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Captioned By:  Shirley Ha

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>> Good morning, everybody.  
I'm just going to hold for a few minutes until we reach that.  
Could I ask the Commissioners to please turn on their cameras because I need to see who is here.  
And ‑‑ I'm a little confused by some of the labels that are appearing for people's names.

>>  Chairperson, you may have some Commissioners dialing in.

>> Thank you for that.  
I believe Donna is on the phone.

>> This is Anastasia, I'm also here.  
I just joined.  
Sorry.  
I had a staff meeting at the council that I was trying to jump off of in time.  
So, apologies.  
But I'm here.

>> Okay.  
Just trying to make sure we have a quorum before we get started.  
Yeah, we're not quite there yet.  
A couple of ‑‑ I think two or three people let me know that they were gonna be arriving a little late.  
So...

I also wanted to ask a question, I'm not sure ‑‑ someone has the name moderator 1, I'm not sure who that is.  
I'm wondering if perhaps that's ‑‑ I don't know if that's a Commissioner or not, hard to tell.

>>  Maybe the host can see who that is, the person might not know they are listed as moderator 1.

>>  Or just invite that person to use the rename function.  
Unless he or she really is the moderator.

>>  Oh, Mark.

>>  I'm here as well.  
This is Donna.  
And I'm not the moderator.

>>  Thanks, Donna, we have you.  
We have 7 people so far.  
I don't know if someone just hopped on.

>>  Knowing that we are going to have two or three people join us in the next few minutes, I think I'm going to go ahead and start the meeting.  
And, would like to begin by just going through as we usually do, the instructions for just the technical assistance so that in case anyone needs it, we will have gone through it.  
So, Francis, if you could ‑‑ yeah, you have the slide, great.  
So, as we know, usually we enable the audio for all Commissioner and we ask you to mute yourself in order to minimize the background noise if you are not speaking.  
And then you may unmute yourself or click on the raise hand icon.  
And then all participants are muted upon entry.  
If you're not a Commissioner, and then we'll be an enabling audio for participates during the public commentary for hearing.  
And I want today see if someone signed up for the comment yet?

>> Not at this time.

>> We typically we call on people in the order they register for public comment.  
And once they registered, then we open up the floor.  
But today we don't have a list, so we are going to encourage folks, if you'd like to participate in the public comment to please use the chat option to indicate whether you'd like to offer testimony.  
And, or you can click on the raise hand icon next to your name and we will know you are interested in joining in the public comment period.  
If you're dialing in by phone, you want to offer a public comment, you may able to text your name and affiliation to 646‑763‑2189.  
And we would like for anyone who would like to sign up for comment to sign up by 12 so we can keep track of time.  
And there's also an opportunity to enable closed captions.  
And you should see an option for closed captioning for you to select.  
Did everyone get the minutes for today's meeting?

>> Yeah.

>>  Okay.  
All right.  
So, why don't we go ahead and start with attendance and then we will go to minutes.  
So, I'm going to call your name, and if you're here, please just say here.

>>  Chuck Apelian?  
Eve?  
Holly Bonner?  
Amy?

>>  Here.

>>  Mark Diller?

>>  I'm here.

>> Lori Fiorito?  
Donna, I heard Donna.

>>  Here.

>> Anthony Harmon?  
Jose Hernandez?

>> Here.

>>  Lilliam Perez?

>> Here.  
Annetta Sheecherran?  
And, Anastasia, we heard.

>>  Hi, I'm here.

>> Hi.  
Okay, so, we can move to ‑‑ and just for the record, for anyone who is new, I'm Sarah.  
So let's turn to reviewing the minutes from January 7th.  
Were there any additions or corrections to the minutes from the 7th?  
As a reminder, we just went through the resolution to amendment to targeting methodology.

>>  Move to approve.

>> Second.

>>  Okay.  
All those in favor for approving the minutes say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Any oppose, say nay.  
So, we hereby approve the minutes for our last meeting on January 7th.  
Thanks, so much, everyone.

>>  We have quorum now.

>>  My apologize for being late.

>> Thanks, so much.  
So, we are going to just move into our program up dates, and we do have a presenter today, I thought it would be important for us to talk about ranked choice voting and voter education broadly, since in the last meeting, we talked about how we are, you know, not going to be providing services during specials.  
We are going to try to work more on education.  
So we are working through ‑‑ we are trying to think through how we can do more outreach, and among the projects we have as a city is really trying to work more towards reaching language communities, and there was a round table that was held a couple of weeks ago, democracy NYC, and the Mayor's office diverse affairs to educate key leaders in their community.  
And then we have an event coming up in early March with the Urdu language community, where we invited ‑‑ it will be live streamed on Facebook.  
So we'll be looking to try to reach more language communities, both, you know, in partnership with MOYA, and democracy, and other community based organizations.  
So we welcome your, you know, ideas on spaces where we might present partnerships where you think it will be important for us to connect with communities.  
So looking for forward to that.  
And then the other thing we've been talking about internally, and why ‑‑ part of why we wanted to invite the finance board here today is, how do we contextualize this work in trying to educate voters in ranked choice voting in municipal elections and how participation rates in municipals is much lower than, you know, Presidential election, for example.  
And then now with the change to rank choice voting, how that might be connected and also the pandemic overall.  
So, I wanted to get your, you know, feedback and ideas on how we might approach the question of improving participation during municipals.  
And to lead up to that, we wanted to ask Allie Swatek from the Campaign Finance Board, who is a director of policy and research there, to come and share a little bit of an overview on ranked based voting as well as background on voter participation in municipal elections and also during the pandemic.  
So, I'm going to ‑‑ does anyone have any questions on anything I shared so far?  
So, if not, I'm gonna turn it over to Allie.  
Allie, do you need to do ‑‑ I'm not sure ‑‑ you're presenting, so is that a PowerPoint you'd like to share?

>>  I think I have sharability, but I'm hoping.  
Let's see how this will work.

>>  Yes.

>> All right.  
Hi, everyone, thank you so much for inviting me to join you today.  
My name is Allie Swatek, I'm the director of policy and research at the Campaign Finance Board.  
Our ‑‑ so, just to give you some background, we run the matching funds program in New York City, but we also are dedicated to voter outreach, and, our NYC votes brand.  
So, you may have seen our stuff out there, and we work closely with the Civic Engagement Commission and democracy NYC to make sure ‑‑ and the Board of Elections as well, so we are on the same page.  
One of the things the CFB is ‑‑ I guess, you can describe it as passionate, is related to data.  
So, we have a voter analysis report, which I'll explain a little bit about later, as well as some unique ideas about how we look at participation and voter turn out to determine our target areas for outreach and education.  
Going into 2021, we have a citywide mandate to educate all New York City about rank choice voting.  
So I'll start with that first.  
Let's see.  
I believe my screen is shared.  
Does everyone see my ‑‑ hold on, I'm sorry.  
I'm very used to Zoom and not very used to web ex.  
Sorry.

