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THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.
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FOREST HILLS VAC
PUBLIC FACT-FINDING HEARING ON DETERMINATION OF
PUBLIC NEED FOR AN EXPANSION OF AN EXITING
AMBULANCE SERVICE IN QUEENS COUNTY, NYC
                 VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
                 March 4, 2021
                 6:04 p.m.
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REPORTED BY:
Charissa Hromadka
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Page 2 March 4, 2021

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 A P P E A R A N C E S (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): TIM HANNIGAN, Hearing Officer 3 4 MARIE C. DIGLIO, REMSCO Executive Director of Operations 5 YEDIDYAH LANGSAM, Chair of REMSCO and Ambulance 6 Committee SCOTT ORLANSKI, Downstate New York Ambulance 7 Association, REMSCO and Ambulance Committee Member 8 JAMES DOWNEY, NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue 9 Association, Inc., District 4, REMSCO and Ambulance Committee Member 10 DANIEL MEISELS, NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation, 11 REMSCO and Ambulance Committee Member 12 VINCENT BARRANCO, REMSCO and Ambulance Committee Member JERROLD GELBAR, NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue 13 Association, REMSCO and Ambulance Committee Member 14 CHARLIE UNG, YouTube Technical Support 15 S P E A K E R S (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): 16 JEFFREY P. REISNER, Esq., Attorney for Forest Hills VAC 17 ALAN WOLFE, Vice President, Forest Hills VAC 18 AVIV CITRON, Member/Officer, Forest Hills VAC 19 HEIDI Chain, President, 112th Precinct Community Council Resident of Forest Hills 20 21 HONORABLE JOSEPH ADDABBO, JR., NYS Senator, District 15 22 KEVIN MAHONEY, Ridgewood VAC 23 ANDREW COMBS, Director, Woodhaven Richmond Hill 24 Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. LOUIS ROTKOWITAZ, M.D., Attending Physician at Queens 25

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	MS. DIGLIO: This is the Regional
3	EMS Council of New York City Public
4	Hearing for Forest Hills Volunteer
5	Ambulance Corps application to expand
6	their operating territory. We have a
7	hearing officer this evening as Tim
8	Hannigan. He will be in charge of this
9	meeting this evening and we are also
10	live streaming on YouTube. There is a
11	staff member on YouTube who will be
12	collecting any questions that are asked
13	by people on that end of the public
14	hearing and they will be presented to
15	the hearing officer to be addressed at
16	the end of this hearing.
17	Mr. Hannigan, whenever you are ready,
18	I will turn it over to you.
19	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I'm all
20	set. Thank you very much, Marie.
21	Good evening everyone. This
22	proceeding will now come to order. The
23	time is 6:04 p.m. This proceeding, as
24	many of you are certainly aware having had
25	the past one earlier this week and

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	previously in your EMS careers, is a
3	public hearing in the matter of the
4	application of Forest Hills Volunteer
5	Ambulance Corps which seeks to expand its
6	certificate of need to include the
7	communities of Woodhaven, Richmond Hill
8	and Kew Gardens, which are within the
9	boundary of the 102nd and 106th Precincts
10	in Queens and Community Board #9.
11	My name is Tim Hannigan. I'm an
12	attorney from Delmar, New York, which is
13	outside of Albany. I'm serving as the
14	hearing officer for tonight's hearing in
15	accordance of New York State Department of
16	Health Policy Statement 06-06.
17	As hearing officer, I will moderate
18	this proceeding and ensure that the
19	hearing process itself follows generally
20	accepted procedures. Following the
21	conclusion of the hearing, I will prepare
22	a report based on the application, all the
23	exhibits and the testimony of evidence
24	produced at this hearing. That report
25	will set forth findings of fact for the

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Regional Emergency Medical Services
3	Council of New York City and for its
4	Ambulance Committee.
5	This hearing is being held, as I
6	indicated, by The Regional Emergency
7	Medical Services Council of New York City
8	pursuant to Article 30 of the New York
9	State Public Health law and is being
10	conducted in accordance with the Policy
11	Statement 06-06. The purpose of this
12	hearing is to provide a technical review
13	and objective evaluation of the
14	applicant's statement of need, as well as
15	any other testimony presented. It is the
16	intent of this hearing process as 06-06
17	instructs to obtain input from the general
18	public and from anyone else who uses,
19	provides, pays for or participants in the
20	EMS system in the effected area.
21	A stenographic and video record of
22	this proceeding is being made. The
23	testimony taken and all exhibits received
24	will constitute the record in this matter.
25	In a few moments, I will indicate what has

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	been received by the Council and what is
3	being marked by exhibits.
4	In virtual attendance this evening are
5	several members of both the Ambulance
6	Committee and The Regional Council. For
7	purposes for the applicant's knowledge,
8	you can wave for the applicant and for any
9	members of the public here this evening.
10	Members of the Ambulance Committee and
11	members of the Council will be permitted
12	to ask questions should they (inaudible).
13	Any testimony and presentations to be made
14	will be directed to the Ambulance
15	Committee and The Regional Council.
16	The committee members, as I indicated,
17	may raise questions individually or may
18	confer with one another and ask direct
19	questions to a particular speaker or to
20	the applicant. To support the pending
21	application is applicant's burden to
22	demonstrate public need. Public need is
23	defined in Policy Statement 06-06 as the
24	demonstrative absence, reduced
25	availability or an inadequate level of

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	care in ambulance or emergency medical
3	service available to a geographical area
4	which is not readily correctable through
5	the reallocation or improvement of
б	existing resources.
7	In this matter, the application was
8	deemed complete on February 11, 2021. As
9	a matter of housekeeping, the redacted
10	application, it being redacted for
11	personal identifying information of the
12	officers and directors of the applicant,
13	has been marked and will be incorporated
14	into this proceeding as Exhibit 1. A copy
15	of the legal notice of the public hearing,
16	which is published prior to this hearing
17	date together with a supporting affidavit
18	and notice of the application which was
19	made by registered or certified mail by
20	the REMSCO to the chief executive officers
21	of all general hospitals, ambulance
22	services and municipalities operating
23	within the county where the applicant
24	seeks to operate has been marked as
25	Exhibit 2. The letter of fitness and

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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	competency from the Department of Health
3	attesting to the applicant's fitness and
4	competency to operate the proposed service
5	remains pending. When received, that
6	determination from the Department of
7	Health will be incorporated into this
8	proceeding as Exhibit 3.
9	The timeline entitled account of
10	events, which was prepared by Council
11	Executive Director Marie Diglio, is
12	incorporated in this proceeding as Exhibit
13	4. At this time, I will commend Marie for
14	compiling everything and making it very
15	organized. She certainly made my job and
16	I trust the job of the Council members are
17	much easier for her due diligence ahead of
18	time. The PowerPoint presentation
19	transmitted by the applicant to REMSCO
20	before the public hearing is received. It
21	is incorporated into this proceeding as
22	Exhibit 5. That is the PowerPoint
23	presentation that the applicant will use
24	in its initial presentation this evening.
25	There was an e-mail transmitted by

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Attorney Jeffrey Reisner on behalf of the
3	applicant prior to today's public hearing
4	with an attachment. The attachment being
5	a blank copy of the New York City REMSCO's
6	
	conflict of interest agreement. That
7	e-mail and attachment are received and are
8	incorporated into this proceeding as
9	Exhibit 6.
10	To start, we will commence with a
11	presentation by Mr. Aviv Citron and
12	Mr. Alan Wolfe, representatives of the
13	applicant. I note that their attorney
14	Mr. Reisner is also present. Mr. Reisner,
15	to the extent you wish to present in the
16	initial presentation, you are certainly
17	welcome to do so.
18	Thereafter, the floor will be open to
19	those individuals who have requested to
20	speak. Each person requested to be heard
21	in the public forum will be allotted a
22	reasonable amount of time in terms of
23	minutes to speak, offer their comments and
24	make any presentation. The list for
25	tonight's hearing is fewer than ten. If

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	people get somewhat long winded or tend to
3	repeat or focus on items other than public
4	need, I may chime in and ask them to
5	direct their comments on the issue of
6	public need only.
7	At the conclusion of the public forum,
8	the applicant will be afforded an
9	opportunity, if it desires, for the
10	limited purpose of rebuttal. Rebuttal
11	time is for the limited purpose of
12	contradicting or disproving statements or
13	submissions made or offered by persons
14	opposing the application. The time
15	allotted and the subject matter for
16	rebuttal is limited in scope and it exists
17	solely because the applicant is the one
18	that carries the burden of proof in this
19	hearing and on the application.
20	I will now call the names of the
21	individuals who are registered to speak.
22	At the time I call a particular speaker, I
23	will also indicate who is up next. I will
24	now recite the names of the speakers who
25	have indicated they will speak this

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	evening. Mr. Citron and Mr. Wolfe will be
3	presenting on behalf the applicant.
4	Thereafter, in public forum, we will hear
5	from Alan Thorne, Member and Officer of
6	Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
7	then Heidi Chain, President, 112th
8	Precinct to Community Council, then
9	Mr. Neil Giannelli, chief of staff,
10	Senator Joseph Addabbo. We will then hear
11	from Kevin Mahoney speaking on behalf of
12	Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps.
13	Mr. Mahoney noted that he will be speaking
14	in opposition this evening and we will
15	also hear from Andrew Combs, Director at
16	Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
17	Ambulance Corps. Mr. Combs indicated that
18	he will speak in opposition this evening.
19	Is there anyone else who did not
20	preregister to speak or who did
21	preregister but whose name I did not call
22	that wishes to be added to the list for
23	this evening? If so, you can indicate it
24	in the chat and we will have Charlie or
25	Marie and I add it to the list

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 appropriately. 3 MR. ROTKOWITZ: Tim, I'd like to 4 speak, Dr. Louis Rotkowitz. 5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Doctor, 6 are you representing any particular 7 entity this evening and do you plan to 8 be in support or opposition? 9 DR. ROTKOWITZ: I'm absolutely in 10 I'm stunned that somebody support. 11 could not support this. I'm an 12 attending physician in the emergency 13 room at Queens General Hospital in 14 Jamaica and this would definitely affect 15 our hospital. 16 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Hold on 17 one second, Doctor. What I'm doing is just as a matter of housekeeping right 18 19 now figuring out who will speak. We 20 will get back to you as far as your 21 comments. You will have the floor for a 22 period of several minutes to communicate 23 and talk about the public need as you 24 believe exists in that area. Is that 25 all right?

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	DR. ROTKOWITZ: Absolutely.
3	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
4	you.
5	Anyone else in addition to the doctor
6	whose name I did not read off that would
7	like to speak this evening?
8	Hearing none.
9	Charlie, are there any in the chat
10	that indicated they would like to speak?
11	MR. UNG: No one has indicated.
12	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: With
13	that, if anybody has any issues at the
14	time that they go to speak and have
15	technical difficulties, what have you, I
16	will hold your place and put you down at
17	the end of the list so that if you are
18	able to sign on, please try to do so and
19	we will get back to you.
20	MS. DIGLIO: I'm sorry, I just
21	wanted to I forgot to say it at the
22	beginning of the meeting. We do have a
23	stenographer here this evening. So when
24	you are called upon here to speak,
25	please state your name and affiliation

1	DEMODING TO HEADING $2/04/21$
	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	before you start speaking. Thank you.
3	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Does the
4	applicant have any questions for me
5	before they begin their presentation?
б	MR. WOLFE: You mentioned I think it
7	was either the first or second person on
8	the list. I didn't recognize the name.
9	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Alan
10	Wolfe and Aviv Citron.
11	MR. WOLFE: The next person.
12	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Alan
13	Thorne?
14	MR. WOLFE: Okay. Thank you.
15	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: You're
16	very welcome.
17	There being no further questions, we
18	will proceed with the applicant Forest
19	Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps by
20	Mr. Alan Wolfe and Mr. Aviv Citron.
21	MR. WOLFE: Thank you. Can you make
22	us presenters, please?
23	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Charlie,
24	are you able to do that for purposes of
25	the PowerPoint?
20	

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 MS. DIGLIO: Who wants to be the 3 presenter? Is it Alan? Alan, you are 4 co-host. 5 MR. WOLFE: Can you see the green 6 screen? 7 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, we 8 do. 9 MR. WOLFE: I don't know what 10 happened here. Hold on one second, 11 please. I am just having some technical difficulties here. I don't see what we 12 13 are presenting. 14 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: So on the 15 screen right now for all participants it 16 says who are we with a blank screen with 17 your logo on the bottom. MR. CITRON: I'm Aviv Citron, the 18 19 Safety Officer at the Forest Hills 20 Volunteer Ambulance Corps. 21 MR. WOLFE: And I'm Alan Wolfe, I'm the Vice President at the Forest Hills 22 23 Volunteer Ambulance Corps. 24 MR. CITRON: First we would like to 25 begin by thanking Executive Director

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Marie Diglio, the staff of New York City
3	REMSCO, members of the Ambulance
4	Committee, Hearing Officer Hannigan and
5	everyone who has joined us at tonight's
6	meeting.
7	Tonight the Forest Hills Volunteer
8	Ambulance Corps is here to present
9	application for expansion. We are going
10	to demonstrate the need for a volunteer
11	ambulance service in these underserved
12	areas since 2016. The members and
13	executive committee of the Volunteer
14	Ambulance Corps are committed to providing
15	quality, community volunteer ambulance
16	service as we have been for 50 years.
17	MR. WOLFE: We are having technical
18	difficulties. It's not are you guys
19	seeing all the photos coming out?
20	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, we
21	are.
22	MR. WOLFE: We are the Forest Hills
23	Volunteer Ambulance Corps. We were
24	established in 1971 to service the
25	Forest Hills community. By the way,

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	this is Alan. Sorry. In 1996, we
3	expanded to service the underserved area
4	of Rego Park. What is special about the
5	Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps?
6	A rich history. Celebrating 50 years of
7	service to the community, 50 years of
8	emergency and nonemergency transports.
9	Something that the municipality EMS
10	agency doesn't do regarding nonemergency
11	transports that we are able to provide
12	for the community. CPR, Narcan Stop The
13	Bleed at no cost to the community.
14	Blood drives, health fairs, outreach to
15	schools, youth services and training.
16	We have a robust youth squad and we have
17	made many, many youth members into EMTs
18	and many have also gone on in medical
19	professions both as nurses and doctors
20	and other fields.
21	We do a lot of education for the
22	community. We have many community
23	partnerships that we are very proud of.
24	The NYPD 112th Precinct and 112th Precinct
25	Community Council we work closely with,

1REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/212the Fire Department of New York, many3civic association, support groups, Girl4and Boy Scouts, many not-for-profit5organizations, hospitals and healthcare6organizations, Mount Sinai's mammography7program, many business owners.8Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps9is a dedicated group of civic-minded	
3 civic association, support groups, Girl 4 and Boy Scouts, many not-for-profit 5 organizations, hospitals and healthcare 6 organizations, Mount Sinai's mammography 7 program, many business owners. 8 Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps	
 and Boy Scouts, many not-for-profit organizations, hospitals and healthcare organizations, Mount Sinai's mammography program, many business owners. Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps 	
 organizations, hospitals and healthcare organizations, Mount Sinai's mammography program, many business owners. Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps 	
 organizations, Mount Sinai's mammography program, many business owners. Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps 	
 7 program, many business owners. 8 Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps 	
8 Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps	
9 is a dedicated group of civic-minded	
10 individuals who strive each and every day	
11 to improve the community as a whole.	
12 Thank you.	
13 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Does that	
14 conclude your initial presentation,	
15 Mr. Wolfe?	
16 MR. WOLFE: Yes.	
17 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do	
18 members of the Ambulance Committee or	
19 The Regional Council have any questions	
20 for the applicant?	
21 MR. DOWNEY: This is Jim Downey,	
22 Ambulance Committee Member.	
23 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Go ahead,	
Mr. Downey.	
25 MR. DOWNEY: Are you guys	

-	
1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	broadcasting from Texas? I don't see
3	any masks on.
4	MR. WOLFE: We are both vaccinated
5	completely, fully and COVID tested
6	negative.
7	MR. DOWNEY: Okay. Going to the
8	description and map of the proposed area
9	of expansion, on page 15 of your
10	application you have a map that outlines
11	the area; is that accurate?
12	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv. That is
13	accurate. This was the map that was
14	used by the Woodhaven Richmond Hill
15	Volunteer Ambulance Corps when they
16	operated.
17	MR. DOWNEY: I would agree with
18	that. On page 10, there's an area of
19	expansion, more or less, narrative; is
20	that accurate?
21	MR. CITRON: Give me one second.
22	You said page
23	MR. DOWNEY: Page 10 of 92 of the
24	redacted application.
25	MR. CITRON: Again, this is Aviv.

