is for discussion because I know at some point we want to (indiscernible) review how the poll site program ran, et cetera, and continue to talk about that.

Thank you for your feedback. I think we're now at the end of the meeting. So, would someone like to make a motion to adjourn the meeting?

>> So moved.

>> Second.

>> Second.

>> Thank you. Motion to adjourn has been seconded and all in favor.

>> Aye.

>> Any on posed? Okay. So hearing none apposed, I call the meeting to adjourn. Thank you so much. See you again soon.

>> Thank you.