>>  Sorry, about that.

>> I think I have too many PowerPoints open.  
Let's do the whole screen.  
Okay, we're good.  
Great.  
So, let's see.  
Present mode.  
So, again, my name is Allie Swatek, and, I'm here to talk about three different things with you all.  
The first one being rank voice voting education and outreach, and then we're going to go to special elections turnout.  
And contextualize that, within the larger, I guess, historical turnout from the last four years.  
And then the last thing, I'll talk about the participation score from the 2019 voter analysis.  
Just to confirm, you're seeing the PowerPoint screen slides not the notes.

>> Correct.  
Full presentation mode.

>> Thank you.  
So, right into ranked choice voting.  
I gave you this overview, already, but not only are we matching the public matching funds program (reading).  
This is a massive undertaking, this will be the first time that everyone in New York City using rank choice voting.  
It's not the first time New Yorkers are using a different type of voting.  
For those of you who voted in the community school board elections, up until 1999, they were ranked choice voting.  
So, this is new to me, and, we know that we have a massive undertaking, we appreciate everyone's assistance in getting the word out about this.  
One thing that I think helps people to understand rank choice voting better, is we're not the first city.  
A lot of municipalities use rank choice voting.  
And, this depends on how you feel about it, but the Academy Awards use ranked choice voting.  
It's a new way of voting, I know folks find it intimidating.  
Our work is to make sure voters feel prepare when they know it's going to be new, and they know their brains need to be prepared for that newness.  
So, why are we using rank choice voting in in New York City?  
(Reading).  
So, this is the first year we're using it.  
And, we are getting a test run with the special elections.  
I'm not sure anyone anticipated having 4 special elections, but here we are.  
The thing I like to focus on is 74 percent voted yes on this ballot question.  
To give you more information about who voted yes, this is a map of the yes vote across the city for ballot question 1.  
So, for the darker green, that means there was more yes voters in those assembly districts.  
The brownish color is less than 40 percent.  
If you are doing outreach in Staten Island, you should anticipate pushback.  
As we know as election works is, the majority support wins.  
I think it's important to be aware that not every place in the city voted yes.  
And there's pretty strong support throughout most of the boroughs.  
I would say Bronx and Manhattan are supportive.  
But there's areas that have less support and it's good to be aware of that.  
So, this is my cheat sheet for rank choice voting to give you an incredibly high level summary of it.  
Rank choice voting will only be used to elect the offices of Mayor, public advocate, comp troller, borough president, and city council.  
And it will only be used for special and primary elections.  
It will not be used for federal or State races.  
And it will not be used in local races like district attorney and judgeships.  
It's just for those five city offices.  It's just in primaries, and it's just in special elections.  
We will not use it in general elections, ever.  
And then, the last note on the bottom is something I started adding because this is really important for everyone to know, some of the ballots are going to have rank choice and single choice elections on it.  
I use this as an example, the DA's race is going to be a single choice election.  
That's going to be on the same ballot as the races for mayor, public advocate, et cetera that are going to be rank choice voting.  
There's a couple of new things that are happening.  
What we saw last year is that voters are pretty adaptive.  
People enthusiastically started early voting and absentee voting.  
And in 2021, we are going to have rank choice voting.  
Continuing on with new things ‑‑ hopefully not every year, at least in these last two.  
So, our education and outreach rollout is focusing on the places with special elections first.  
Because those are the voters who need to immediately know how rank choice voting works.  
Voters do not retain information much more than 2 or 3 weeks before the election they are going to vote in.  
Telling folks about rank choice voting right now isn't a valuable use of resources if you're talking to just voters who are planning on using information you give them to go into the poll site or to fill out an absentee ballot themselves.  
We are focused on reaching out to community groups.  
Or, they expect having to answer questions.  
So, we're educating the folks on the ground who will be, hopefully, experts in their own right on rank choice voting when we come up to the June election.  
But for right now, as far as voters, we are focusing on the folks who have voting election.  
The council district 24 race, that took place on the 22.  
We have been focusing on Queens for that reason.  
Next week is Bronx.  
And then, finally, the primary election, which I have been eluding to which is taking place in June.  
And all New Yorkers registered to a political party can vote in that race.  
I include these maps just for folks to contextualize where these districts are located.  
Queens district 24 was in central Queens.  
Queens district 31.  
And both of the districts are next to each other.  
It's in the northwestern corner of the Bronx.  And that election, again, is taking place on March 23rd.  
Okay, so, one the things that we're trying to be aware of is the fact that given COVID, we are not able to do as many in‑person events as we had planned to.  
And not only that, voters don't want to attend right now unless they have to.  
I think they feel more apprehensive to do extracurricular activities.  
The one ins queens were mailed in January and the beginning of February, respectively.  
And in the Bronx, we are mailing the postcard this week.  
We will also be mailing this postcard to every single registered voter in New York City ahead of the June primary elections.  
Sorry ‑‑ convey, the June primary elections.  
This is what the postcard looks like.  
We think about that as, what do you need to know before you go to the polling place.  
Rank choice voting is here.  
There's a new way of voting, and it says, like city council.  
So, you can now rank up to 5 candidates instead of choosing one.  
We're also looking to translating the postcards ahead of the June primary so we can start targeting different languages.  
What we found in our research into our jurisdictions, speaking to other election administrators, education campaigns, they said, it was really important to provide a visualization.  
The and also show ways that you should not fill out your ballot.  
You'll notice on the far left, we have, do not mark the same candidate for every single rank.  
So you don't want to do across the board in either direction.  
And then the second one is, you don't wanna give every single candidate the same rank.  
And you don't want to give two the same rank.  
This is trying to be descriptive, visually.  
And then we have step by step.  
(Reading).  
And, the reason why we told folks that, is voters were getting confused, do I have to rank five.  
That was very stressful to them.  
You do not have to rank.  
It allows you to fully express your preferences beyond just who, given these choices, who would you vote for first.  
So, the other side, just has a reminder of the dates.  
So special election for city council, and that changes based on the election that we're mailing things for.  
We have a reminder on the back, as well as a QR code, we are really excited to have a surprising number of people are scanning.  
I wish I had the actual number for you, I think it was 2 or 3 thousand, which is unheard of for a QR code.  
And then, we also link out to more information.  
Like, some folks are gonna read this postcard and say, oh, okay.  
Cool.  
Now I know.  
This is all I need to know.  
However, those among us, probably in this audience here are going to see this postcard and think, wait a minute, what does this mean?  
Why are we even using rank choice voting.  
For those people, we have a website dedicated to that.  
We will be doing additional advertising, including our video, which is going to be a public service announcement and broadcast on television, et cetera.  
We found that, in our testing group about half of people were totally fine with just having the information on the postcard.  
The other half wanted some more info.  
We didn't wanna make this too busy and scare off the people, 50 percent of them fine with this information.  
Okay.  
And then, the second piece is, we are working closely with community partners, as I mentioned, to train folks on the ground.  