1	DEMOCO DUDI TO DENDING $2/04/21$
	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Are you referring to where it says 1,
3	Kew Gardens; 2, Woodhaven; 3, Richmond
4	Hill?
5	MR. DOWNEY: Yes.
6	MR. CITRON: I believe that is
7	correct in correlation with the map
8	provided on page 15.
9	MR. DOWNEY: I question it because
10	on Kew Gardens, A, describe Jackie
11	Robinson Parkway east to Hillside
12	Avenue, do they intersect?
13	MR. CITRON: I see what you are
14	saying.
15	MR. DOWNEY: As regards to the map
16	that shows it going south to 109 Avenue,
17	I do not see any south 109 Avenue listed
18	on the proposed area of expansion.
19	MR. CITRON: Stand by, Jim. Give me
20	one second. I'm just reviewing the map
21	as you are speaking so I can understand
22	exactly what you are saying. Yes, so
23	with regards to let's start with page
24	10. Under 1A where it says Kew Gardens,
25	New York, ZIP code 11415 letter A being

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Jackie Robinson Parkway East Hillside
3	Avenue, that is a typographical error
4	which should read Jackie Robinson
5	Parkway to the Van Wyck Expressway.
6	MR. DOWNEY: I question that because
7	the map shows Jackie Robinson to Queens
8	Boulevard and then down to the Van Wyck.
9	Possibly we could clear up these
10	discrepancies subsequent to the meeting,
11	if that's okay with the hearing officer.
12	Also, on page 14 of 92, population
13	demographics, there are descriptions of
14	Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens,
15	which do not exactly correspond to the
16	descriptions on page 10. It would be
17	appreciated if they could be reconciled
18	page 10, page 14 and page 15 to the
19	satisfaction of the hearing officer before
20	the report is submitted. Thank you.
21	MR. WOLFE: Thank you, Jim.
22	MR. CITRON: Thank you, Jim.
23	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
24	Mr. Downey, your suggestion is amenable
25	to me and to the applicant, either

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
1 2	Mr. Reisner, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Citron, what
3	is your timeline as being able to
4	provide that?
_	
5	MR. CITRON: 24 hours.
6	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: That's
7	acceptable. Thank you.
8	Mr. Downey, in terms of information
9	needed for the Committee's review, would
10	you like a new map and narrative
11	description of the territory?
12	MR. DOWNEY: According to the
13	information that I have from the Old
14	Woodhaven Richmond Hill Volunteer
15	Ambulance Corps, the map accurately
16	describes their service area so I think
17	what we need is something that
18	corresponds to the map.
19	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv. Duly
20	noted and you will have that within 24
21	hours.
22	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
23	you. If you can copy Marie Diglio on
24	that as well, please.
25	Does any other member of the Ambulance

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Committee or The Regional Council have any
3	other questions for either Mr. Wolfe or
4	Mr. Citron?
5	Mr. Orlanski.
6	MR. ORLANSKI: Good evening
7	everybody. Thank you Hearing Officer
8	Hannigan. I'm going to ask the same
9	question that I did on Tuesday night in
10	the interest of fairness and just a
11	brief answer, if possible. We all know
12	for those that were not here on Tuesday
13	night and are here tonight, obviously
14	there's two agencies that are competing
15	for the same territory, so the question
16	that I have and obviously without being
17	disparaging to any other agency, what
18	makes Forest Hills I guess the better
19	choice to get the CON for this area?
20	MR. MEISELS: This is Dan Meisels
21	from the Ambulance Committee and The
22	Regional Council and I just kind of
23	wanted to fundamentally ask the same
24	question as Scott, but I want to add one
25	little point, which perhaps might help

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	clarify, in terms of what makes this
3	agency position better for this
4	expansion. According to the map as
5	currently provided, the contiguous area
6	of the current service of Forest Hills
7	Volunteer Ambulance Corps consists of
8	exactly four linear blocks of contiguous
9	area with the proposed expansion whereas
10	the competing service that is also
11	applying to the same area shares
12	approximately a two-and-a-half-mile
13	border with their contiguous area for
14	the new region. So perhaps, you know,
15	adding on to Mr. Orlanski's question,
16	which is really the salient question
17	here, would you please describe how that
18	geography might work in Forest Hills'
19	favor versus the competitor?
20	MR. WOLFE: Hi. This is Alan.
21	Thank you guys for your questions. The
22	first part, why is Forest Hills a good
23	candidate or the better candidate, what
24	makes Forest Hills the better choice for
25	the CON, as described in our opening

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	presentation, Forest Hills Volunteer
3	Ambulance Corps is very deeply involved
4	in community outreach in providing
5	services in addition to the basic
б	ambulance service on emergency and
7	nonemergency transports to the
8	community. As demonstrated in some of
9	the photos, we are extremely, extremely
10	active when it comes to community
11	organizations, the other civic
12	organizations, the other not-for-profit
13	organizations, school outreach, youth
14	outreach, we have a robust program to
15	educate the community in CPR and Narcan
16	and Stop The Bleed. We pay a lot of
17	attention to things other than just
18	responding to emergency calls. However,
19	we do that as well and we do that very
20	well.
21	We also haven't expanded since 1996.
22	Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps
23	started in 1971 because there was a
24	resident who needed EMS, was having was
25	in cardiac arrest and the EMS provider for

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	the City couldn't provide an ambulance in
3	time and that person died, and it was at
4	that time it was necessary to establish a
5	Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Later on, the
6	Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps saw
7	that there was a need in our neighboring
8	community in Rego Park. In 1996, we
9	expanded to cover that underserved area.
10	Now, in 2021, we see that there is a
11	need in a neighboring community or
12	neighboring communities mainly Woodhaven,
13	Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens and we are
14	committed to providing that service to
15	those communities as we have done for 50
16	years to the Forest Hills and Rego Park
17	communities as well.
18	MR. ORLANSKI: Thank you for much.
19	That was a very detailed answer and I
20	appreciate it.
21	Mr. Downey, just for the record, I too
22	have not been vaccinated and I'm not
23	wearing a mask.
24	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do any
25	other members of the Ambulance Committee

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	and The Regional Council have any
3	questions for the applicant?
4	MR. MEISELS: Dan Meisels again from
5	the Ambulance Committee and The Regional
б	Council. I'm not sure that response
7	accurately answered my question relative
8	to the geography, so I'm a little more
9	curious about why Forest Hills Volunteer
10	Ambulance Corps thinks that they are
11	better positioned geographically to
12	provide service to that area versus the
13	competing volunteer ambulance service
14	that is applying for the same expansion.
15	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv Citron for
16	Forest Hills ambulance. Thank you,
17	Mr. Meisels, for your question.
18	In response to that, as you stated, we
19	are four linear blocks from the border of
20	the Kew Gardens community and as we
21	explained in our application, our average
22	response time is anywhere between 3 and 5
23	minutes, which is well below the national
24	average. Granting us that expansion into
25	these communities will continue to show

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
1 2	that our response time will remain as
3	such as we described, whereas a
4	two-and-a-half-mile distance from another
5	applicant's headquarters is that much
6	greater.
7	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Does that
8	answer your question, Mr. Meisels?
9	MR. MEISELS: Not really, but let's
10	move along. Thanks.
11	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
12	good.
13	Do any member of the Ambulance
14	Committee or The Regional Council have any
15	questions for the applicant?
16	Charlie, do we have any on your end in
17	the comments as far as questions?
18	MR. UNG: No questions in the chat.
19	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
20	you.
21	Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Citron, I have a few
22	questions. First, is it the applicant's
23	position that public need does exist
24	within the area identified on the map in
25	your application?

1	
1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv. Thank
3	you, Mr. Hannigan. We believe that
4	there is a need as it was demonstrated
5	on Tuesday as the other expansion
6	hearing.
7	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: That
8	being for Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance
9	Corps?
10	MR. CITRON: Yes, sir.
11	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: In your
12	application, looking at page 12 of the
13	redacted application, you raised a good
14	point. It's reallocation of resources
15	and at the bottom it says, Currently we
16	see no other viable alternative to the
17	deficit left when the previous agency
18	dissolved. With respect to the pending
19	application that you noted in the
20	pending hearing that this Regional
21	Council just had on Tuesday, would you
22	change that statement? Can both
23	entities coexist? Is there sufficient
24	public need that exists for both
25	entities? I would just like you to

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	comment on that.
3	MR. WOLFE: Hi. This is Alan. How
4	are you?
5	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I'm doing
6	well. Thanks.
7	MR. WOLFE: Prior to the public
8	hearing on Tuesday, members of the
9	Volunteer Ambulance Corps asked for a
10	meeting and had a meeting with the
11	members of the Ridgewood Volunteer
12	Ambulance Corps with the intention of
13	supporting each others expansion
14	application. We feel that it would be
15	viable to have multiple ambulance
16	services covering the same area.
17	You know, volunteer ambulance services
18	are hard to come by these days and the
19	more the merrier. Especially when there
20	are natural disasters, manmade disasters,
21	weather disasters. The City's resources
22	are depleted and the fact that your
23	community has a volunteer ambulance
24	service just increases the ability to get
25	emergency medical services and ambulances

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	to people who are in medical need, and it
3	guarantees those communities are served.
4	We would have no problem and we feel that
5	that area has been underserved since 2016
6	that the more, the merrier and, yes, we
7	could coexist.
8	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Is it
9	your position that public need or at
10	least enough public need exists to
11	support more than one agency, that being
12	your agency and Ridgewood at this time?
13	MR. WOLFE: Absolutely.
14	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: There's a
15	comment in the chat. It looks like
16	there's a question for the applicant by
17	Mr. Barranco.
18	MR. BARRANCO: Yes, Vincent
19	Barranco, Ambulance Committee Member.
20	Based upon just your last question to
21	the applicant, I would like to know if the
22	applicant would be willing to split the
23	area with the other applicant.
24	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv. Thank
25	you, Mr. Barranco, for your question.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	As Alan stated, prior to the Tuesday
3	hearing with the Ridgewood Volunteer
4	Ambulance Corps, we offered many
5	different options to coexisting in those
6	areas. One option was we hopefully are
7	both awarded the area and we can work
8	together with each other and then there
9	was another option where if we were able
10	to present to the hearing officer, New
11	York City REMSCO and/or the Department
12	of Health that maybe splitting the areas
13	would be another option.
14	As Alan Wolfe stated just a minute
15	ago, we believe that it's in the best
16	interest of the residents, visitors and
17	guests of those areas to have as many
18	medical resources as possible. Whereas if
19	somebody would call 911, it would show a
20	much better position of the Volunteer
21	Ambulance Corps to have multiple
22	ambulances, two different ambulances or
23	three different ambulances for that matter
24	show up to help. So does that did that
25	answer your question, Mr. Barranco?

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
1 2	MR. BARRANCO: Kind of, but what if
3	there was to be a split of the area,
4	would you guys be okay with a split?
5	Instead of both ambulance companies
6	covering the same area, if you were to
7	split the area, would you guys be
8	willing to do that? It's just a
9	question.
10	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv again.
11	Mr. Barranco, the answer to your
12	question is absolutely, yes.
13	MR. BARRANCO: Thank you very much.
14	MR. WOLFE: Hi, this is Alan. To
15	answer that question even more in depth,
16	I just want to go back to how this issue
17	came about. We were very deeply
18	troubled as an ambulance service to have
19	a neighboring ambulance service have
20	their CON taken away in 2016. Prior to
21	that, when we saw that they were having
22	some trouble, we reached out to the
23	Woodhaven Volunteer Ambulance and we
24	offered assistance.
25	We offered assistance with them to be

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	allowed to use our building as a
3	headquarters and to work out of here. We
4	offered to them any resources that we had.
5	We are very committed to the idea that all
6	of these committees need to have volunteer
7	ambulance services. So to answer your
8	question, it doesn't matter to us if we
9	have to coexist, if we need to split the
10	area. In the end, as long as the area is
11	covered, we are happy.
12	We feel that we are a viable ambulance
13	agency and that we have 50 years of
14	experience and we have a dedicated
15	membership who feels that they can provide
16	this service in addition to our two
17	current areas, add Woodhaven and Richmond
18	Hill and Kew Gardens. In the end, we just
19	want the communities to be covered and we
20	feel that Forest Hills is a good, viable
21	organization to do that.
22	MR. BARRANCO: Totally agreed. I
23	believe the whole entire area needs to
24	be covered by a volunteer ambulance
25	company. Volunteers are instrumental to

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	the area, but I'm glad you guys are
3	willing to split, if that's what it
4	comes down to be. Thank you.
5	MR. WOLFE: Absolutely. Thank you.
6	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
7	Mr. Wolfe, I had a follow-up question.
8	That being, following Woodhaven Richmond
9	Hill's dissolution or cessation of
10	operations in that area, did your agency
11	respond or routinely provide mutual aid
12	to that area?
13	MR. WOLFE: We did at some point
14	have mutual aid with Woodhaven Richmond
15	Hill. I'm a little foggy on the actual
16	years and dates and times, but there was
17	an established mutual aid agreement.
18	They were a part of the West Queens
19	mutual aid agreement, so yes, we did
20	provide mutual aid.
21	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
22	you.
23	Do any other members of the Ambulance
24	Committee or The Regional Council have any
25	questions for the applicant?

