

James Weldon Johnson Community Center's Learning Lab "Ribbon-Cutting"
Remarks of Commissioner Carole Post (as prepared)
April 4, 2012

Thank you and good afternoon.

At the City's technology agency, DoITT, a lot of our daily work is focused on the backend systems, servers, databases, and call centers that power New York City government. And those duties are as important as any that we have. But every so often our charge also takes directly into the lives of New Yorkers – and that's some of the most rewarding work we do.

In a digital world that's made smaller than ever before by common technologies we can all use and share, the world remains an awfully big place for people without access to broadband. That's why the Bloomberg Administration has developed a comprehensive strategy that focused on targeted initiatives to expand access to the vital infrastructure of the 21st Century: broadband technology.

We've done this by securing \$42 million in Federal Stimulus monies to increase access to broadband for public school students and families, and to build out new public computing centers in communities citywide. We've complemented that by working to enhance the availability of free or low-cost Wi-Fi in parks and public spaces.

And of course, we've partnered with the private sector – through the new cable franchise agreements announced last summer – to expand public broadband access even further still. This space represents some of the fruits of those efforts.

So today, I'm pleased to join Time Warner Cable and City agency partners to officially open the James Weldon Johnson Community Center "Learning Lab," the latest in a line of more than 100 such facilities that will increase free public access to broadband across the five boroughs.

I want to thank our partner Time Warner Cable – and specifically, its Regional Vice President for Operations, Mr. John Quigley.

I thank DYCD Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav and NYCHA Chairman John Rhea for their vision and subsequent work in helping make this Learning Lab a reality.

And of course thanks are due to the staff at our own agency – especially Assistant Commissioner Stanley Shor and his team – for their ongoing efforts in this regard.

We at DoITT are honored to have been a part of it. And we look forward to much more to come.

Thank you.