NYU votes is a small operation, we rely on community operations.  
We are a huge city, there are 4.5 million registered voters.  
We couldn't possibly talk to every one of them.  
We are going to rely on community partners.  
So with that in mind, we are hosting train the trainer sessions that go into pretty long detail.  
I'm one of the trainers, and it's about an hour long, and it goes into how rank choice voting voting works.  
We talk about frequently asked questions, so folks who take the training feel prepared to take the questions.  
And, if you're interested in taking those trainings, it's available at our website.  
And I can send out all of the links that I'm going to tell you about today and I'm sure there will be distributed to everyone here.  
We host them.  
We have a lot of digital information that was made available on ‑‑ at the very end of 2020.  
So our general information is here.  
We have specific rank choice voting content.  
And we also have frequently asked questions, which will be updated over the course of the election cycle.  
We don't want that to be static.  
We have been adding additional information as it has come up in the trainings.  
People have a lot of different questions.  
And I love answering all of them (chuckles).  
And then, of course, on social media, you can follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram@NYC votes.  
I will their these out.  
The New York Board of Elections is doing a great job.  
So, they've made information available.  
There's an explanatory hand card for filling out a paper ballot as well.  
And they have a fantastic explainer video.  
So that's all for rank choice voting.  
If folks have any questions about that, I feel like I should answer the questions at the very end and go through special turnout.  
But please write them down, because I want to answer them.  
So, next up, we're gonna talk about special elections for now.  
And, I was asked to provide historical context for the turnout.  
So, we saw turnout of about 6 percent in the council district 24 race.  
And, I strongly suspect that a lot of the reason the turnout was so low was because of the snow.  
A huge amount of snow, and even rain impacts turnout strongly as well.  
So, with that in mind, given the turnout in that race, which I know was disappointing to folks, I was talking to Dr. Sayeed about this, it wasn't completely unusual to see turnout that low.  
We have low turnouts in years that aren't Presidential election years.  
And I don't have the date for 2020, I apologize.  
Looking at four years of turnout, we are frequently in the high single digits.  
You can see the public advocate race had 9 percent.  
And if you look at special elections for State races, the one in 2018 had 3.3 percent turnout.  
That is not a typo.  
And the senate race in district 30 had 4.3 percent turn out.  
Going back to 2016, the council district race in district 17 had 5 percent turnout.  
So, while disheartening to give you this information to you, special election turnout is consistently low.  
It's not unusual.  
It's by no means, especially, I think we can agree.  
And greater effort should be made sure that special elections ‑‑ folks are aware, and they know to turn out.  
I think the nature of specials, because they are distinct to a very small district, you can't do advertising just to a council district on TV or even on social media.  
You need to have a ZIP Code, you can do community and local newspapers, but if national and city media are not discussing, folks are less likely to be aware of it.  
I think it's important to contextualize special turn out reason other specials.  
And also, in preparation for the June primary elections, if we are looking at past turnout for those races, we can look in 2017, the primary ‑‑ this is a typo.  
This is a State and local primary, but for 14 percent is pretty low.  
So, given everyone's interest in the race because we're electing a Mayor this year, we're hoping we can see something closer to 25 percent but that is, again, a low turnout rate.  
All right.  
So, this was ‑‑ this is a depressing slide in general.  
Because, what turnout kind of misses is, not ‑‑ so, with the existence of primary elections, not every voter is eligible to vote in every race.  
So we have a huge group of people who are unaffiliated with a political party.  
Those people do not participate, and cannot participate in primary elections.  
That's something to consider when we talk about turnout.  
We are not talking about every voter.  
We are talking about folks registered to a political party.  
We wanted to get an idea of voting behavior.  
Who are the people who regularly vote in every election.  
Where do those people live.  
And also, where do the people who only vote in Presidential elections live?  
So, my team, a member of my team had this ingenious idea of looking at something from a historical perspective and creating a participation score for every single New York City voter.  
So, the participation score is made up of the number of elections a person has voted in over the number of elections a person was eligible to vote in.  
It individualizes the experience of voting and takes out the noise.  
What does that mean, and how does that look for different communities.  
So, the way that we then dialed that down to community level is, we take a look at what the average weighed participation score is for different areas.  
Taking every registered voter in a borough and determining what that average score would look like.  
This is just an example of what it looks like by borough.  
So the voting participation score, you can think of ‑‑ it's not a percentage, it's just a score, because, we, again, to remind you, it's a number of elections people voted in, and then that's, you know, multiplied over the course of whoever the registered voter is in that area.  
Citywide, the score is 28.  
It is not surprising that Manhattan has the highest weighed mean score.  
Manhattan has a lot of habitual voters.  
And, the Bronx has the lowest weighted mean score.  
The Bronx is a target area for NYC votes for a reason.  
It is the place with consistently the lowest voter turn out in the city.  
And, the other place, you know, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island are in the middle.  
It's pretty much the Bronx that has the lowest and Manhattan that has the highest.  
But, the participation score allows us to understand further the consistency of how people vote.  
And so, the fact that Manhattan has such a higher score is indicative to be a habitual voter, and to be someone who consistently votes, and will always remember to vote.  
All right.  
So that's it on the participation score.  
I wanted to also share out our website that contains the information that I just shared with you from the participation score.  
So every year we do something called a voter analysis report.  
It looks back on the last year in an election.  
Our voter analysis report for 2020, I am currently writing.  
Our report for 2019 to 2020, it's incredibly interesting to look at from a community district area.  
So, we have a map that you can zoom into and see the weighed participation score down to ‑‑ I believe it's the census tract and community district level.  
So you can select what area you want to look at.  
And you can see the darker colors have the higher score.  
So you see the Bronx and Manhattan.  
It's interesting to be able to look at this with this degree of detail because it allows us to do interesting analysis into different communities in New York City in order to contextualize why voting is so low in certain areas.  
So we have something called a community profile.  
It was inspired by the department of human and mental hygiene, who created community profiles.  
We focused on our target areas.  
So, we have community district profiles for each of these areas that provide information about voting.  
So, really, just top line statistics.  
As well as the voter participation score for that community district.  
But then it also includes demographic information so you're able to drill down into what demographic factors make this community district different from other places from New York City.  
And you're able to kind of look at what makes this district unique.  
Our dream is to make this for every community district.  
It takes a lot of time to do each one.  
So, that's ‑‑ this is something we're testing out.  
This is sort of our beta community profile release.  And for folks who do civic engagement, we recommend targeting these community districts, because we identified them as having the lowest participation.  
It's a good place to start if you're interested in taking a look at how the participation score varies by community district.  
All right, I am done.  
That was a lot of information but if anybody has any questions.

>> Allie, the maps on the COVID ‑‑

>> Oh, that's right.

>> Sorry.