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Mr. Reisner, do you have anything you
3	
	would like to add before we proceed to
4	public session?
5	MR. REISNER: I do. Thank you,
6	Officer Hannigan. I would like to join
7	my clients in thanking the members of
8	the Committee, the Council, yourself,
9	Hearing Officer Hannigan, and Ms. Diglio
10	for all their hard work in connection
11	with putting this hearing on in these
12	challenging times. It's nice to be
13	together with everyone even if it is via
14	Zoom.
15	I also would like to say it is my
16	great pleasure and honor to represent an
17	organization like Forest Hills who is
18	making this application for all the right
19	reasons and I believe the narratives of
20	Mr. Citron and Mr. Wolfe just now really
21	embodied that in a way that makes my heart
22	feel good, and I think that that really is
23	the most direct response to Mr. Orlanski's
24	question about what makes Forest Hills the
25	better option here.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	I think that it's absolutely
3	undisputed that a need exists in this
4	area. I haven't heard one person say
5	anything other than that. I think that
6	the Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps
7	has a very rich history that's rooted
8	deeply in their dedication to their
9	community. They have what I like to call
10	the hearts of teachers and at their core
11	they are public servants who serve without
12	the expectation or desire for
13	remuneration, which is really what
14	volunteerism is all about and what
15	until things took a bizarre and sideways
16	step a number of years ago what the
17	Volunteer Ambulance Corps were designed to
18	be and do.
19	I think that also as part of their
20	charm, the Forest Hills Volunteer
21	Ambulance Corps is very modest about their
22	financial condition, their wherewithal and
23	their plans to serve this community if
24	granted the expansion of their CON. We
25	talked at length about their willingness

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	to purchase new ambulances, which they
3	have the financial wherewithal to do
4	within their own funds. Their desire and
5	intention to stage those vehicles inside
6	the expansion territory so that there is
7	the continued upkeep of those exceptional
8	response times that they currently provide
9	in their territory, and there is a
10	commitment within the people of the Forest
11	Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps to staff
12	those vehicles and those staging points.
13	Really, I think that that speaks volumes
14	to the commitment, the physical discipline
15	and the just tremendous volunteer
16	wherewithal that my client exhumes.
17	In short, I think that Forest Hills
18	has really demonstrated that they are not
19	in this for the money. They are in this
20	to make sure the people of these
21	communities get the best possible service
22	and I think that in a nutshell really is
23	what makes them the better choice because
24	we are talking about Volunteer Ambulance
25	Corps and to me the choice is clear and I

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	hope the Council and the Committee will
3	see it the same way, as well as yourself,
4	Hearing Officer Hannigan.
5	I would reserve my time for rebuttal,
6	any remaining time that is, and I would
7	ask that I maintain the ability to unmute
8	myself in the event I need to object if
9	any opposition speakers get too far
10	afield.
11	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
12	Mr. Reisner, you will certainly have
13	time in rebuttal. With respect to any
14	other speakers going far afield or
15	saying anything objectionable, I will
16	handle that. Obviously you will have
17	the opportunity to respond in rebuttal
18	to any comments stated in opposition to
19	the application.
20	Do any members of the Ambulance
21	Committee or The Regional Council have any
22	questions for Attorney Reisner?
23	Seeing none.
24	Charlie, any indicated in the chat on
25	your end?

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	MR. UNG: No indication.
3	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
4	you.
5	Moving to the public hearing comment,
6	first on the list is Alan Thorne. He's
7	listed as a member/officer of the
8	applicant Forest Hills.
9	Is Mr. Thorne here?
10	I do not see him present.
11	Charlie, do you see Alan Thorne in the
12	meeting?
13	MR. UNG: I do not see him present
14	in this meeting.
15	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
16	move on to Heidi Chain.
17	MR. WOLFE: For the record, there is
18	nobody with that name that's in office
19	for this ambulance service, this
20	ambulance corps.
21	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very
22	good. Whoever it was, was signed up.
23	We will move on. That makes it pretty
24	easy.
25	Is Heidi Chain present, 112th Precinct

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 Community Council? 3 MS. CHAIN: Yes, I am. 4 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Please 5 proceed. The floor is yours. 6 MS. CHAIN: Thank you so much. То 7 The Regional Council, the ambulance 8 corps, Mr. Hannigan, Ms. Diglio, thank 9 you for this opportunity. 10 I'm speaking publicly for myself. Ι 11 do have a few positions in the community though that I just would like to have on 12 13 record. I am designated from the New York 14 City Office of Emergency Management as the 15 District Leader for CERT Team for 16 Community Board 5 and 6. My other 17 capacity, I am elected and have been elected for many years as president of the 18 19 112th Precinct Community Council. In both 20 of these roles, the safety of our 21 community, the safety of our community in 22 times of an emergency are extremely, 23 extremely important to me. 24 We have partnered with the ambulance 25 corps and they have provided training for

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	our volunteers. They have provided
3	training for community members numerous
4	times. They provided basic first aid,
5	they provided Stop The Bleed, they
6	provided for the CERT they provided
7	their facility that we could hold meetings
8	back in the day when we held meetings.
9	They have always been there as a partner
10	with us. They have been out there in our
11	community at our community events, we have
12	held health fairs, we have done a
13	tremendous amount of outreach. They are
14	there, they are distributing health
15	information, safety information and they
16	are a valued partner in the community. So
17	much so that we have given them awards
18	numerous times to thank them for their
19	efforts in the community.
20	As a resident growing up in Rego Park
21	and Forest Hills, I have been here my
22	whole life. Unfortunately for my
23	family there have been times I have
24	needed to rely on them in the emergency
25	area and they have been there. They are

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	professional and they have been great. In
3	the different hats I have interacted with
4	them, they are a valued member of the
5	community. I can testify that they do
6	care about community service. I've seen
7	it, I've been with them and I appreciate
8	it.
9	Thank you for this opportunity and if
10	anyone has questions for me, I will be
11	happy to answer.
12	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
13	you, Ms. Chain.
14	Do any members of the Ambulance
15	Committee or The Regional Council have any
16	questions for Ms. Chain?
17	MR. MEISELS: Dan Meisels again from
18	The Regional Council and Ambulance
19	Committee. I don't think that anybody
20	either at the previous public meeting on
21	Tuesday nor at tonight's meeting have
22	anything bad to say about any of these
23	volunteer ambulance services,
24	particularly their consistent and
25	ongoing continued services to the

Page 44 March 4, 2021

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 community. 3 However -- and perhaps this is more a 4 question for Mr. Hannigan, you know, with 5 all due respect to the lady from the 112th Precinct, the areas we are talking about 6 7 here do not include the 112th Precinct. 8 You know, we appreciate all the great work 9 Forest Hills has done there without a 10 doubt. Again, as a paramedic that has 11 worked in Queens West for almost 30 years, 12 I have had nothing but good experience 13 with Forest Hills myself. 14 That said, I quess for Mr. Hannigan, 15 do we have folks from the 102nd Precinct 16 or 106th Precinct Community Council, you 17 know, on the board speak today to perhaps offer their opinions about how this 18 19 particular agency might benefit their 20 areas? 21 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: 22 Mr. Meisels, for this particular 23 hearing, we do not have persons 24 preregistered to sign up or otherwise 25 participating. I was going to ask

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Ms. Chain essentially that same
3	question.
4	With respect to this particular area
5	and the area that's the subject of this
6	hearing, Ms. Chain, do you have any
7	awareness or knowledge of whether that
8	particular area is in need of ambulance
9	service such that public need exists in
10	that particular area?
11	MS. CHAIN: What I can say to you is
12	that they have been a valued partner and
13	provided excellent service to our
14	community in the ways that I am talking
15	about, and I am not aware of other
16	people providing that training in the
17	neighboring communities.
18	I cannot you know, I don't live
19	there. I live here. I can discuss with
20	great detail the training, I can discuss
21	with great detail their outreach to the
22	community, I can discuss in great detail
23	things like that. To the extent that I
24	truly believe in not only as I said the
25	precinct councils, but also with the CERT,

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	that this is really needed and that this
3	type of outreach should be in each and
4	every community. So with that knowledge,
5	I could say, yes, I do believe it should
6	be in every community, but I am not aware
7	of what is over there right now, if that
8	helps.
9	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: It does.
10	Thank you very much for your comments
11	this evening.
12	Does anyone else have any questions
13	from either the Ambulance Committee or
14	REMSCO for Ms. Chain?
15	Seeing none.
16	Charlie, any on your side?
17	MR. UNG: None.
18	MS. CHAIN: Thank you again for the
19	opportunity.
20	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
21	next go to Chief of Staff, Neil Gianelli
22	from Senator Joseph Addabbo's office.
23	MS. DIGLIO: I'm not sure he's here.
24	Hold on.
25	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I'm not

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	seeing him on the grid either. We will
3	move him to the bottom in an effort to
4	continue the hearing.
5	Next up is Kevin Mahoney speaking on
6	behalf of Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance
7	Corps, Inc. Mr. Mahoney?
8	MR. MAHONEY: Mr. Hannigan, thank
9	you.
10	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: You're
11	welcome.
12	MR. MAHONEY: Tonight I am here to
13	represent the Ridgewood Volunteer
14	Ambulance Corps. An ambulance corps for
15	these proceedings is not represented by
15	counsel, but is represented and
10	supported by people who care, people who
18	care for our community and people who
10	care for other first responders.
20	I would like to recognize the great
	work that the members of the Forest Hills
21	
22	Volunteer Ambulance Corps do for their
23	community of Forest Hills and Rego Park.
24	My intention this evening and during
25	this testimony is to only present facts in

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	relation to the application submitted and
3	not defame or make allegations that would
4	deter the Ambulance Committee and members
5	of this Council from making the
6	appropriate decision, which is entirely
7	based on the guidelines addressed in New
8	York State Department of Health Policy
9	Statement 06-06.
10	With that being said, tonight we are
11	hear to speak about the merit or lack
12	thereof for the Forest Hills Volunteer
13	Ambulance application to request their
14	agency to expand services. First, it
15	appears the application that's made
16	available on the public record is not
17	complete. The application is missing the
18	required New York State Department of
19	Health application for new service
20	expansion of primary operating territory
21	or transfer of ownership form known as DOH
22	form 3777.
23	Additionally, the affirmation of
24	fitness for one of their directors is
25	incorrectly complete. Page 9, section 13

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	of the application, which is headed need
3	of expansion in a proposed area, the
4	applicant provides no statistics that
5	support a need for expanded EMS services
6	to the proposed area. They only provide
7	statistics for all of Queens from 2018.
8	No additional information or date ranges
9	from the last two to three years of data
10	were provided to substantiate a trend of
11	increased response times in the proposed
12	area.
13	Additionally, the applicant indicates
14	that their average response times between
15	three to five minutes in this section and
16	also tonight in their testimony, but on
17	page 7, section 6 of their application,
18	they claim their response times are
19	between two and a half and four minutes.
20	Is there data to back this up or were both
21	of these response times metrics which
22	contraindicate each other contradict
23	each other, place the application with no
24	merit or was it just placing it to look
25	fruitful in the eyes.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Page 10, section 14 headed area of
3	expansion, this section provides a
4	conflict with the map provided in Appendix
5	A of the application. Additionally, the
6	applicant include Community Board 9, City
7	Council Districts 29 and 32, State Senate
8	Districts 10, 14, 15, the NYPD 102
9	Precinct and the NYPD 106 Precinct. As
10	many of you know, City Council Districts
11	and State Senate Districts change every
12	ten years or so based on census data.
13	Additionally, the 102 and 106 NYPD
14	precinct boundaries would now encroach
15	completely in the areas currently served
16	by the Lindenwood Volunteer Ambulance
17	Corps and the West Hamilton Beach Fire
18	Department & Ambulance. Page 12 of their
19	application, section 20 headed government
20	support, the applicant writes, "In all
21	conversations we received 100 percent for
22	both a need and desire to have our
23	services available to them and their
24	constituents." This completed application
25	shows support from one elected official

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	from the proposed area and no ones.
3	Page 12, section 21 headed community
4	support, it reads, "The Forest Hills VAC
5	has spoken with community members in the
6	area we desire for the expansion. Based
7	upon our conversations with these
8	residents and business owners, the need
9	and want to have a community based
10	ambulance service is evident. However,
11	due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been
12	unable to attend in-person meetings with
13	these communities as they have been
14	canceled. The Forest Hills VAC will,
15	however, provide letters of support from
16	the residents of communities we seek to
17	serve." Not one letter of support has
18	been included in their application from
19	any resident, business, community group or
20	civic association as indicated in their
21	application submission.
22	To reference the COVID-19 pandemic as
23	the reason why they were not able to gain
24	community support is erroneous. Frankly,
25	it's an excuse that should not be accepted

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	by this Council or from anybody in the EMS
3	community. Staff members of this Council,
4	members of various communities, as well as
5	members of the EMS community in this state
6	and nation have showed they adapted and
7	overcame extreme levels of operational and
8	personal adversity of this pandemic. One
9	would have to question if the pandemic is
10	the real reason for the lack of support
11	letters.
12	New York State Department of Health
13	Policy Statement 06-06 page 5, paragraph 5
14	states, "All applicants shall focus how
15	the proposed service will meet the
16	definition of public need. The narrative
17	and endorsement shall respond and document
18	issues related to the definition.
19	Statements of want, desire, feelings or
20	any other unsubstantiated sentiments are
21	not acceptable."
22	Today we are here to hear testimony to
23	help the Ambulance Committee and The
24	Regional Council render a decision on the
25	application submitted by this applicant.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	The purpose of this hearing is to provide
3	technical review and an objective
4	evaluation of the Forest Hills Volunteer
5	Ambulance Corps statement of need. This
б	applicant bears the burden of proof for
7	the demonstration of public need. This
8	applicant has not done that. This
9	applicant has expressed wants and desires.
10	We ask that all the parties involved
11	in this hearing and the process to
12	determine that this applicant has not
13	demonstrated public need to expand their
14	services based on a lack of merit.
15	I would like to also address
16	Mr. Wolfe's statement earlier. We
17	received a call March 1st, 6:13 p.m. from
18	Forest Hills' captain asking to sit down
19	less than 24 hours before our hearing. We
20	have been in contact and we are trying to
21	communicate to Forest Hills Volunteer
22	Ambulance Corps.
23	First e-mail, October 26, 2020,
24	sending them a letter of solicitation
25	asking them and letting them know what we

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	were doing. 11/13/2020, return certified
3	receipt letter sent to them, a letter of
4	solicitation letting them know our
5	intentions. 12/7/2020, e-mailed their
6	captain asking if there was an update. He
7	e-mailed me back, I will find out right
8	now. Never heard back from him. 12/27 we
9	received a letter from the Forest Hills
10	Volunteer Ambulance Corps requesting our
11	support for their expansion application.
12	On 1/19, Forest Hills submitted their
13	expansion application with some corrective
14	letters as it was stated at the REMSCO
15	meeting. $1/21$, sent a letter to the
16	Forest Hills VAC president and captain
17	asking them and inviting them to our board
18	meeting on February 7, 2021. They never
19	answered, never responded, but the night
20	before our public hearing, they asked us
21	to meet with them, requesting things I
22	would have to bring back to a board of
23	directors and not able to do within a
24	24-hour period. The time to talk was two
25	to three months ago. The time to talk

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	wasn't less than 24 hours before our
3	public hearing.
4	I would like to thank everybody for
_	
5	their time and support.
6	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
7	you, Mr. Mahoney.
8	Do any members of the Ambulance
9	Committee or The Regional Council have any
10	questions for Mr. Mahoney?
11	MR. ORLANSKI: I do. I know the
12	subject of this evenings hearing is not
13	the Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps
14	certificate of need application, but
15	since it was brought up, Mr. Mahoney,
16	I'm going to ask the same question that
17	Mr. Barranco asked before of the Forest
18	Hills crew I will ask of you, is
19	Ridgewood willing to consider a
20	splitting or a sharing of territory?
21	MR. MAHONEY: Thank you, Mr.
22	Orlanski. As we stated in our public
23	hearing, we have a legal binding
24	agreement with the Woodhaven Richmond
25	Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps that