>> No worries.  
It was the next tab on my map screen.  
So if you go to our voter analysis report section, because we were publishing this in April of last year, we actually did a ‑‑ just a comparison between voter turnout by ZIP Code, and positive COVID cases as of April 2020.  
So, we found that the areas that had low voter turnout were also places where COVID was higher than other parts of the city.  
They were by no means the highest but they had low voter turnout is what I will say.  
We found that this is interesting to contextualize ahead of the June primary election, because there were questions of how do we reach voters if we're not going to be able to do in‑person events, and we strongly recommended that folks figure out how to do things digitally.  
So, that is available on, again, the same voter analysis report page, it's just a different tab for each of the maps.

>>  There are a couple of questions in the chat.  
There was a question from Amy.  
And then after that, I have Mark on the chat.

>>  Yeah, Allie, that was great.  
Thank you so much.  
I'm just interested in the graphics that you're sending out and the postcards.  
I mean, translation is important, and you addressed that.  
But I'm wondering if you're also going to do small posters that can be put up in businesses and windows around the city.  
And also, if those will be translated for specific high density areas.

>>  Yes.  
We have a one pager that is ‑‑ that was just translated two weeks ago, I believe, into the five voting rights languages.  
And we have been in conversation with the Mayor's office about translating.  
Folks can e‑mail it around, you can post it on social media, but you can also post it on store fronts.  
It has a lot of different uses.  
That's probably our most important asset from a hand out perspective.  
And, I can get you that.

>>  But you're not planning on doing a printing of, say, a 14 by 17 or a 14 by 18 printed poster?

>>  So our one pager is designed to be more of a handout.  
It can certainly be printed on larger paper and that's something we were speaking to bids and community boards about.  
I can't promise you, but it's something we're thinking about and talking to folks about.

>> I think it would be beneficial, is my input to get that out there.

>> Yeah.  
No, that's helpful, thank you, Amy.

>>  Mark, you're next.

>> Okay.  
Thanks.  
The initial thought I had was, the palm cards for folks entering voting, perhaps the depressing slide you shared mitigates the need for this comment, but if there's a line waiting to vote, as there was in November, handing ‑‑ having the board election staff go outside and hand out the cards so people can have something to read while they're waiting and understanding better before they enter the room would be a good idea.  But the statistics about turnout, even in the mayoral primary, there might be lines to vote.  
With respect to the train the trainer sessions ‑‑ actually, I want to amplify or second Amy's point.  
There are areas where all of the electronic and online resources in the world wouldn't effect anything and that paper signs are really still needed.  
I consistently use my neighbor's building.  
But, my hope is that somebody in this process make sure that, at least in the elevator landing areas of NYCHA buildings ‑‑ not that the elevators work well enough ‑‑ don't get me started.  
Having a paper announcement in the targeted areas, and I'm sure community boards can help you find which those areas are will be important to make sure that gets penetrated.  
Last thing is, the idea of those to have surrogates to learn how to run a session or so they will create members of your team to come and tell the public about this?  
Because I anticipate, you know, ‑‑ anyway, it is a new thing.  
And, the more training, the better.

>> It's a little bit of both.  
I have been doing what I refer to as my rank choice voting show.  
I go to every event and talk about rank choice voting.  
One of the reasons why I'm here.  
So a lot of the leads for that come from the trainings because folks realize that we ‑‑ especially for the special elections, running up an education campaign of your own may not be something you're able to do in a month.  
But, ahead of the June primary, we have had greater interest from ‑‑ and a lot of folks don't have a capacity to do that.  
I'm more than happy to have staff on hand to go to individual events, especially for community boards.  
We have been working with NYCHA.  
We will get to them.  
Most of them, at least.  
We are mindful of what you mentioned, Mark and what you mentioned, Amy.  
Absent in‑person events, we need on the ground information for folks.  
One other thing that I will mention is ‑‑ oh, sorry, so, ahead of the June primary, folks ‑‑ community organizations that work across the whole city have shared plans with us that include doing rank choice voting education and incorporating it into a larger push they were already planning to make about the municipal election having this year.  
Because it is ‑‑ because it's such an important year, we are electing a new Mayor, all the citywides.  
So, it's something that we've heard there will be folks taking our materials and transforming them.  
So I think that's awesome.  
And everything that we have is available free of use, obviously.  
We are a government agency (chuckles).  
And I'm actually going to take the opportunity to inundate you with links.

>>  I'm going to call them in order, Annetta, Jose, Chuck, and Lilliam.

>> Thank you.  
Hi, nice to meet you.  
I have a few questions.  
Well, first, let me comment on the June primary.  
I think the turnout is going to be higher than we expect.  
I think that this ‑‑ especially for the council races is historic.  
The diversity of the candidates and the breath of candidate pool representing communities that have never, ever seen themselves in politics.  
I mean, I'm certainly seeing that here in Queens, and I think it's gonna be exciting and I think it's going to mobilize a level of turnout that we haven't seen.  
And we're certainly ‑‑ I think what just happened in district 24 is not going to happen.  
And I think the fact that summer is gonna be ‑‑ gonna make a difference.  
That's my feeling about it.  
I'm wondering ‑‑ speaking of the candidates, one the interesting things that's happening with the pool of candidates is there's a lot of community education happening in these campaigns.  
Like, never before.  
It's remarkable.  
Candidates are doing all sorts of things.  
I wonder ‑‑ what sort of resources do you have available for candidates so they can use that as they're doing, you know, exchange and community outreach work.  
Because, they have a captive audience that so many of us ‑‑ nonprofit, government folks don't have, right?

>> Yes, so we are in a unique position to talk to candidate because we talk about them every day.  
So, we've done a bunch of ‑‑ we've done a couple of e‑mails, directing them to our free resources.  
All the links that I posted in the chat are available for candidates to use.  
All of our content is voter facing.  
So we explain to voters how rank choice voting works in these materials.  
Candidates are free to use them.  
We have seen a couple who have ‑‑ or what they duo, and I think this is also totally allowed, but I'm always really entertained by this, they take the words we're using, directly copy and paste it into their advertising or social media post.  
Love to see it.  
I want them to have accurate information.  
And they kind of spin it and make it their own a little bit.  
There have been a bunch of candidates who have had impressives education videos and social media posts, I think, especially that I have seen that have been incredibly cool.  
And then there was an entire week of action by rank the vote that united all the candidates.  
Because the cool thing about rank choice voting is candidates have to participate in explaining how it works to the voters.  
And they have to ask for second choices, third choices from each of the voters.  
So you end up in a situation, I think you're making a great point, Annetta about having more issue oriented focused conversations.  
What do you think about health care?  
I want them to vote for people, whether first, second, or third.  
They speak to voters about how to vote and when to vote, which, I think, is great.  
That's kind of what they've seen happens in cities that use rank choice voting.  
This result of candidates being more invested in the outcome of races.  
You want more people to turn out so you get the most votes turnout.

>>  I think a lot of folks have decided to run because of the rank choice voting opportunity.  
But I have two other questions, one is, what sort of ‑‑ you've mentioned community partners a number of times, what sort of supports and resources are available to community partners?  
And then one the things we have been thinking about is videos in languages.  
Our staff speaks 7 different languages.  
What sort of supports are available for that.  
And also, pushing it out, and we'd love to be able to share those videos, right.  
Broadly, beyond our base.

>>  Yes.  
So, can I answer that question?  
Because I have a quick answer.

>> Yeah, thank you.

>> We are creating a rank choice voting video, it will be animated and it's voiced over in the 5 voting rights act languages.  
We are incredibly willing to share the whole video with anyone who wants to voiceover.  
I'll be frank about it, it's hard to make the argument that different things that we're doing for voting are more special than the city health crisis or homeless crisis.  
We're mindful of that and trying to balance it and trying to get as creative as possible at addressing the very real needs of New Yorkers who are limited language proficiency or more comfortable listening in another language.  
We will talk about that.

>>  Okay.  
Great.  
Actually, that was all.  
Thanks.

>>  Allie, I just want to do a time check with you.  
I know you may have to leave.

>>  I can stick around for 10 more minutes.

>>  Okay.  
Great.  
Do you want to hear the questions all together and then see or do you want to take them one by one?

>>  Yeah, let's do them all together and I'll see if I can do one answer.

>>  Okay.  
Jose and Chuck and Lilliam, if you would speak in that order.

>> I just wanted to see how are you reaching out to the disabled community.  
To make a greater, you know, push and presentation with their resources, or reaching out to smaller organizations, like, the ILC one in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens.  
Just education on rank choice voting, and Mark, thank you for mentioning NYCHA because they always get left out.

>>  Chuck, and then Lilliam.

>> Chuck, you're muted.

>>  Sorry, guys.  
Mark's idea of the palm card is a brilliant idea.  
But, in order to be effective, make sure that the folks handing them out are clearly identified as officials.  
Because, remember, there's the 100‑foot rule, you're not allowed to give out literature, and also being in poll sites for many, many years, people don't like literature.  
They are like, I know what I'm going to do already.  
They walk in, they don't wanna talk to you.  
So it's important they identify themselves clearly.  
The other question is ‑‑ this is my question now, when an error occurs, a scanner is going to reject the ballot, if I voted for the same person for 1, 2, and 3.  
The problem is, what happens then, because you need assistance, what happens with some of the privacy and even the translation issue when someone is in a different languages.  
I don't want to share my voting information with someone else.  
How do you rectify and fix the ballot?

>> Lilliam?

>>  Can you hear me now?  
Hi, thank you for your presentation.  
That's wonderful.  
I actually live in the Bronx in the 15th district.  
Historically within a district that is not engaged at all, for its lack of activism by elected officials.  
I'm not here to blame anyone.  
Since rank voting has been (indiscernible) ‑‑ part of a new way of voting, 0 information has been provided.  
And I'm not blaming anyone, again.  
You probably went to the community board.  
Guess what, not the most active.  
No one knows where the community board is.  
To Mark's point, a palm card will ‑‑ in my community, I see nothing.  
It could be because of our culture, it could be because the candidates are not as active.  
And I'm really ‑‑ I'm in Belmont.  
One of the active commercial.  
And I am shocked not to have gotten anything even in the elected or the candidate in the mail, social media, by phone, by TV or radio.  
I know that the resources for marketing.  
My question is, are you planning to invest any dollars in radio or TV, which, traditionally, expensive or not, that is how we get our news.  
Palms cards work for those going out to vote.  
You may capture the 5, 10 percent.  
But, what are you doing to let people they are not voting traditional prior to Election Day?  
Are we planning to spend dollars.  
And I must say, I'm speaking for my district, if you doesn't spend dollars in Spanish and Albanian, you are leaving out a percent of the population.

>>  Awesome.  
Okay.  
So I will start ‑‑ thanks for your questions, guy.  
I'll start with Lilliam.  
The Bronx ‑‑ so I mentioned the postcards are being mailed to every special election register voter.  
That is being mailed at the end of this week.  
What we found, all voter outreach research points to voters not retaining the information well.  
If I send it out in January for a voting in March, they will throw it out.  
We were able to say, on Saturday, you can start early voting, which is great, because that allows another two weeks ahead of time for folks who receive their postcards.  
As well as Hispanic media, we are talking about to the Hispanic federations to figure out what areas are most needed to have Spanish translations, and what we're finding is the whole Bronx.  So we will be doing a lot of outreach in Spanish.  
We are doing train the trainers in Spanish in two weeks.  
We are doing a special focus in faith communities, and also, I mentioned the NYCHA tenant association.  
So those are areas that we are focusing on in the Bronx.  
If you have additional ideas or organizations we should be partnering with, please feel free to reach out.  
My e‑mail is in the chat box, in addition to every link you'd ever want, which I posted there.

>> I'm sorry, my question is, are you spending any dollars on TV and radio.

>> Yes, without question.  
Our ad budget is for Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Bengali.  
From a television perspective, I'm no expert, but, we frequently run advertising on Univision and Telemundo.

>>  Thank you.

>> I'll jump to Jose's question about the disability community.  
We had a focus training for people with disabilities on January 20th.  
It was a train the trainer we did in partnership ‑‑ so she joined me, and in tandem, while I was explaining rank choice voting, she explained it.  
That video of that training is available on the YouTube channel.  
I'm happy to share it.  
We wanted to get one of those trainings on the books so that the video was available for folks who will be voting in the special elections.  
But we will have another training.  
This is a community, I think that we made a bunch of strides to reach out to.  
I have attended a bunch of events across the city to educate voters with disabilities and let them know that rank choice voting is coming.  
And describe to them how it's going to work.  
Again, if you have ideas for additional places to come and speak or an organization that has an event that I come and talk to, I'm more than happy to help.  
Please do not hesitate to reach out.

>>  Hi, Allie ‑‑

>> I'm sorry, go ahead.

>>  Do you have a list where you individuals e‑mails?  
Can you take mine down and add it to that?

>> Yeah, sure.  
We ‑‑ yes, we do.  
All right, I will most definitely reach out for that e‑mail.

>> Thank you.

>>  Hi, Allie, this is Anastasia, I wanted to echo what José mentioned before.  
MOPD is a really good resource.  
I would ‑‑ I mean, I think it's great, that you already had to run the training.  
That's fabulous to hear.  
But, yesterday, in my day job, I work for the city, I work for the speakers office and yesterday, MOPD helped to run a town hall on COVID‑19 vaccination information, and I was ‑‑ I joined just to see ‑‑ just to gauge how informed the community was, and I was pretty surprised there were a lot of questions and they ‑‑ and, it was a really effective town hall because they're used to making it very accessible.  
Addressing a variety of disabilities.  
So, I would ‑‑ I'll e‑mail you because I agree, if you have my e‑mail address, I can also help to disseminate it to a wide range of organizations, not only there my day job with the city, but the personal work that I do.  
I'm very connected.  
So I'd be happy to encourage organizations to reach out to you in the different boroughs to help get the word out.  
Because, I think people would attend, you know, information sessions and things like that.  
And I think it would be, hopefully, increase their ability to participate.  
At minimum, I think it's good that more of our communities starts to understand rank choice voting in particular.