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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	requires us to apply for the area that
3	they previously served. We would be in
4	breach of contract if we were to not
5	fulfill that requirement.
6	Additionally, if we were to ask and
7	I would have to go back to our board, our
8	board would have to speak to their board
9	and we would have to come up with an
10	amended agreement, which would take
11	sometime.
12	MR. ORLANSKI: I apologize. So the
13	answer is since I'm a simple
14	person yes or no?
15	MR. MAHONEY: If it's a yes or no
16	answer, it's something I can't give you
17	a yes or no at this point. Like I said,
18	we have a legal binding agreement with
19	another corporation which we would be in
20	breach of contract with if we were to
21	say yes to that.
22	MR. ORLANSKI: Understood, but it's
23	something that if your board would agree
24	then you would consider?
25	MR. MAHONEY: Our board would have

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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	to agree, then we would have to go amend
3	an agreement with another corporation's
4	board and address it.
5	MR. ORLANSKI: Understood. Thank
6	you.
7	MR. MAHONEY: You are welcome, sir.
8	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Do any
9	other members of the Ambulance Committee
10	or The Regional Council have any other
11	questions for Mr. Mahoney?
12	I had one follow up for you. The
13	question I asked and posed to the
14	applicant for tonight's hearing with
15	respect to mutual aid, has your agency,
16	prior to today, had occasion, since
17	Woodhaven closed, to respond either
18	routinely or on an ongoing basis in the
19	area sought for expansion by this
20	application and by your agency's own
21	application?
22	MR. MAHONEY: Before the New York
23	City Volunteer Ambulance Citywide Mutual
24	Aid Plan was put into plan, which voided
25	all previous plans, the Western Queens

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Backup Association existed and there was
3	a backup agreement between Ridgewood,
4	Glendale, Middle Village and Woodhaven
5	Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps
б	and Forest Hills. So to answer your
7	question, yes.
8	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
9	you.
10	MR. GELBARD: Mr. Hearing Officer?
11	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes.
12	MR. GELBARD: Jerrold Gelbard from
13	the REMSCO and Ambulance Committee.
14	Just for a point of information, once
15	an EMS entity loses or surrenders their
16	ambulance operating certificate, it does
17	not permit mutual aid under Advisory 1203.
18	So, therefore, no agencies would have been
19	able to provide mutual aid in the proposed
20	expanded area so they can only answer
21	prior to.
22	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Correct.
23	Of course if Woodhaven no longer exists,
24	there is nothing to be provided to it,
25	but my comment was to that particular

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	area has anybody else, whether FDNY or
3	any other agency, have they had to run
4	calls in that area due to some lack of
5	service or a relevant here, public need
6	in that area that was not otherwise met
7	by existing providers? Mr. Mahoney?
8	MR. MAHONEY: I'm sorry, I thought
9	you were addressing Mr. Gelbard. I
10	didn't know you were addressing me.
11	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: I want to
12	go back to the question. From the time
13	that Woodhaven ceased to have an
14	operating certificate or otherwise
15	didn't operate, did you run calls in the
16	affected area?
17	MR. MAHONEY: We provided mutual aid
18	for each other, yes.
19	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: After
20	Woodhaven closed. Obviously you can't
21	provide mutual aid to an entity that
22	doesn't have go ahead.
23	MR. MAHONEY: Exactly. Before their
24	certificate was surrendered, we had a
25	mutual aid agreement. Obviously once

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 they didn't exist anymore, you can't go 3 into a territory that you are not 4 allowed to by the DOH. HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very 5 6 good. Thank you. 7 MR. MAHONEY: No problem, sir. HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: 8 Does 9 anyone else have any questions either 10 from the Ambulance Committee or REMSCO for Mr. Mahoney? 11 Hearing none, we will go to 12 13 Dr. Rotkowitz. 14 Dr. Rotkowitz, are you still on? 15 DR. ROTKOWITZ: I'm here. 16 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank you 17 very much. The floor is yours. 18 DR. ROTKOWITZ: Hi. My name is 19 Dr. Louis Rotkowitz. I'm an attending 20 physician at Queens Hospital Center in 21 Jamaica. I can say with certainty we would -- you know, this involves my 22 23 emergency department. I have over ten 24 years experience working in emergency 25 medicine in Queens, throughout Queens,

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	all over Queens. I also serve as a
3	telemetry physician for the fire
4	department, but I'm going to speak from
5	my experience.
6	My patients are telling me this is
7	necessary. We are in the midst of a
8	crisis, this is a public health crisis.
9	My patients are the ones that are
10	forgotten. I work in a safety net
11	hospital. They oftentimes tell me they
12	wait 20 to 30 minutes for ambulances.
13	These are folks that live in Ridgewood,
14	Kew Gardens. They come from all over.
15	This is necessary. EMS needs as much
16	as we need to start cooperating. We
17	need as much help as possible.
18	I've worked with Forest Hills
19	ambulance. I've taught for them, they are
20	extremely professional. This is a very
21	legitimate, well run, well oiled
22	organization. They follow all the rules.
23	Things are followed to a T, but again, I'm
24	telling you from my personal experience.
25	My patients are telling me.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	The patients that come from these
3	affected areas that we have spoken about
4	and you guys argue about boundary lines.
5	These are where my patients come from and
6	they've waited 20, 30 minutes for
7	ambulances and I'm not talking about just
8	in the pandemic. This is necessary.
9	During the pandemic, the fire
10	department was receiving 6,500 calls
11	65,000 calls per day 6,500, forgive me,
12	6,500 calls per day. I looked at the
13	statics. Usually they get like 5,000
14	calls per day. We know there's a
15	shortage. All these EMTs are going to
16	you know, they are going to fire
17	suppression.
18	Again, I can't speak for the fire
19	department, but again, I can only speak
20	for what I'm telling you now. My patients
21	are the ones that are affected, that could
22	be affected by this, that could be helped
23	by this and they I'm here tonight to be
24	their voice. They need help. Okay?
25	This is New York City. Nobody should

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	wait 20 to 30 minutes for an ambulance. I
3	don't know. I think we should all stop
4	arguing about boundary lines and semantics
5	and applications. I can attest for these
6	people. These are qualified people at
7	Forest Hills. I'm sure, I'm confident
8	they can get you the information that's
9	needed, but again, I'm telling you now,
10	from the experience of my patients, I talk
11	to my patients. That's all I have to say.
12	Thank you for the time.
13	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
14	you, Dr. Rotkowitz. I know you have
15	you are due at the hospital somewhat
16	shortly here, but a quick question for
17	you in follow up and then I will allow
18	members of the Ambulance Committee or
19	REMSCO to ask. With respect to the
20	experience of your patients as
21	communicated to you, is it your opinion
22	that a public need exists in this area
23	sufficient to support the addition of
24	two additional ambulance resources in
25	that area?

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	DR. ROTKOWITZ: Tim, without
3	question there is a public need. I
4	swear to you there's a public need. I
5	see it night after night, day after day.
6	Any available help is appreciated. This
7	is a no-brainer. They are telling me,
8	the patients are telling me they are
9	oftentimes waiting 20 to 30 minutes for
10	an ambulance at times. This was even
11	before COVID.
12	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Have
13	those wait times become worse since the
14	onset of the pandemic last year?
15	DR. ROTKOWITZ: Without question,
16	but I do have to say I was knocked out.
17	You know, I had worked up until the
18	surge and then contracted COVID myself.
19	You know, sitting in my I was I
20	can't I just don't understand how
21	people are arguing over this thing.
22	Having personally myself become a
23	patient, nearly lost my life over this
24	thing and then, you know, coming back to
25	the emergency room and speaking with

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	patient and, you know, it just again,
3	my hospital, we are a safety net hospital.
4	We serve those who are forgotten and, you
5	know, organizations like Forest Hills have
6	a very, very good relationship with the
7	community, oftentimes where these folks
8	feel comfortable reaching out directly.
9	I have had nothing but positive
10	interactions with Forest Hills and other
11	organizations, other volunteer
12	organizations. These people are
13	qualified, they are capable, they are well
14	credentialed, they are well spoken people.
15	They deliver good quality care and to lock
16	them out is nonsense.
17	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
18	you, Doctor.
19	Do any members of the Ambulance
20	Committee or the Council have any
21	questions for Dr. Rotkowitz?
22	MR. MEISELS: This is Dan Meisels
23	again, member of the Ambulance Committee
24	and the Council and I could not agree
25	with Dr. Rotkowitz anymore.

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	As the organizational representative
3	of New York City Health & Hospitals, which
4	is the public safety net hospital system
5	of the City of New York, there is no
6	question that there is a need in these
7	areas for additional ambulance service.
8	Whether it's one, two or twelve additional
9	Volunteer Ambulance Corps that would help
10	get these patients to where they need to
11	be in a time of need. There is no
12	question about the public need.
13	I think though that you know, to
14	Dr. Rotkowitz's point, you know, I think
15	that obviously we are here addressing
16	the Forest Hills' application, but given
17	the fact that we have representatives from
18	Ridgewood here as well, I think that it
19	underscores not just the public need that
20	we all appreciate here in this city, but
21	it also underscores the need, again, to
22	Dr. Rotkowitz's point, that these two
23	agencies perhaps talk about how together
24	they may better serve these areas where
25	there is an obvious need for an additional

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 ambulance service. 3 Again, I completely agree with 4 Dr. Rotkowitz and I would encourage the --5 for lack of a better expression -- dueling volunteer ambulance services to perhaps 6 7 get back to the table together and discuss 8 ways that they can work together to 9 provide services across this underserved 10 community. 11 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank 12 you, Mr. Meisels. 13 Does any other member of the Ambulance 14 Committee or The Regional Council have any 15 other questions for Dr. Rotkowitz? 16 Seeing none. 17 Charlie, any on your end? MR. UNG: No questions for. 18 19 Dr. Rotkowitz. 20 DR. ROTKOWITZ: Can I respond to 21 Dan's comment? HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: 22 23 Absolutely, Doctor. Go ahead. 24 DR. ROTKOWITZ: Dan, I think the way 25 for you to see how this organization --

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	how Forest Hills Ambulance can help the
3	community is give them the ability to go
4	out there and help the community. I
5	have every confidence. These people are
6	fully vetted by me. I would trust them
7	with my life. They know what they are
8	doing.
9	Alan Wolfe knows what he's doing.
10	He's relentless when he wants to get
11	something done.
12	MR. MEISELS: Dr. Rotkowitz, again,
13	I'm with you completely. I think that
14	your tallying points are really
15	important, right? We have an identified
16	public need, we have an underserved
17	community that requires the assistance
18	and there's no question that Forest
19	Hills is qualified.
20	As I mentioned before, I've worked in
21	Queens for most of my 30 years as a
22	paramedic here in New York City and I've
23	had numerous fantastic working
24	relationships on calls with many different
25	agencies working with Forest Hills and

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	it's been nothing but a great experience,
3	but I think that I could probably say the
4	same for the competing volunteer ambulance
5	service. So we have two services here
6	that are both imminently qualified, have a
7	history of serving the communities and I
8	guess my point really is I would suggest
9	to both services I know we've got
10	Forest Hills here tonight, but we have
11	representatives for the other, I would
12	suggest to both of those services to go
13	back to the drawing board and perhaps talk
14	a little bit more about how potentially
15	collaborating to serve these neighborhoods
16	and these underserved communities would be
17	the better public health approach that we
18	really want to see out of our EMS system.
19	DR. ROTKOWITZ: Dan, we are in the
20	midst of a public health crisis. We are
21	in the midst of a public health crisis.
22	There's no more time to go back and
23	collaborate. Let's go forward. Whoever
24	can help, let's help. It's now or
25	never.

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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
3	you, Dr. Rotkowitz.
4	Does any member of the Ambulance
5	Committee or The Regional Council have any
6	questions for the doctor?
7	MR. GELBARD: Just a statement.
8	Jerry Gelbard, if I may, Mr. Hearing
9	Officer.
10	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Yes, go
11	right ahead.
12	MR. GELBARD: While there's two
13	competing applications being referenced
14	back and forth, I believe we as a
15	Council need to refer back to 06-06 and
16	that each applicant has to be managed
17	and reviewed accordingly into and of
18	itself on the merits of their
19	application and testimony provided, and
20	we cannot use one against the other.
21	If one applicant, you know, gets
22	across the goal line so be it, but we need
23	to judge each applications merits
24	individually and that's per our policy.
25	It's not our wants, wishes or desires or

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	what we would like to do. We have to stay
3	in the lane and give each agency a fair
4	opportunity to provide their particular
5	pros to the application.
6	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: That's
7	correct, 06-06 requires each application
8	be determined on the basis of public
9	need on its face and on the hearing
10	thereon, obviously Ridgewood's was this
11	past Tuesday and Forest Hills is
12	tonight.
13	With that, does anyone have any
14	further questions for Dr. Rotkowitz?
15	DR. ROTKOWITZ: Tim, I apologize, I
16	have to get going.
17	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN:
18	Absolutely. I don't think there are any
19	questions for you, so that's perfectly
20	okay, Doctor. Go right ahead. Thanks.
21	DR. ROTKOWITZ: I appreciate it.
22	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
23	next move to I believe Senator
24	Addabbo had joined. Senator, the floor
25	is yours.

1	DEMODINITIC HEADING $2/04/21$
	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	SENATOR ADDABBO: Hey, Tim. Thank
3	you so much. Good evening everyone and
4	my apologies for being late. I want to,
5	again, thank The Regional Council and
6	Committee for their efforts and not only
7	tonight, but throughout the year and
8	what they do, so thank you.
9	Like I said on Tuesday during the
10	Ridgewood application hearing, you know, I
11	have the honor of representing both
12	Ridgewood and Forest Hills and I can tell
13	you I have mutual respect and admiration
14	for both. I consider both friends, so
15	like I said on Tuesday, I will reiterate,
16	that I support both applications to be
17	fair and that's why I'm showing up tonight
18	to show a sense of fairness in supporting
19	both, but the clear message is really to
20	The Regional Council and the Committee is
21	that I agree with the doctor in the sense
22	that these areas are certainly in need of
23	service.
24	Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Kew Gardens
25	given their geographic locations, given

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	their makeup, most of their residential
3	homes being old wood-framed homes and
4	we've witnessed horrific fires in the
5	sense that in the emergencies in the
6	sense that they need, you know, again,
7	quick emergency services.
8	These areas are in desperate need of
9	service. Again, I really appreciate the
10	decision, whoever the decision may be,
11	from The Regional Council and the
12	Committee to, again, service these
13	constituents of mine with services from
14	either volunteer corps.
15	Again, I thank you very much once
16	again for the opportunity to speak and,
17	again, my respect and admiration and
18	appreciation for both Ridgewood and Forest
19	Hills. Thank you.
20	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
21	you, Senator Addabbo.
22	Does any member of the Ambulance
23	Committee or The Regional Council have any
24	questions for the Senator?
25	Seeing none.

1	DEMCCO DIDITC HEADING $2/04/21$
1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	Charlie, are you there? Anything on
3	your end?
4	I see none and Charlie has left us.
5	If somebody has a question, you can put it
6	in the chat and I will look.
7	SENATOR ADDABBO: Tim, thank you
8	very much. Have a good night.
9	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: You are
10	very welcome. Thanks.
11	MS. DIGLIO: Charlie, do you see
12	anyone on the chat that has a question?
13	MR. UNG: Not related to the public
14	hearing.
15	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
16	you.
17	We will next go to Andrew Combs,
18	Director of Woodhaven Richmond Hill
19	Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Is Mr. Combs
20	available? I do not see Mr. Combs
21	present.
22	Charlie, do you see Mr. Combs present?
23	MS. DIGLIO: He actually e-mailed me
24	earlier and said he might not be able to
25	make tonight's meeting.
-	

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
1 2	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: We will
3	proceed then. Is there anyone else who
4	signed on to this meeting whose name I
5	have not read or has not spoken and is a
6	member of the public wish to speak? And
7	if so, please indicate in the chat to
8	Charlie and we will hear you.
9	Charlie, we will give that about 30
10	seconds and then we will proceed.
11	MR. UNG: If you would like, there
12	is you can check the Zoom chat for a
13	question that's directed to you. I'm
14	just not sure how you want to go about
15	it.
16	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: There's a
17	question in the chat regarding the
18	completeness of the application. The
19	question states, question for the
20	hearing officer, you stated earlier this
21	hearing is a result of an approval by
22	the Council on February 11, 2021. There
23	is no record of this meeting on the
24	Council website calendar, YouTube
25	stream, et cetera. There is only a

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	meeting on February 23rd. Can you
3	rectify this? I know RVAC was approved
4	at the January meeting and the FHVAC
5	application was deemed incomplete at
б	that time by the Council. That question
7	is posed by Mr. William Murphy.
8	Mr. Murphy, that's an administrative
9	function. I will defer to Marie to the
10	extent necessary, but the issue of
11	completeness can be determined
12	administratively.
13	Marie, if you want to comment on that.
14	MS. DIGLIO: That's exactly the
15	answer. In order not to hold up
16	applications, if they are deemed
17	complete in between meetings, I confer
18	with the leadership of the Ambulance and
19	The Regional Council and we
20	administratively deem an application
21	complete. So it doesn't always happen
22	on the date of an ambulance meeting.
23	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
24	you.
25	Charlie, has anyone that has not

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 already spoken indicate they would like to speak at the hearing? 3 4 MR. UNG: I have no indications. 5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very good. We will then close the public 6 7 hearing. With respect to comments for the 8 9 public, Mr. Reisner, Mr. Citron, 10 Mr. Wolfe, first, would you like to 11 exercise the opportunity for a rebuttal? 12 MR. REISNER: I most certainly would 13 and allow my clients to proceed me in 14 that if they so chose. 15 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Very 16 good. 17 MR. CITRON: Yes. This is Aviv Citron, Forest Hills Ambulance and we 18 19 are going to defer to our counsel. 20 MR. REISNER: Thank you, Mr. Citron, 21 and thank you, Hearing Officer Hannigan, 22 and everyone that spoke today. 23 I would like to make a couple of 24 clarifying points with respect to the 25 application. First, the application was

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	prepared by my client in advance of my
3	involvement in this matter. I did not
4	become involved in the matter until my
5	client became aware of the competing
6	nature of the applications and the way
7	that things had evolved, which as you can
8	tell, if you have been paying attention,
9	has become somewhat heated, and I think
10	that that's really sort of emphasized by
11	the fact that Ridgewood's attacking the
12	Forest Hills' application on the basis
13	that it doesn't prove a need when the
14	entire basis of Ridgewood's application
15	itself was the fact that there is a need.
16	I don't think anyone can dispute there
17	is a need with a straight face here. I
18	think that Dr. Rotkowitz's testimony was
19	prescient and moving and I think that he
20	was exactly right when he pardon me for
21	paraphrasing, but said essentially that
22	this is an all hands on deck situation.
23	The city needs help. It needs more
24	ambulances on the street to serve more
25	people wherever they happen to be in need,

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
and everyone who has spoken has conceded
in one way or another that the people of
the Woodhaven, Richmond Hills and Kew
Gardens communities are in desperate need
of more ambulance coverage.
To that point, Mr. Meisels' point and
Mr. Orlanski's question about splitting
territories, I think Dr. Rotkowitz was
right on point, no pun intended there, as
well because what he's saying is it's not
the time to decide who gets to go to what
street. This is the time to get
organizations authorized to operate and
save lives and I think that that is the
mindset that we all should be approaching
this situation with. We are talking about
volunteer organizations.
That said, when the question was asked
of my client, would you be willing to
share the territory? The answer was
unequivocally yes. When the question was
asked of my client, would you be willing
to split the territory? The answer was
unequivocally yes. When the question was

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	asked to Ridgewood, are you willing to
3	share the territory? The answer was we
4	cannot. When they were asked if they were
5	willing to split the territory up, the
6	answer was we cannot and the basis for
7	that answer was that there is a legally
8	binding agreement that prohibits them from
9	doing that, and that's the same legally
10	binding agreement that was not submitted
11	to the Council for consideration in
12	connection with the Ridgewood application,
13	and I think that's highly problematic. We
14	talked about this on Tuesday.
15	I would also say that the extent to
16	which that legally binding agreement may
17	bring representatives of Woodhaven,
18	Richmond Hill into the management
19	structure of Ridgewood, Ridgewood is
20	potentially problematic. That
21	organization, as we have heard here
22	tonight, had their CON revoked. That type
23	of action does not come down from the
24	department without a good reason and
25	introducing people who were responsible

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	for that to the management structure of a
3	competing organization smells like
4	trouble.
5	I would ask that the Council take all
6	of these factors into consideration and I
7	would ask that the Council grant my
8	client's application for an expansion of
9	their territory to cover the Woodhaven,
10	Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens areas
11	regardless of what the Council does with
12	respect to Ridgewood's application because
13	my clients's application on its merits has
14	proven a need.
15	The testimony here tonight has proven
16	a need and I don't think that anyone in
17	this meeting can even begin to contemplate
18	the fact that there isn't a need in this
19	city, in this area, in this pandemic for
20	more ambulances on the street.
21	With that said, I will rest and I
22	thank you all for listening tonight.
23	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
24	you, Mr. Reisner.
25	Do any members of the Ambulance

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
1 2	Committee or The Regional Council have any
3	questions in response to the comments made
4	by Mr. Reisner in rebuttal?
5	I'm seeing none.
6	Charlie, do you see any?
7	Dr. Langsam? Dr. Langsam, hold on one
8	second. You need to unmute.
9	MR. LANGSAM: My name is
10	Dr. Langsam. I'm the Chair of both the
11	Ambulance Committee right now and the
12	REMSCO and I would like to just simply
13	concur with what Mr. Reisner said that
14	there is no doubt that there is proven
15	need in that area, yes. I don't even
16	think that's a question.
17	My question is, whether two
18	organizations for whatever reason have
19	shown an unwillingness to work together,
20	can work together. I think the last thing
21	that anyone wants is two ambulances coming
22	down the street from two different
23	directions and hitting each other and
24	fighting on the streets. This has been an
25	experience of our New York City in the

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	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	past, which has not worked out well and
3	as, you know, that's the reason why there
4	is this whole CON process because,
5	otherwise, we would have multiple
6	ambulances from multiple organizations all
7	heading to one corner.
8	I would like and I've asked this
9	before from both groups to give me an
10	indication that they can work together.
11	This has not happened overnight as of
12	yesterday. We've discussed this, we've
13	asked them, can you work together? And as
14	of this moment, okay, I haven't had an
15	answer and that's a problem. So I think
16	we have a dilemma, which we are going to
17	have to discuss at the Ambulance
18	Committee, but no one doubts for a moment
19	that there is a need and I think no one
20	doubts that each of the individual groups
21	are competent to do that work.
22	What assurances do we have that they
23	will work together for the betterment of
24	the people who live in that area? That's
25	my question.

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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	MR. REISNER: Officer Hannigan, I
3	think I would be best served to defer to
4	my clients to respond to Dr. Langsam
5	directly.
6	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Mr. Wolfe
7	and Mr. Citron, you can go ahead.
8	MR. WOLFE: Hi. This is Alan.
9	Dr. Langsam, thank you very much for
10	your statement and your concern. As
11	stated earlier, Forest Hills just wants
12	the area to be served, whether it's by
13	us alone, whether it's by us with
14	Ridgewood Volunteer Ambulance Corps,
15	whether it's us and them splitting area,
16	whether it's us and them working
17	together to cover the entire area. We
18	just want the area to be serviced by a
19	volunteer ambulance service.
20	Forest Hills has no problem working
21	with any volunteer ambulance service to
22	provide coverage for any community in our
23	immediate areas. We have worked with
24	Ridgewood, Glendale, Woodhaven, Richmond
25	Hill for many, many years. We take pride

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	in the fact that we've had many mutual aid
3	agreements and that we've worked well
4	together. We share a common radio
5	frequency that we are able to respond to
6	each other's assistance at any moments
7	notice.
8	Forest Hills is of the mindset that we
9	want the community to be serviced and
10	that's all we want. To answer your
11	question directly, yes, we can work
12	together.
13	HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank
14	you, Mr. Wolfe.
15	To the applicant, Mr. Reisner,
16	Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Citron, do you have any
17	further comments to be made or conversely
18	are there any further questions for the
19	applicant with respect to the statements
20	offered in rebuttal?
21	MR. CITRON: This is Aviv Citron. I
22	have none. I would defer to our counsel
23	if he has any.
24	MR. WOLFE: I have nothing.
25	MR. CITRON: What's your name?

REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21 1 2 MR. WOLFE: Alan Wolfe. 3 MR. REISNER: I will rest pending 4 any further questions. 5 HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: Thank 6 you, Mr. Reisner. 7 Are there any further questions from 8 the Committee or the Council? I'm seeing 9 none. 10 Charlie, can you confirm none? 11 MR. UNG: Yes. HEARING OFFICER HANNIGAN: The time 12 13 is now 7:33 p.m. The record in this 14 matter is now closed. There will be a 15 transcript made of this proceeding and I 16 will prepare my report and submit it to 17 the Ambulance Committee. The Committee will meet and then make 18 19 a recommendation to the Council as to 20 whether the application for expansion 21 should be approved. That will all be done in preparation and prior to the date of 22 23 the next Regional Council meeting, which 24 is March 23, 2021. 25 As I indicated earlier this week, all

1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	dates, times and information regarding
3	Committee meetings and Council meetings
4	are available at nycremsco.org. There
5	will be no further business before the
6	Ambulance Committee or the Council this
7	evening. I adjourn the hearing. Thank
8	you very much for your participation and
9	your comments.
10	MS. DIGLIO: Thank you very much.
11	(Time noted: 7:33 p.m.)
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1	REMSCO PUBLIC HEARING - 3/04/21
2	CERTIFICATE
3	
4	I, CHARISSA HROMADKA, a shorthand reporter
5	and Notary Public within and for the State of
6	New York, do hereby certify:
7	That the foregoing transcript is a true and
8	accurate transcript of the original stenographic
9	notes.
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
11	hand this 4th day of March 2021.
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15	CHARISSA HROMADKA
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22	
23	
24	
25	

				Page 69
A	11:22	66:23 68:25	33:14 40:6,11	47:14,22 48:4
	adding (1)	agency (13)	68:9 84:8	48:13 50:16
ability (3)	24:15	17:10 23:17	86:2	50:18 51:10
30:24 39:7 68:3	addition (4)	24:3 29:17	Albany (1)	52:23 53:5,22
	13:5 25:5	31:11,12	4:13	54:10 55:8,13
able (10)	34:16 63:23	34:13 35:10	allegations (1)	55:25 57:9,23
13:18 14:24 17:11 22:3	additional (5)	44:19 48:14	48:3	58:5,13,16
32:9 51:23	49:8 63:24	57:15 59:3	allotted (2)	60:10 61:19
54:23 58:19	66:7,8,25	71:3	9:21 10:15	63:2,18,24
74:24 85:5	Additionally	agency's (1)	allow (2)	64:10 65:19
absence (1)	48:23 49:13	57:20	63:17 77:13	65:23 66:7,9
6:24	50:5,13 56:6	ago (3)	allowed (2)	67:2,6,13
absolutely (8)	address (2)	32:15 37:16	34:2 60:4	68:2 69:4
12:9 13:2	53:15 57:4	54:25	alternative (1)	70:4 73:22
31:13 33:12	addressed (2)	agree (6)	29:16	74:19 76:18
35:5 37:2	3:15 48:7	19:17 56:23	ambulance (76:22 77:18
67:23 71:18	addressing (3)	57:2 65:24	1:6 2:5,7,7,8,9	79:6 81:25
acceptable (2)	59:9,10 66:15	67:3 72:21	2:11,12,13,13	82:11 83:17
22:7 52:21	adjourn (1)	agreed (1)	2:24 3:5 4:5	84:14,19,21
accepted (2)	87:7	34:22	5:4 6:5,10,14	86:17 87:6
4:20 51:25	administrati	agreement (12)	7:2,21 11:6	ambulances (
account (1)	76:8	9:6 35:17,19	11:12,17	30:25 32:22,22
8:9	administrati	55:24 56:10	14:19 15:20	32:23 38:2
accurate (4)	76:12,20	56:18 57:3	15:23 16:3,8	61:12 62:7
19:11,13,20	admiration (2)	58:3 59:25	16:11,14,15	78:24 81:20
88:8	72:13 73:17	80:8,10,16	16:23 17:5	82:21 83:6
accurately (2)	advance (1)	agreements (1)	18:8,18,22	amenable (1)
22:15 27:7	78:2	85:3	19:15 22:15	21:24
action (1)	adversity (1)	ahead (7)	22:25 23:21	amend (1)
80:23	52:8	8:17 18:23	24:7 25:3,6	57:2
active (1)	Advisory (1)	59:22 67:23	25:22 26:2,5	amended (1)
25:10	58:17	70:11 71:20	26:6,25 27:5	56:10
actual (1)	affect (1)	84:7	27:10,13,16	amount (2) 0.22, 42.12
35:15	12:14	aid (14)	28:13 29:8	9:22 42:13
adapted (1)	affidavit (1) 7:17	35:11,14,17,19 35:20 42:4	30:9,12,15,17 30:23 31:19	and/or (1) 32:11
52:6		57:15,24	32:4,21 33:5	Andrew (3)
add (4)	affiliation (1) 13:25	58:17,19	33:18,19,23	2:23 11:15
11:25 23:24	affirmation (1)	59:17,21,25	34:7,12,24	74:17
34:17 36:3	48:23	85:2	35:23 37:6,17	answer (20)
Addabbo (6)	afforded (1)	Alan (20)	37:21 38:11	23:11 26:19
2:21 11:10	10:8	2:17 9:12 11:5	38:24 39:20	28:8 32:25
71:24 72:2	afield (2)	14:9,12,20	40:19,20 41:7	33:11,15 34:7
73:21 74:7	39:10,14	15:3,3,21	41:24 43:14	43:11 56:13
Addabbo's (1) 46:22	agencies (4)	17:2 24:20	43:18,23 45:8	56:16 58:6,20
	23:14 58:18	30:3 32:2,14	46:13 47:6,14	76:15 79:21
added (1)				
	l	l		l