>>  Great.  
Yep.  
So, feel free to reach out, or I will make sure to get your e‑mail address.  
Thanks.  
I don't want to miss out on Chuck's question, which I wrote down.  
Your question was about distribution.  
The poll workers are trained and know what they are allowed to do as far as the 100 feet rule.  
So I'll leave that to them.  
As far as ballot scanners, if you over vote, and that means you vote for the ‑‑ you vote for two candidates for number 1, it will get rejected.  
You put your ballot in, and then, if your ballot is valid, there's an American flag, thank you for voting.  
This is good.  
If your ballot is rejected it gets popped out, but you as the voter are standing there.  
You are able to maintain the privacy of your ballot.  
And the poll workers are aware of the importance of privacy and they trained to explain to you why it might have been rejected and explain over voting.  
I hope that explains that question.  
Anyone who has any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me over e‑mail.  
I apologize, I have to go.

>>  Allie, I just want to thank you so much for taking the time to ‑‑ this was really informative.  
And also the Q&A.  
Thanks so much.

>>  Of course, thanks for having me.

>> Take care, bye.

>> So, I was gonna spend a little bit of time talking or getting your thoughts about any ideas you might have as far as trying to increase people's awareness about why this primary is important, and municipal election, participation overall.  
I asked Francis via chat whether there's anyone who has signed up for public comment.  And no one has signed up so far.  
So, I think if it's okay with folks, I'd like to just spend a little bit of time talking about that and then finish going through the rest of the program updates.  
We may end a little bit early, depending on how much you want to talk about what kind of input you want on the increasing participation question.  
Do people have ideas?  
Because CEC, as we are thinking about how to reach out to people, one, including a why.  
Why is this important.  
So if there's anything you think could be effective in terms of messaging on, that we'd love to hear that.  
Yeah.  
Amy, I see your hand up.

>>  Yeah, I don't think how you want to word it but, I've been telling people, if you want to decide who the Mayor is, you have to vote in the primary.  
Otherwise, you're affirming the choice of the primary voters in November.  
I don't know how you want to word that, but that is really what New York City is about right now.

>>  Mark?

>>  To once again make myself sound smart, the depressing statistics that we just saw about voter turn out in the general elections makes perfect sense.  
It doesn't make sense that the turnout isn't so good in primary elections but in many ‑‑ I mean, there are parts of the city for which this is not the case, I don't live in one.  
The public school should be closed on primary day and general Election Day, who cares.  
'Cause, the outcome is decided by the primary.  
So, the statistics bear out what Amy was saying, depressing they may be.

>>  Sorry for typing while I had my mic on.  
I know folks saw that I put into the chat, if you have a question or comment, put it in the chat.  
I noticed Annetta, do you want to add to this section?

>>  Yeah, I think it's less about messaging ‑‑ my comment is not about messaging.  
I know that's your question.  
I still feel like there are huge pockets of communities that we never get to.  
And they ‑‑ their only place of connection is religious institutions.  
And I want to encourage us to make an effort to work with religious institutions.  
I'm happy to share with you as far as the southern Asian communities.

>> I think that's a really, really important point.  
I mean, we ‑‑ I'd like to figure out for the Commission to figure out a bigger outreach plan, overall, and within that, make sure that we are connecting with faith communities.  
It's really about what are the commission's outreach strategy, and who are the different sector that is we need to make sure we're connecting with for what purpose.  
And I'm hoping we can develop that more over the course of the coming months.  
As we are rolling out additional initiatives and including our, you know, voter education.  
As well as, doing more work with the public artists and residence programs.  
We'd love to keep talking about that and get your suggestions as well.

>> And Mark, you had another thought?

>>  Yeah, going back along the lines of messaging to reach people who are heard to reach electronically or digitally, since, you know ‑‑ since there are a number of students back in in‑person schooling, and it seems to be skewing towards the younger grades, in elementary school, the backpack belongs to the parent.  
In upper grades, it belongs to the students.  
Backpacking in upper grades is a waste of paper.  
But in elementary, it might be a way to reach families.  
I know you can't put partisan, political statements through a public school and for very good reasons.  
But, I would suspect that information about how ‑‑ the availability of rank choice voting, the availability of the spins of an election and so forth might be acceptable.  
And might be a way, at least in targeted ways to reach districts.

>>  That's helpful.  
We can look into ‑‑ I'll ask Gagan and Daniel, I think they are on the call right now.  
How that could work, or if it's doable.  
Thank you for that.  
Would anyone else like to offer any thanks?  
Anyone else have any suggestions or feedback?  
Either specials or in particular the primary.

>> Hi, it's Lilliam.  
I'm really concerned with the strategy that I heard from the city agencies about waiting until 2 weeks, 3 weeks prior to Election Day.  
There's a special election where I live, and just ‑‑ the only mail everyone wants in a special election, and on top of it, resources are very scarce, and the pandemic is full blown, as you can see.  
Who is gonna think about going out to vote when they feel failed by everything in life and society.  
And on of it, you're going to have elderly folks, walking into a system that requires them to vote for more than one choice.  
I'm really, really concerned.  
I will be shocked if the winning candidates more than 100 votes.  
It's are the pathetic.  
He won by less than 600 votes.  
I'm ashamed that generations after generations, this the home of former senator ‑‑ oh my god, what was his name?  
The corrupt one?  
I don't know.  
This is really, really sad.  
And it's because if you are not listening to the authorities you trust the most, and I concur about clergy, we have to do a better job.  
It is our duty ‑‑ I asked my dad, do you know there's a special election coming up.  
I haven't gotten anything, so you're lying.  
I said, dad, I know there is a special election.  
So, look, this is someone who has always voted.  
As an immigrant American, it's his duty.  
He's away now, and he's upset it's not going to be able to vote because he didn't plan on the voting date.  
Anyway, I just wanna put the message out there that, while we're sitting in our luxurious offices in downtown City Hall, or in Albany, or the U.S. capitol, we don't try to understand what the average Americans needs.  And I think we're afterthought.  
I don't know the planning, the when, the how much money.  
I feel very failed by enthuse institutions.

>> You're preaching to the choir.  
The roll out of the vaccines, people with preexisting conditions were the last one to be considered.  
So, I completely feel what you're saying.

>> We're from the same hood, so, yep.

>>  One thing we haven't really talked about here is, you know, there are other ‑‑ democracy is also doing outreach, reminding or educating people about, you know, special ‑‑ rank choice voting, so, I think what you're pointing out is we also need to have a better understanding of who is doing what.  
And CFB is one part.  
We need to see who else is doing other things and see how we can support that.  
So, we will also follow up on that piece and try to learn a little bit more of the landscape.

>> I get ‑‑ I don't want to make this all about what's not being done and so, I want to be helpful and proactive.  
It is a big problem, if we don't know who is doing what.  
Because, the answer is, no one is doing anything.  
If I am a super engaged citizen of this county, of this district, and I don't know, no one knows.  
I'm not stuck in my house.  
I work in health care.  
I'm part of a million committees.  
I participate.  
I have gotten ‑‑ I don't know how to vote on this special elections.  
I'm going to be frank with you.  
I haven't seen a graphic on how to vote.  
I haven't see a commercial.  
I haven't gotten anything in writing for ‑‑ from anyone.  
So, I don't know who to blame, but I guess we're all to be blamed.  
I don't know.

>>  I mean, I think what you're saying is really important in that we need to do a lot more of education and outreach.  
I mean, that's just a fact.  
It's just a fact.  
And, I think understanding where the gaps are, like, some of the gaps we're talking about here, maybe there's a way we can strategize on specific fate communities, or fate institutions that we could connect with, you know, in that area just to, you know, give them access to the information that's out there.  
But we should talk more about that, you know, after this meeting.

>>  I ‑‑

>> With Jose and see how we can do.

>> I want to say a last thought.  
I'm disappointed because this is not a political problem.  
I think the Mayor of the City of New York is putting dollars to put out public announcements nonstop, and I'm not saying it's less or more important than COVID.  
And they are coming on and off during the news, in Spanish, English.  
This issue of civic engagement is important as well.  
This is managed by the City of New York.  
Voted by elected officials that are supposed to be working for the City of New York and its residence.  
It should have been doing a while back in terms of the ‑‑ do you know there's a new of voting, showing how you're supposed to be voting.  
I am so disappointed to hear that the priority is three weeks before.  
This is just as important as everything that's being said about COVID.  
Why?  
It determines how much money we each get.  
To make sure that people in the Bronx are dying because of the next pandemic or the next disease.  
We know it comes down to who has the power to determine where the funding goes.

>>  Thanks, so much, Lilliam.  
Donna, you're next.

>> A lot of what Lilliam had said, I actually agree with.  
I was waiting because the Campaign Finance Board, and the Board of Elections was saying to me, 'cause I was asking them about the rollouts, well, we'll roll it out in Queens and the Bronx.  
And then we'll do an evaluation on how it works.  
And then we'll do it for the rest of the city.  
Now, I have not heard anything about the process in Queens or in the Bronx with their special elections.  
And, I'm ‑‑ like Lilliam, I haven't heard ‑‑ because I have been beating people over the head with rank choice voting is coming.  
Please go to the Campaign Finance Board.  
Look at the videos, sign up for a class.  
And, if not for me doing that, a lot of people, and there's still a lot of people who have no idea what's going on, what's going to happen.  You know, people could have changed their party affiliation and realized that only Democrats can vote in the primaries.  
If you're not a Democrat, if you're an independent, you don't have a choice.  
So you're not actually able to pick, you know, candidate or rank candidates.  
So, I think that we can help because I'm thinking ‑‑ I'm wondering what we can do with the resources that we have to get this information out because we are supposed to be engaged ‑‑ you know, the community engagement arm of the city.  
And, we need to really stress the importance of this.  
And, have a lot of people know what's going on.  
'Cause there are a lot of voters out there.  
And, for it to be rolled out two weeks before, that is extremely confusing.  
And, as Lilliam was saying, you know, we're talking all of this information about COVID, which is ‑‑ it makes a difference because, of course, it's about your health.  
However, voting is about your well‑being as well.  
And it also includes your health because if the federal government or the local government does not work for health and hospital corporation to get this money and all of these things, it's about voting, so that people will make the right decisions on your behalf as a citizen.  
So, therefore, I think that waiting for two weeks before to roll it out is not a good time.  
It's very ‑‑ it is confusing to a lot of people.  
It is a change of procedure, so I think if you're going to change something, you gotta get people used to the change.  
And not scare them with the change.  
And I think this is a scare tactic which is going to create a lot of confusion.  
So, I think we need to do something about education on this.

>>  Thank you, Donna.  
I see that Anastasia, do you have your hand up?  
Or is that from before?

>>  No, I did raise my hand to say an additional comment.  
I just wanted to kind of agree with what Lilliam and Donna are saying.  
But I wanted to, you know, make it more specific through a disability lens.  
The reality is, for ‑‑ and Jose started speaking to this as well, the reality is for our community, there's so much ‑‑ I know not only because of the work that I do for the city, but, through my own advocacy that my mother helps to run, the problem with engaging ‑‑ one of the problems with engaging the disability community really is the amount of fires we are putting out all the time.  
A couple of people have mentioned often this call ‑‑ Donna just spoke to it, if you're going to introduce something new, you have to inform people.  
And I feel like a lot of people are unaware of how often people with disabilities who are receiving services get those services changed on them and us without being informed.  
And, that is ‑‑ that impacts people's literal ability to be involved in the community.  
In other words, if, like, Lilliam said, she's an engaged person in her community.  
As a person with disability, I'm used to dealing with daily crises of my direct personal care staff not being able to show up and from one second to the next being thrown into an emergency situation because I literally don't know who is going to put me in my wheelchair who is going to get my ready for work.  
And if I'm dealing with that and I have the ability to cope with that in ways that ‑‑ I mean, I know what other families are going through, especially right now because of how little ‑‑ I'm sorry, how much was cut in the last budget of the impacts of the pandemic, the disability community and all the organizations that serve us are really, really suffering right now.  
The reality is, parents, families, individuals with disabilities just don't know, you know ‑‑ can barely get through the day, let alone, like, figure out how they're gonna vote in the next election.  
So, a lot of these issues and of course all of that has been increased by the pandemic.  And Jose are saying now, people are scrambling to get the vaccines.  
I feel like for our community, a lot is going to have to, you know, ‑‑ to be host, Cuomo and other elected officials are gonna have to stop cutting budgets of my community if they want us to be able to function and be a part of our daily ‑‑ you know, civic engaged.  
People can't worry about being civically engaged if they can't, you know, get out of bed or if they don't have somewhere to live, because there's not enough accessible housing or ‑‑ so, for our community, there's a lot that people with disabilities are used to being able to access supports that are just non‑existent now.  
Some of the supports that I rely on have been cut back.  
I'm one of the lucky ones because I do have a job.  
So, I'm hurting more than if I would have been if the pandemic wouldn't happened.  
But I'm still one the lucky ones because I do have a job and isn't completely reliant on the government.  
All the organizations that help people like me and Jose with all aspects of our lives, they can't do what they do because they don't have the funding.  
And until some of that is solved, you're gonna have a really big problem getting larger chunks of our community to be civically engaged.  
Especially when it comes to voting because people just can't show up.  
If they don't have people to help them, they are not gonna be able to be vaccinated or they're not gonna able to show up to vote.  
So I really, really hope some of these larger issues are addressed because if these community based organizations are not funded, you know, people like me and Jose are not gonna be able to, you know, be more civically engaged than we are now.  
People are really, really struggling to the point where I've ‑‑ I know doctors who are choosing on their own time to go into communities and, you know, people with disabilities and vaccinate them at home because they know these organizations want to help but are so strapped for resources that they can't.  
So I just want everybody to be aware of some of the those larger issues that prevent people with disabilities of even starting to think about, oh, let me vote in the next election that's coming up.  
The reality is, most of our community is not thinking about that because they have to think about their health care first.  
Or the subsidies that have been cut.  
There are big, big problems going on because of funding in our community.