Deme	90
Page	90

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				rage 90
79:24 80:3,6	39:19 48:2,13	5:20 7:3 12:24	assistance (4)	27:15 29:2
80:7 83:15	48:15,17,19	17:3 19:8,11	33:24,25 68:17	31:24 33:10
85:10	49:2,17,23	19:18 20:18	85:6	77:17 85:21
answered (2)	50:5,19,24	22:16 23:19	association (6)	awarded (1)
27:7 54:19	51:18,21	24:5,9,11,13	2:7,9,13 18:3	32:7
anybody (4)	52:25 54:11	26:9 27:12	51:20 58:2	awards (1)
13:13 43:19	54:13 55:14	28:24 30:16	assurances (1)	42:17
52:2 59:2	57:20,21	31:5,23 32:7	83:22	aware (4)
anymore (2)	66:16 70:19	33:3,6,7	attachment (3)	3:24 45:15
60:2 65:25	71:5,7 72:10	34:10,10,23	9:4,4,7	46:6 78:5
apologies (1)	75:18 76:5,20	35:2,10,12	attacking (1)	awareness (1)
72:4	77:25,25	37:4 42:25	78:11	45:7
apologize (2)	78:12,14	45:4,5,8,10	attend (1)	
56:12 71:15	80:12 81:8,12	49:3,6,12	51:12	B
appears (1)	81:13 86:20	50:2 51:2,6	attendance (1)	back (16)
48:15	applications	56:2 57:19	6:4	12:20 13:19
Appendix (1)	63:5 70:13,23	58:20 59:2,4	attending (3)	33:16 42:8
50:4	72:16 76:16	59:6,16 63:22	2:25 12:12	49:20 54:7,8
applicant (37)	78:6	63:25 81:19	60:19	54:22 56:7
6:8,20 7:12,23	apply (1)	82:15 83:24	attention (2)	59:12 64:24
8:19,23 9:3	56:2	84:12,15,17	25:17 78:8	67:7 69:13,22
9:13 10:8,17	applying (2)	84:18	attest (1)	70:14,15
11:3 14:4,18	24:11 27:14	areas (15)	63:5	backup (2)
18:20 21:25	appreciate (6)	16:12 32:6,12	attesting (1)	58:2,3
27:3 28:15	26:20 43:7	32:17 34:17	8:3	bad (1)
31:16,21,22	44:8 66:20	44:6,20 50:15	attorney (5)	43:22
31:23 35:25	71:21 73:9	62:3 66:7,24	2:16 4:12 9:2	Barranco (11)
40:8 49:4,13	appreciated (72:22 73:8	9:13 39:22	2:12 31:17,18
50:6,20 52:25	21:17 64:6	81:10 84:23	authorized (1)	31:19,25
53:6,8,9,12	appreciation	argue (1)	79:14	32:25 33:2,11
57:14 70:16	73:18	62:4	availability (1)	33:13 34:22
70:21 85:15	approach (1)	arguing (2)	6:25	55:17
85:19	69:17	63:4 64:21	available (6)	based (7)
applicant's (6)	approaching	arrest (1)	7:3 48:16	4:22 31:20
5:14 6:7,21 8:3	79:16	25:25	50:23 64:6	48:7 50:12
28:5,22	appropriate	Article (1)	74:20 87:4	51:6,9 53:14
applicants (1)	48:6	5:8	Avenue (4)	basic (2)
52:14	appropriatel	asked (11)	20:12,16,17	25:5 42:4
application (12:2	3:12 30:9	21:3	basis (5)
3:5 4:4,22 6:21	approval (1)	54:20 55:17	average (3)	57:18 71:8
7:7,10,18	75:21	57:13 79:19	27:21,24 49:14	78:12,14 80:6
10:14,19 16:9	approved (2)	79:23 80:2,4	Aviv (14)	Beach (1)
19:10,24	76:3 86:21	83:8,13	2:18 9:11	50:17
27:21 28:25	approximate	asking (4)	14:10,20	bears (1)
29:12,13,19	24:12	53:18,25 54:6	15:18 19:12	53:6
30:14 36:18	area (58)	54:17	19:25 22:19	beginning (1)
	I		l	I

Page	91
- 0. 0 0	

				Page 91
13:22	24:13 27:19	canceled (1)	35:9	77:14
behalf (4)	bottom (3)	51:14	cetera (1)	Citron (36)
9:2 11:3,11	15:17 29:15	candidate (2)	75:25	2:18 9:11 11:2
47:6	47:3	24:23,23	Chain (13)	14:10,20
believe (10)	Boulevard (1)	capable (1)	2:19 11:7	15:18,18,24
12:24 20:6	21:8	65:13	40:16,25 41:3	19:12,21,25
29:3 32:15	boundaries (1)		41:6 43:13,16	20:6,13,19
34:23 36:19	50:14	capacity (1) 41:17	45:2,6,11	21:22 22:2,5
45:24 46:5	boundary (3)		46:14,18	22:19 23:4
70:14 71:23	4:9 62:4 63:4	captain (3) 53:18 54:6,16	Chair (2)	27:15,15
			2:5 82:10	28:21 29:2,10
benefit (1) 44:19	Boy (1) 18:4	cardiac (1)		31:24 33:10
	-	25:25	challenging (1) 36:12	
best (3)	breach (2)	care (6)		36:20 77:9,17
32:15 38:21	56:4,20	7:2 43:6 47:17	change (2)	77:18,20 84:7
84:3	brief (1)	47:18,19	29:22 50:11	85:16,21,21
better (11)	23:11	65:15	charge (1)	85:25
23:18 24:3,23	bring (2)	careers (1)	3:8	city (20)
24:24 27:11	54:22 80:17	4:2	Charissa (3)	1:3 3:3 5:3,7
32:20 36:25	broadcasting	carries (1)	1:24 88:4,15	9:5 16:2 26:2
38:23 66:24	19:2	10:18	Charlie (18)	32:11 41:14
67:5 69:17	brought (1)	ceased (1)	2:14 11:24	50:6,10 57:23
betterment (1)	55:15	59:13	13:9 14:23	62:25 66:3,5
83:23	building (1)	Celebrating (28:16 39:24	66:20 68:22
binding (5)	34:2	17:6	40:11 46:16	78:23 81:19
55:23 56:18	burden (3)	census (1)	67:17 74:2,4	82:25
80:8,10,16	6:21 10:18	50:12	74:11,22 75:8	City's (1)
bit (1)	53:6	Center (1)	75:9 76:25	30:21
69:14	business (4)	60:20	82:6 86:10	Citywide (1)
bizarre (1)	18:7 51:8,19	CERT (3)	charm (1)	57:23
37:15	87:5	41:15 42:6	37:20	civic (3)
blank (2)		45:25	chat (10)	18:3 25:11
9:5 15:16		certainly (6)	11:24 13:9	51:20
Bleed (3)	C (4)	3:24 8:15 9:16	28:18 31:15	civic-minded
17:13 25:16	2:2,4 88:2,2	39:12 72:22	39:24 74:6,12	18:9
42:5	calendar (1)	77:12	75:7,12,17	claim (1)
blocks (2)	75:24	certainty (1)	check (1)	49:18
24:8 27:19	call (6)	60:21	75:12	clarify (1)
Blood (1)	10:20,22 11:21	certificate (5)	chief (3)	24:2
17:14	32:19 37:9	4:6 55:14	7:20 11:9	clarifying (1)
board (13)	53:17	58:16 59:14	46:21	77:24
4:10 41:16	called (1)	59:24	chime (1)	clear (3)
44:17 50:6	13:24	certified (2)	10:4	21:9 38:25
54:17,22 56:7	calls (8)	7:19 54:2	choice (4)	72:19
56:8,8,23,25	25:18 59:4,15	certify (1)	23:19 24:24	client (5)
57:4 69:13	62:10,11,12	88:6	38:23,25	38:16 78:2,5
border (2)	62:14 68:24	cessation (1)	chose (1)	79:20,23

client's (1)	commend (1)	communicat	8:14	consistent (1)
81:8	8:13	63:21	complete (5)	43:24
clients (3)	comment (6)	communities	7:8 48:17,25	consists (1)
36:7 77:13	30:2 31:15	4:7 26:12,15	76:17,21	24:7
84:4	40:5 58:25	26:17 27:25	completed (1)	constituents
clients's (1)	67:21 76:13	31:3 34:19	50:24	50:24 73:13
81:13	comments (10)	38:21 45:17	completely (4)	constitute (1)
close (1)	9:23 10:5	51:13,16 52:4	19:5 50:15	5:24
77:6	12:21 28:17	69:7,16 79:5	67:3 68:13	contact (1)
closed (3)	39:18 46:10	community (completeness	53:20
57:17 59:20	77:8 82:3	2:19 4:10 11:8	75:18 76:11	contemplate
86:14	85:17 87:9	16:15,25 17:7	CON (6)	81:17
closely (1)	commitment	17:12,13,22	23:19 24:25	contiguous (3)
17:25	38:10,14	17:22,25	33:20 37:24	24:5,8,13
co-host (1)	committed (3)	18:11 25:4,8	80:22 83:4	continue (2)
15:4	16:14 26:14	25:10,15 26:8	conceded (1)	27:25 47:4
code (1)	34:5	26:11 27:20	79:2	continued (2)
20:25	committee (51)	30:23 37:9,23	concern (1)	38:7 43:25
coexist (3)	2:6,7,9,11,12	41:2,11,16,19	84:10	contract (2)
29:23 31:7	2:13 5:4 6:6	41:21,21 42:3	conclude (1)	56:4,20
34:9	6:10,15,16	42:11,11,16	18:14	contracted (1)
coexisting (1)	16:4,13 18:18	42:19 43:5,6	conclusion (2)	64:18
32:5	18:22 23:2,21	44:2,16 45:14	4:21 10:7	contradict (1)
collaborate (1)	26:25 27:5	45:22 46:4,6	concur (1)	49:22
69:23	28:14 31:19	47:18,23 50:6	82:13	contradictin
collaborating	35:24 36:8	51:3,5,9,19	condition (1)	10:12
69:15	39:2,21 43:15	51:24 52:3,5	37:22	contraindica
collecting (1)	43:19 46:13	65:7 67:10	conducted (1)	49:22
3:12	48:4 52:23	68:3,4,17	5:10	conversation
Combs (7)	55:9 57:9	84:22 85:9	confer (2)	50:21 51:7
2:23 11:15,17	58:13 60:10	companies (1)	6:18 76:17	conversely (1)
74:17,19,20	63:18 65:20	33:5	confidence (1)	85:17
74:22	65:23 67:14	company (1)	68:5	cooperating (
come (7)	70:5 72:6,20	34:25	confident (1)	61:16
3:22 30:18	73:12,23 82:2	competency (63:7	copy (3)
56:9 61:14	82:11 83:18	8:2,4	confirm (1)	7:14 9:5 22:23
62:2,5 80:23	86:8,17,18	competent (1)	86:10	core (1)
comes (2)	87:3,6	83:21	conflict (2)	37:10
25:10 35:4	Committee's	competing (7)	9:6 50:4	corner (1)
comfortable	22:9	23:14 24:10	connection (2)	83:7
65:8	committees (1)	27:13 69:4	36:10 80:12	corporation (
coming (3)	34:6	70:13 78:5	consider (3)	2:10 56:19
16:19 64:24	common (1)	81:3	55:19 56:24	corporation'
82:21	85:4	competitor (1)	72:14	57:3
commence (1)	communicat	24:19	consideratio	corps (50)
9:10	12:22 53:21	compiling (1)	80:11 81:6	2:24 3:5 4:5
	l	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

				rage 95
11:6,12,17	50:7,10 52:2	27:9	37:8	description (2)
14:19 15:20	52:3,24 55:9	current (2)	defame (1)	19:8 22:11
15:23 16:8,14	57:10 65:20	24:6 34:17	48:3	descriptions
16:23 17:5	65:24 67:14	currently (4)	defer (4)	21:13,16
18:8 19:15	70:5,15 72:5	24:5 29:15	76:9 77:19	designated (1)
22:15 24:7	72:20 73:11	38:8 50:15	84:3 85:22	41:13
25:3,22 26:5	73:23 75:22		deficit (1)	designed (1)
26:6 27:10	75:24 76:6,19	D	29:17	37:17
29:9 30:9,12	80:11 81:5,7	Dan (6)	defined (1)	desire (5)
32:4,21 37:6	81:11 82:2	23:20 27:4	6:23	37:12 38:4
37:17,21	86:8,19,23	43:17 65:22	definitely (1)	50:22 51:6
38:11,25	87:3,6	67:24 69:19	12:14	52:19
40:20 41:8,25	councils (1)	Dan's (1)	definition (2)	desires (3)
47:7,14,14,22	45:25	67:21	52:16,18	10:9 53:9
50:17 53:5,22	counsel (3)	DANIEL (1)	deliver (1)	70:25
54:10 55:13	47:16 77:19	2:10	65:15	desperate (2)
55:25 58:5	85:22	data (3)	Delmar (1)	73:8 79:5
66:9 73:14	county (2)	49:9,20 50:12	4:12	detail (3)
74:19 84:14	1:6 7:23	date (4)	demographic	45:20,21,22
correct (3)	couple (1)	7:17 49:8	21:13	detailed (1)
20:7 58:22	77:23	76:22 86:22	demonstrate	26:19
71:7	course (1)	dates (2)	6:22 16:10	deter (1)
correctable (1)	58:23	35:16 87:2	demonstrate	48:4
7:4	cover (3)	day (8)	25:8 29:4	determinatio
corrective (1)	26:9 81:9	18:10 42:8	38:18 53:13	1:5 8:6
54:13	84:17	62:11,12,14	demonstratio	determine (1)
correlation (1)	coverage (2)	64:5,5 88:11	53:7	53:12
20:7	79:6 84:22	days (1)	demonstrativ	determined (2)
correspond (1)	covered (3)	30:18	6:24	71:8 76:11
21:15	34:11,19,24	decide (1)	department (died (1)
corresponds	covering (2)	79:12	4:15 8:2,6 18:2	26:3
22:18	30:16 33:6	decision (4)	32:11 48:8,18	different (6)
cost (1)	COVID (3)	48:6 52:24	50:18 52:12	32:5,22,23
17:13	19:5 64:11,18	73:10,10	60:23 61:4	43:3 68:24
Council (61)	COVID-19 (2)	deck (1) 78:22	62:10,19	82:22
1:3 2:20 3:3	51:11,22		80:24	difficulties (3)
5:3,7 6:2,6,11	CPR (2)	dedicated (2) 18:9 34:14	depleted (1)	13:15 15:12
6:15 8:10,16	17:12 25:15	dedication (1)	30:22	16:18
11:8 17:25	credentialed	37:8	depth (1)	Diglio (14)
18:19 23:2,22	65:14	deem (1)	33:15	2:4 3:2 8:11
27:2,6 28:14	crew (1)	76:20	describe (2)	13:20 15:2
29:21 35:24	55:18	deemed (3)	20:10 24:17	16:2 22:23
36:8 39:2,21 41:2,7,19	crisis (4) 61:8,8 69:20	7:8 76:5,16	described (2)	36:9 41:8 46:23 74:11
43:15,18	69:21	deeply (3)	24:25 28:3	74:23 76:14
43.13,18	curious (1)	25:3 33:17	describes (1) 22:16	87:10
.10+0.3		20.0 00.17	22.10	07.10
	I	I	I	I