>>  First one to get cut, last one to benefit.

>>  Yeah.

>>  Thank you.  
Thank you for that.  
That was really important reminder, I think for us.  
We'll ‑‑ I mean, as we're thinking about the landscape of what folks are doing in terms of this outreach, we will also make sure we're tracking what's happening with the disability community in particular.  
Murad, do you want to go?

>>  Yeah, thank you.  
So, I wanted to see if there was any adjustments made to the Civic Engagement Commission's budget or the CFB or New York City votes as it's becoming clearer and clearer New York City is going to get a bail out from the federal government.  
I think there were substantial cuts that were made, you know, because of ‑‑ I think this year where we're having a primary with over 350 candidates running for city counsel, I think an entire new system of voting, that there should be ‑‑ I'm hoping there has been an allocation made to further support the education of communities of color, immigrant communities, seniors, elders, folks in the disabled community, just so we're ‑‑ I kind of feel like we have these conversations and then it's always linked back to, you know, lack of resources and funding.  
But, at the same time, we're coming out of that hump that we've been in.

>>  Yeah, thank you for that reminder about the budget.  
I think that we will need to follow up and get more clarity on what's possible there in terms of the allocation of our needs.  
I'm not sure ‑‑ I don't have the information on that right now.  
So, I'll follow up.  
But I think everyone is making a really important point in terms of resources and making sure we're dedicating resources to reach communities that have not been reached and not effectively reached.  
And, it's fair and valid.  
Are there any other comments in this section?  
I want to keep moving and close us out on time.  
We did wanna get your help, actually, speaking of voting, we are now in participatory ‑‑ I want today give you an update on that.  
Francis, do you want to share the PowerPoint again.  
In the next section, it's just giving a sense of where ‑‑ what types of projects we heard or got ideas for.  
And also showing a quick video.  
So Francis, do you want to show the video?

>>  Yeah, one second.

>>  Thank you.  
As she's getting this ready, the deadline for voting is ending on Friday.  
So I'd love to get your help.

(Video).

(Video end).

>> Thanks for that, Francis.  
And then, just to give you a quick overview of the kinds of projects that we received, this shares by borough, the breakdown of projects.  
There's the lowest borough is Staten Island.  
There are ten projects citywide, and then, also, there are different categories that people submitted.  
Excuse me.  
If you recall, the categories here are based on the needs that were most salient.  
So mental health was among the needs mentioned and 15 proposals related to that.  
Being heard was something that was mentioned as a concern.  
And, excuse me, I'm getting a scratchy throat.  
There are 30 proposals related to that.  
The other ones are related to other topics.  
What we'd love to get your help, I'm going to ask everyone ‑‑ we will share the video, we will share information on how people can vote and I'd like to you reach out to five people in your network.  
If you know five young people who are eligible to vote, please encourage them to vote before Friday.  
We'll send you the information.  
And then, if we go to the next slide, really quickly, for community boards, we are gonna be starting to do some trainings in March.  
Probably on the community land trust, and then later in the spring, we'll have trainings on parliamentary procedures.  
And there will be trainings how to be part of the committee, debate techniques.  
And, if you go to the next slide, and we don't have time to talk through this today, but I found a really interesting resource we can talk more about it or get your feedback after this meeting, even, but there was a resource that I found on how in meetings, we don't always have a ‑‑ there was a template that I saw that said, you can do a round Robin style of gaining participation.  
For every motion or discussion topic, you create a chart that lists everyone who is a part of that body and you would make sure that everyone has the opportunity to say something.  
Even if they may decline that opportunity.  
And that would be the responsibility of whoever is running the meeting to do that.  
I was wondering how that could actually work when you have, you know, large community board meetings with potentially large group of people, whether is actually possible to do something like this.  
And is it possible for us as a commission to experiment with this process.  
So, I wanted to just raise that, because I think one thing is, getting people in the door to actually show up to community board meetings, and then in every meeting, you always have, you know, a group of people or people are more participatory and less, so how do we gain engagement.  
I think group dynamics that sometimes might quiet people in some ways.  
It's just another tool that I found out there and I wanted to share this with you all.  
And see, you know, what you think about it.  
I don't want to spend the rest of the time doing that, though because I want to go to the next slide.  
Which is, I wanted to make sure that we were good on the meeting calendar that we shared with you.  
We set up this calendar for the remainder of the year so we don't have to go through a poll and you would have advance notice of one these meetings are going to be.  
And essentially what it reflects, Francis, it's a third Tuesday of each month?

>>  The fourth.

>> The fourth Tuesday of each month, and we will rotate the time because some people couldn't do mornings, afternoons, so now that we are meeting this month from 11 to 1, the next time we will meet from 2 to 4.  
Did I get that correct, Francis?

>>  Yes, that's correct.

>>  Okay, so I just wanted to make sure that you had all seen this calendar because we did send it to you in e‑mail.  You know, we'll still continue with the noticing process, and wanted to double check that there are ‑‑ no one had any major issues with this before we finalize it.  
'Cause we didn't really hear back from everyone on e‑mail.  
So I wanted to give you an community to say anything during the meeting if you have comments.

>>  This is Mark, that all works just fine for me, thank you.  
Especially, if we're ‑‑ if we continue with the ability to hold these meetings virtually as oppose to in person.

>>  Great point.

>> It's great.  
At some point, perhaps in this calendar year, the suspension of the open meetings law that permits us to move virtually may go away.  
And, anyway, so, as long as this is virtual, this will work for sure.  
Although, I actually like seeing all of you in person.  
So, I look forward to that.  
Hopefully we'll be able to blend this so we can do both.  
Certainly in community boards, we get a bigger turn out.

>> Thanks for that, Mark, I think what we can do is, make our note to ourselves to revisit this calendar if the in‑person meeting requirement comes back.  
If and when it does.  
Whether these dates still work for folks.  
Dates and times, I mean.  
Anything else?  
If there is nothing else, so, we will see you on ‑‑ in March.  
And, the screen is very small for me, so I cannot read the date, I'm sorry.  
But the 4th Tuesday in March, we will be back.  
It is the 23 from 2 to 4.  
And if there's no other comment, can I hear a motion to adjourn the meeting?

>> Motion to adjourn.

>> Second?

>>  Second.

>>  Thank you.  
The motion to adjourn has been seconded.  
And all in favor say aye.

>> Aye.

>> Any opposed?

>> Thanks, good meeting.

>> We'll see you next month.