	1	•	•	•
dilemma (1)	District (3)	drawing (1)	73:14	51:24
83:16	2:9,21 41:15	69:13	elected (3)	error (1)
diligence (1)	Districts (4)	drives (1)	41:17,18 50:25	21:3
8:17	50:7,8,10,11	17:14	embodied (1)	Especially (1)
direct (3)	doctor (8)	due (5)	36:21	30:19
6:18 10:5	12:5,17 13:5	8:17 44:5	emergencies	Esq (1)
36:23	65:18 67:23	51:11 59:4	73:5	2:16
directed (2)	70:6 71:20	63:15	emergency (essentially (2)
6:14 75:13	72:21	dueling (1)	1:2 5:2,6 7:2	45:2 78:21
directions (1)	doctors (1)	67:5	12:12 17:8	establish (1)
82:23	17:19	Duly (1)	25:6,18 30:25	26:4
directly (3)	document (1)	22:19	41:14,22	established (2)
65:8 84:5	52:17		42:24 60:23	16:24 35:17
85:11	DOH (2)	E	60:24 64:25	et (1)
Director (6)	48:21 60:4	E (6)	73:7	75:25
2:4,23 8:11	doing (6)	2:2,2,15,15	emphasized (1)	evaluation (2)
11:15 15:25	12:17 30:5	88:2,2	78:10	5:13 53:4
74:18	54:2 68:8,9	e-mail (3)	EMS (12)	evening (18)
directors (3)	80:9	8:25 9:7 53:23	3:3 4:2 5:20	3:7,9,21 6:4,9
7:12 48:24	doubt (2)	e-mailed (3)	17:9 25:24,25	8:24 11:2,14
54:23	44:10 82:14	54:5,7 74:23	49:5 52:2,5	11:18,23 12:7
disasters (3)	doubts (2)	earlier (6)	58:15 61:15	13:7,23 23:6
30:20,20,21	83:18,20	3:25 53:16	69:18	46:11 47:24
discipline (1)	Downey (16)	74:24 75:20	EMTs (2)	72:3 87:7
38:14	2:8 18:21,21	84:11 86:25	17:17 62:15	evenings (1)
discrepancie	18:24,25 19:7	easier (1)	encourage (1)	55:12
21:10	19:17,23 20:5	8:17	67:4	event (1)
discuss (5)	20:9,15 21:6	east (2)	encroach (1)	39:8
45:19,20,22	21:24 22:8,12	20:11 21:2	50:14	events (2)
67:7 83:17	26:21	easy (1)	endorsement	8:10 42:11
discussed (1)	Downstate (1)	40:24	52:17	everybody (2)
83:12	2:7	educate (1)	ensure (1)	23:7 55:4
disparaging (Dr (33)	25:15	4:18	evidence (1)
23:17	12:4,9 13:2	education (1)	entire (3)	4:23
disproving (1)	60:13,14,15	17:21	34:23 78:14	evident (1)
10:12	60:18,19	effected (1)	84:17	51:10
dispute (1)	63:14 64:2,15	5:20	entirely (1)	evolved (1)
78:16	65:21,25	effort (1)	48:6	78:7
dissolution (1)	66:14,22 67:4	47:3	entities (2)	exactly (6)
35:9	67:15,19,20	efforts (2)	29:23,25	20:22 21:15
dissolved (1)	67:24 68:12	42:19 72:6	entitled (1)	24:8 59:23
29:18	69:19 70:3	either (9)	8:9	76:14 78:20
distance (1)	71:14,15,21	14:7 21:25	entity (3)	excellent (1)
28:4	78:18 79:9	23:3 43:20	12:7 58:15	45:13
distributing (82:7,7,10	46:13 47:2	59:21	exceptional (1)
42:14	84:4,9	57:17 60:9	erroneous (1)	38:7
L				

Paqe	95
- 0.) 0	

[ruge 75
excuse (1)	37:12	23:10 72:18	73:4	34:20 36:17
51:25	experience (9)	fairs (2)	first (11)	36:24 37:6,20
executive (5)	34:14 44:12	17:14 42:12	14:7 15:24	38:10,17 40:8
2:4 7:20 8:11	60:24 61:5,24	family (1)	24:22 28:22	42:21 44:9,13
15:25 16:13	63:10,20 69:2	42:23	40:6 42:4	47:21,23
exercise (1)	82:25	fantastic (1)	47:19 48:14	48:12 51:4,14
77:11	explained (1)	68:23	53:23 77:10	53:4,18,21
Exhibit (6)	27:21	far (4)	77:25	54:9,12,16
7:14,25 8:8,12	expressed (1)	12:20 28:17	fitness (3)	55:17 58:6
8:22 9:9	53:9	39:9,14	7:25 8:3 48:24	61:18 63:7
exhibits (3)	expression (1)	favor (1)	five (1)	65:5,10 66:16
4:23 5:23 6:3	67:5	24:19	49:15	68:2,18,25
exhumes (1)	Expressway	FDNY (1)	floor (5)	69:10 71:11
38:16	21:5	59:2	9:18 12:21	72:12 73:18
exist (2)	extent (4)	February (4)	41:5 60:17	77:18 78:12
28:23 60:2	9:15 45:23	7:8 54:18	71:24	84:11,20 85:8
existed (1)	76:10 80:15	75:22 76:2	focus (2)	forgive (1)
58:2	extreme (1)	feel (6)	10:3 52:14	62:11
existing (2)	52:7	30:14 31:4	foggy (1)	forgot (1)
7:6 59:7	extremely (5)	34:12,20	35:15	13:21
exists (8)	25:9,9 41:22	36:22 65:8	folks (3)	forgotten (2)
10:16 12:24	41:23 61:20	feelings (1)	44:15 61:13	61:10 65:4
29:24 31:10	eyes (1)	52:19	65:7	form (2)
37:3 45:9	49:25	feels (1)	follow (3)	48:21,22
58:23 63:22		34:15	57:12 61:22	forth (2)
EXITING (1)	F	fewer (1)	63:17	4:25 70:14
1:6	F (1)	9:25	follow-up (1)	forum (3)
expand (4)	88:2	FHVAC (1)	35:7	9:21 10:7 11:4
3:5 4:5 48:14	face (2)	76:4	followed (1)	forward (1)
53:13	71:9 78:17	fields (1)	61:23	69:23
expanded (5)	facility (1)	17:20	following (2)	four (3)
17:3 25:21	42:7	fighting (1)	4:20 35:8	24:8 27:19
26:9 49:5	fact (7)	82:24	follows (1)	49:19
58:20	4:25 30:22	figuring (1)	4:19	Frankly (1)
expansion (22)	66:17 78:11	12:19	foregoing (1)	51:24
1:6 16:9 19:9	78:15 81:18	financial (2)	88:7	frequency (1)
19:19 20:18	85:2	37:22 38:3	Forest (68)	85:5
24:4,9 27:14	FACT-FIND	find (1)	1:5 2:16,17,18	friends (1)
27:24 29:5	1:5	54:7	2:20 3:4 4:4	72:14
30:13 37:24	factors (1)	findings (1)	11:6 14:18	fruitful (1)
38:6 48:20	81:6	4:25	15:19,22 16:7	49:25
49:3 50:3	facts (1)	fire (6)	16:22,25 17:5	fulfill (1)
51:6 54:11,13	47:25	18:2 50:17	18:8 23:18	56:5
57:19 81:8	fair (2)	61:3 62:9,16	24:6,18,22,24	fully (2)
86:20	71:3 72:17	62:18	25:2,22 26:6	19:5 68:6
expectation (1)	fairness (2)	fires (1)	26:16 27:9,16	function (1)
	-	-	-	-

				Fage Ju
76:9	56:16 68:3	Granting (1)	4:11 12:5,16	headquarter
fundamental	71:3 75:9	27:24	13:3,12 14:3	28:5 34:3
23:23	83:9	great (8)	14:9,12,15,23	health (17)
funds (1)	given (4)	36:16 43:2	15:7,14 16:4	2:10 4:16 5:9
38:4	42:17 66:16	44:8 45:20,21	16:20 18:13	8:2,7 17:14
further (7)	72:25,25	45:22 47:20	18:17,23	32:12 42:12
14:17 71:14	glad (1)	69:2	21:23 22:6,22	42:14 48:8,19
85:17,18 86:4	35:2	greater (1)	23:8 26:24	52:12 61:8
86:7 87:5	Glendale (2)	28:6	28:7,11,19	66:3 69:17,20
00.7 07.5	58:4 84:24	green (1)	29:3,7,11	69:21
G	go (21)	15:5	30:5 31:8,14	healthcare (1)
gain (1)	13:14 18:23	grid (1)	35:6,21 36:6	18:5
51:23	33:16 46:21	47:2	36:9 39:4,11	hear (6)
Gardens (12)	56:7 57:2	group (2)	40:3,15,21	11:4,10,15
4:8 20:3,10,24	59:12,22 60:2	18:9 51:19	41:4,8 43:12	48:11 52:22
21:14 26:13	60:12 67:23	groups (3)	44:4,14,21	48.11 <i>52.22</i> 75:8
27:20 34:18	68:3 69:12,22	18:3 83:9,20	46:9,20,25	
61:14 72:24	69:23 70:10	,	47:8,10 55:6	heard (4) 9:20 37:4 54:8
79:5 81:10	71:20 74:17	growing (1) 42:20	57:8 58:8,11	9.20 37.4 54.8 80:21
GELBAR (1)	75:14 79:12		58:22 59:11	hearing (221)
2:13	84:7	guarantees (1) 31:3	59:19 60:5,8	0 ()
Gelbard (7)			60:16 63:13	1:5 2:1,3 3:1,4
58:10,12,12	goal (1) 70:22	guess (3) 23:18 44:14	64:12 65:17	3:7,14,15,16
59:9 70:7,8				3:19 4:1,3,14
70:12	going (13)	69:8	67:11,22 70:2	4:14,17,19,21
general (3)	16:9 19:7	guests (1)	70:10 71:6,17	4:24 5:1,5,12
5:17 7:21	20:16 23:8	32:17	71:22 73:20	5:16 6:1 7:1
12:13	39:14 44:25	guidelines (1)	74:9,15 75:2 75:16 76:23	7:15,16 8:1
generally (1)	55:16 61:4	48:7	77:5,15,21	8:20 9:1,3,25
4:19	62:15,16	guys (7)	, ,	10:1,19 11:1
geographic (1)	71:16 77:19	16:18 18:25	81:23 84:2,6	12:1,5,16
72:25	83:16	24:21 33:4,7	85:13 86:5,12	13:1,3,8,12
geographical	good (17)	35:2 62:4	happen (2)	14:1,3,9,12
7:3	3:21 23:6	Н	76:21 78:25	14:15,23 15:1
geographical	24:22 28:12	half (1)	happened (2) 15:10 83:11	15:7,14 16:1
27:11	29:13 34:20	49:19		16:4,20 17:1
geography (2)	36:22 40:22	Hamilton (1)	happy (2) 34:11 43:11	18:1,13,17,23
24:18 27:8	44:12 60:6	50:17		19:1 20:1
Gianelli (1)	65:6,15 72:3	hand (1)	hard (2)	21:1,11,19,23
46:21	74:8 77:6,16	88:11	30:18 36:10	22:1,6,22
Giannelli (1)	80:24	handle (1)	hats (1) 43:3	23:1,7 24:1
11:9	government	39:16		25:1 26:1,24
Girl (1)	50:19	hands (1)	headed (4)	27:1 28:1,7
18:3	grant (1)	78:22	49:2 50:2,19	28:11,19 29:1
give (7)	81:7	Hannigan (90)	51:3	29:6,7,11,20
19:21 20:19	granted (1)	2:3 3:8,17,19	heading (1)	30:1,5,8 31:1
17.21 20.17	37:24	2.3 3.0,17,17	83:7	31:8,14 32:1
	I	I	I	I

				Fage J7
32:3,10 33:1	hearts (1)	16:22,25 17:5	73:4	7:13 8:7,12,21
34:1 35:1,6	37:10	18:8 23:18	hospital (8)	9:8
35:21 36:1,9	heated (1)	24:6,22,24	12:13,15 60:20	incorrectly (1)
36:11 37:1	78:9	25:2,22 26:6	61:11 63:15	48:25
38:1 39:1,4	Heidi (4)	26:16 27:9,16	65:3,3 66:4	increased (1)
39:11 40:1,3	2:19 11:7	34:20 36:17	hospitals (4)	49:11
40:5,15,21	40:16,25	36:24 37:6,20	2:10 7:21 18:5	increases (1)
41:1,4 42:1	held (3)	38:11,17 40:8	66:3	30:24
43:1,12 44:1	5:5 42:8,12	42:21 44:9,13	hours (4)	indicate (5)
44:21,23 45:1	help (12)	47:21,23	22:5,21 53:19	5:25 10:23
45:6 46:1,9	23:25 32:24	48:12 51:4,14	55:2	11:23 75:7
46:20,25 47:1	52:23 61:17	53:4,21 54:9	housekeepin	77:2
47:4,10 48:1	62:24 64:6	54:12,16	7:9 12:18	indicated (9)
49:1 50:1	66:9 68:2,4	55:18 58:6	Hromadka (3)	5:6 6:16 10:25
51:1 52:1	69:24,24	61:18 63:7	1:24 88:4,15	11:17 13:10
53:1,2,11,19	78:23	65:5,10 68:2		13:11 39:24
54:1,20 55:1	helped (1)	68:19,25	<u> </u>	51:20 86:25
55:3,6,12,23	62:22	69:10 71:11	idea (1)	indicates (1)
56:1 57:1,8	helps (1)	72:12 73:19	34:5	49:13
57:14 58:1,8	46:8	77:18 79:4	identified (2)	indication (2)
58:10,11,22	hereunto (1)	84:11,20 85:8	28:24 68:15	40:2 83:10
59:1,11,19	88:10	Hills' (4)	identifying (1)	indications (1)
60:1,5,8,12	Hey (1)	24:18 53:18	7:11	77:4
60:16 61:1	72:2	66:16 78:12	immediate (1)	individual (1)
62:1 63:1,13	Hi (5)	Hillside (2)	84:23	83:20
64:1,12 65:1	24:20 30:3	20:11 21:2	imminently (1)	individually
65:17 66:1	33:14 60:18	history (3)	69:6	6:17 70:24
67:1,11,22	84:8	17:6 37:7 69:7	important (2)	individuals (3)
68:1 69:1	highly (1)	hitting (1)	41:23 68:15	9:19 10:21
70:1,2,8,10	80:13	82:23	improve (1)	18:10
71:1,6,9,17	Hill (17)	hold (7)	18:11	information
71:22 72:1,10	2:23 4:7 11:16	12:16 13:16	improvemen	7:11 22:8,13
73:1,20 74:1	19:14 20:4	15:10 42:7	7:5	42:15,15 49:8
74:9,14,15	21:14 22:14	46:24 76:15	in-person (1)	58:14 63:8
75:1,2,16,20	26:13 34:18	82:7	51:12	87:2
75:21 76:1,23	35:15 55:25	homes (2)	inadequate (1)	initial (3)
77:1,3,5,7,15	58:5 72:24	73:3,3	6:25	8:24 9:16
77:21 78:1	74:18 80:18	honor (2)	inaudible (1)	18:14
79:1 80:1	81:10 84:25	36:16 72:11	6:12	input (1)
81:1,23 82:1	Hill's (1)	HONORAB	include (3)	5:17
83:1 84:1,6	35:9	2:21	4:6 44:7 50:6	inside (1)
85:1,13 86:1	Hills (65)	hope (1)	included (1)	38:5
86:5,12 87:1	1:5 2:16,17,18	39:2	51:18	instructs (1)
87:7 88:1	2:20 3:4 4:4	hopefully (1)	incomplete (1)	5:17
heart (1)	11:6 14:19	32:6	76:5	instrumental
36:21	15:19,22 16:7	horrific (1)	incorporated	34:25
	-	-	-	-

Page	98
------	----

				Page 90
intended (1)	Jeffrey (2)	59:10 60:22	37:25	locations (1)
79:10	2:16 9:2	62:14,16 63:3	let's (4)	72:25
intent (1)	Jerrold (2)	63:14 64:17	20:23 28:9	lock (1)
5:16	2:13 58:12	64:19,24 65:2	69:23,24	65:15
intention (3)	Jerry (1)	65:5 66:13,14	letter (8)	logo (1)
30:12 38:5	70:8	68:7 69:9	7:25 20:25	15:17
47:24	Jim (4)	70:21 72:10	51:17 53:24	long (2)
intentions (1)	18:21 20:19	73:6 76:3	54:3,3,9,15	10:2 34:10
54:5	21:21,22	83:3	letters (3)	longer (1)
interacted (1)	job (2)	knowledge (3)	51:15 52:11	58:23
43:3	8:15,16	6:7 45:7 46:4	54:14	look (2)
interactions (join (1)	known (1)	letting (2)	49:24 74:6
65:10	36:6	48:21	53:25 54:4	looked (1)
interest (3)	joined (2)	knows (1)	level (1)	62:12
9:6 23:10	16:5 71:24	68:9	6:25	looking (1)
32:16	Joseph (3)		levels (1)	29:12
intersect (1)	2:21 11:10	L	52:7	looks (1)
20:12	46:22	lack (5)	life (3)	31:15
introducing (1)	JR (1)	48:11 52:10	42:22 64:23	loses (1)
80:25	2:21	53:14 59:4	68:7	58:15
inviting (1)	judge (1)	67:5	limited (3)	lost (1)
54:17	70:23	lady (1)	10:10,11,16	64:23
involved (3)		44:5	Lindenwood	lot (2)
25:3 53:10	K	lane (1)	50:16	17:21 25:16
78:4	K (1)	71:3	line (1)	Louis (3)
involvement	2:15	Langsam (7)	70:22	2:25 12:4
78:3	Kevin (3)	2:5 82:7,7,9,10	linear (2)	60:19
involves (1)	2:22 11:11	84:4,9	24:8 27:19	
60:22	47:5	late (1)	lines (2)	M
issue (3)	Kew (12)	72:4	62:4 63:4	M.D (1)
10:5 33:16	4:8 20:3,10,24	law (1)	list (6)	2:25
76:10	21:14 26:13	5:9	9:24 11:22,25	Mahoney (22)
issues (2)	27:20 34:18	Leader (1)	13:17 14:8	2:22 11:11,13
13:13 52:18	61:14 72:24	41:15	40:6	47:5,7,8,12
items (1)	79:4 81:10	leadership (1)	listed (2)	55:7,10,15,21
10:3	kind (2)	76:18	20:17 40:7	56:15,25 57:7
	23:22 33:2	left (2)	listening (1)	57:11,22 59:7
J	knocked (1)	29:17 74:4	81:22	59:8,17,23
Jackie (4)	64:16	legal (3)	little (4)	60:7,11
20:10 21:2,4,7	know (33)	7:15 55:23	23:25 27:8	mail (1)
Jamaica (2)	15:9 23:11	56:18	35:15 69:14	7:19
12:14 60:21	24:14 30:17	legally (3)	live (5)	maintain (1)
JAMES (1)	31:21 44:4,8	80:7,9,16	3:10 45:18,19	39:7
2:8	44:17 45:18	legitimate (1)	61:13 83:24	makeup (1)
January (1)	50:10 53:25	61:21	lives (1)	73:2
76:4	54:4 55:11	length (1)	79:15	making (3)
L				

Page	99
- 0. 0 0	

				Page 99
8:14 36:18	3:9 13:22 16:6	14:6 68:20	move (5)	nature (1)
48:5	21:10 30:10	merit (3)	28:10 40:16,23	78:6
mammograp	30:10 40:12	48:11 49:24	47:3 71:23	nearly (1)
18:6	40:14 43:20	53:14	moving (2)	64:23
managed (1)	43:21 54:15	merits (3)	40:5 78:19	necessary (5)
70:16	54:18 74:25	70:18,23 81:13	multiple (4)	26:4 61:7,15
management	75:4,23 76:2	merrier (2)	30:15 32:21	62:8 76:10
41:14 80:18	76:4,22 81:17	30:19 31:6	83:5,6	need (65)
81:2	86:23	message (1)	municipalitie	1:6 4:6 5:14
manmade (1)	meetings (6)	72:19	7:22	6:22,22 10:4
30:20	42:7,8 51:12	met (1)	municipality	10:6 12:23
map (13)	76:17 87:3,3	59:6	17:9	16:10 22:17
19:8,10,13	Meisels (15)	metrics (1)	Murphy (2)	26:7,11 28:23
20:7,15,20	2:10 23:20,20	49:21	76:7,8	29:4,24 31:2
21:7 22:10,15	27:4,4,17	Middle (1)	mutual (14)	31:9,10 34:6
22:18 24:4	28:8,9 43:17	58:4	35:11,14,17,19	34:9 37:3
28:24 50:4	43:17 44:22	midst (3)	35:20 57:15	39:8 45:8,9
March (4)	65:22,22	61:7 69:20,21	57:23 58:17	49:2,5 50:22
1:8 53:17	67:12 68:12	mindset (2)	58:19 59:17	51:8 52:16
86:24 88:11	Meisels' (1)	79:16 85:8	59:21,25	53:5,7,13
Marie (9)	79:7	mine (1)	72:13 85:2	55:14 59:5
2:4 3:20 8:11	member (17)	73:13		61:16,17
8:13 11:25	2:7,9,11,12,13	minute (1)	N	62:24 63:22
16:2 22:23	3:11 11:5	32:14	N (1)	64:3,4 66:6
76:9,13	18:22 22:25	minutes (9)	2:2	66:10,11,12
marked (3)	28:13 31:19	9:23 12:22	name (10)	66:19,21,25
6:3 7:13,24	43:4 65:23	27:23 49:15	4:11 11:21	68:16 70:15
mask (1)	67:13 70:4	49:19 61:12	13:6,25 14:8	70:22 71:9
26:23	73:22 75:6	62:6 63:2	40:18 60:18	72:22 73:6,8
masks (1)	member/offi	64:9	75:4 82:9	78:13,15,17
19:3	2:18 40:7	missing (1)	85:25	78:25 79:5
matter (11)	members (29)	48:17	names (2)	81:14,16,18
4:3 5:24 7:7,9	6:5,9,10,11,16	moderate (1)	10:20,24	82:8,15 83:19
10:15 12:18	8:16 16:3,12	4:17	Narcan (2)	needed (5)
32:23 34:8	17:17 18:18	modest (1)	17:12 25:15	22:9 25:24
78:3,4 86:14	26:25 30:8,11	37:21	narrative (3)	42:24 46:2
medical (8)	35:23 36:7	moment (2)	19:19 22:10	63:9
1:2 5:2,7 7:2	39:20 42:3	83:14,18	52:16	needs (4)
17:18 30:25	43:14 47:21	moments (2)	narratives (1)	34:23 61:15
31:2 32:18	48:4 51:5	5:25 85:6	36:19	78:23,23
medicine (1)	52:3,4,5 55:8	money (1)	nation (1)	negative (1)
60:25	57:9 63:18	38:19	52:6	19:6
meet (3)	65:19 81:25	months (1)	national (1)	neighborhoo
52:15 54:21	membership	54:25	27:23	69:15
86:18	34:15	Mount (1)	natural (1)	neighboring
meeting (20)	mentioned (2)	18:6	30:20	26:7,11,12
	l	l	I	I

Page 100

				Page 100
33:19 45:17	37:16	2:3 3:7,15,19	62:24 71:20	36:25
Neil (2)	numerous (3)	4:14,17 11:5	83:14	options (1)
11:9 46:21	42:3,18 68:23	12:5,16 13:3	old (2)	32:5
net (3)	nurses (1)	13:12 14:3,9	22:13 73:3	order (2)
61:10 65:3	17:19	14:12,15,23	once (3)	3:22 76:15
66:4	nutshell (1)	15:7,14,19	58:14 59:25	organization
never (4)	38:22	16:4,20 18:13	73:15	34:21 36:17
54:8,18,19	NYC (2)	18:17,23	ones (3)	61:22 67:25
69:25	1:6 2:10	21:11,19,23	51:2 61:9	80:21 81:3
new (28)	nycremsco.o	22:6,22 23:7	62:21	organization
1:3 2:7 3:3	87:4	26:24 28:7,11	ongoing (2)	66:2
4:12,15 5:3,7	NYPD (4)	28:19 29:7,11	43:25 57:18	organization
5:8 9:5 16:2	17:24 50:8,9	30:5 31:8,14	onset (1)	18:5,6 25:11
18:2 20:25	50:13	32:10 35:6,21	64:14	25:12,13 65:5
22:10 24:14	NYS (3)	36:6,9 39:4	open (1)	65:11,12
32:10 38:2	2:8,13,21	39:11 40:3,15	9:18	79:14,18
41:13 48:7,18		40:21 41:4	opening (1)	82:18 83:6
48:19 52:12	0	43:12 44:21	24:25	organized (1)
57:22 62:25	object (1)	46:9,20,25	operate (4)	8:15
66:3,5 68:22	39:8	47:10 55:6	7:24 8:4 59:15	original (1)
82:25 88:6	objectionabl	57:8 58:8,10	79:14	88:8
nice (1)	39:15	58:11,22	operated (1)	Orlanski (9)
36:12	objective (2)	59:11,19 60:5	19:16	2:7 23:5,6
night (6)	5:13 53:3	60:8,16 63:13	operating (5)	26:18 55:11
23:9,13 54:19	obtain (1)	64:12 65:17	3:6 7:22 48:20	55:22 56:12
64:5,5 74:8	5:17	67:11,22 70:2	58:16 59:14	56:22 57:5
no-brainer (1)	obvious (1)	70:9,10 71:6	operational (1)	Orlanski's (3)
64:7	66:25	71:17,22	52:7	24:15 36:23
nonemergen	obviously (7)	73:20 74:9,15	operations (2)	79:8
17:8,10 25:7	23:13,16 39:16	75:2,16,20	2:4 35:10	other's (1)
nonsense (1)	59:20,25	76:23 77:5,15	opinion (1)	85:6
65:16	66:15 71:10	77:21 81:23	63:21	outlines (1)
not-for-profi	occasion (1)	84:2,6 85:13	opinions (1)	19:10
18:4 25:12	57:16	86:5,12	44:18	outreach (7)
Notary (1)	October (1)	officers (2)	opportunity	17:14 25:4,13
88:5	53:23	7:12,20	10:9 39:17	25:14 42:13
note (1)	offer (2)	official (1)	41:9 43:9	45:21 46:3
9:13	9:23 44:18	50:25	46:19 71:4	outside (1)
noted (4)	offered (6)	oftentimes (3)	73:16 77:11	4:13
11:13 22:20	10:13 32:4	61:11 64:9	opposing (1)	overcame (1)
29:19 87:11	33:24,25 34:4	65:7	10:14	52:7
notes (1)	85:20	oiled (1)	opposition (5)	overnight (1)
88:9	office (3)	61:21	11:14,18 12:8	83:11
notice (3)	40:18 41:14	okay (7)	39:9,18	owners (2)
7:15,18 85:7	46:22	14:14 19:7	option (4)	18:7 51:8
number (1)	officer (94)	21:11 33:4	32:6,9,13	ownership (1)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

48:21	58:25 71:4	person (6)	population (1)	40:13,25
	particularly	9:20 14:7,11	21:12	47:25 74:21
P	43:24	26:3 37:4	posed (2)	74:22
P (4)	parties (1)	56:14	57:13 76:7	presentation
2:2,2,15,16	53:10	personal (3)	position (4)	8:18,23,24
p.m (5)	partner (3)	7:11 52:8	24:3 28:23	9:11,16,24
1:9 3:23 53:17	42:9,16 45:12	61:24	31:9 32:20	14:5 18:14
86:13 87:11	partnered (1)	personally (1)	positioned (1)	25:2
page (18)	41:24	64:22	27:11	presentation
19:9,18,22,23	partnerships	persons (2)	positions (1)	6:13
20:8,23 21:12	17:23	10:13 44:23	41:11	presented (2)
21:16,18,18	patient (2)	photos (2)	positive (1)	3:14 5:15
21:18 29:12	64:23 65:2	16:19 25:9	65:9	presenter (1)
48:25 49:17	patients (11)	physical (1)	possible (4)	15:3
50:2,18 51:3	61:6,9,25 62:2	38:14	23:11 32:18	presenters (1)
52:13	62:5,20 63:10	physician (4)	38:21 61:17	14:22
pandemic (8)	63:11,20 64:8	2:25 12:12	Possibly (1)	presenting (2)
51:11,22 52:8	66:10	60:20 61:3	21:9	11:3 15:13
52:9 62:8,9	pay (1)	place (2)	potentially (2)	president (6)
64:14 81:19	25:16	13:16 49:23	69:14 80:20	2:17,19 11:7
paragraph (1)	paying (1)	placing (1)	PowerPoint (3)	15:22 41:18
52:13	78:8	49:24	8:18,22 14:25	54:16
paramedic (2)	pays (1)	plan (3)	precinct (14)	pretty (1)
44:10 68:22	5:19	12:7 57:24,24	2:19 11:8	40:23
paraphrasin	pending (5)	plans (2)	17:24,24	previous (3)
78:21	6:20 8:5 29:18	37:23 57:25	40:25 41:19	29:17 43:20
pardon (1)	29:20 86:3	please (8)	44:6,7,15,16	57:25
78:20	people (19)	13:18,25 14:22	45:25 50:9,9	previously (2)
Park (5)	3:13 10:2 31:2	15:11 22:24	50:14	4:2 56:3
17:4 26:8,16	38:10,20	24:17 41:4	Precincts (1)	pride (1)
42:20 47:23	45:16 47:17	75:7	4:9	84:25
Parkway (3)	47:17,18 63:6	pleasure (1)	preparation	primary (1)
20:11 21:2,5	63:6 64:21	36:16	86:22	48:20
part (3)	65:12,14 68:5	point (11)	prepare (2)	prior (8)
24:22 35:18	78:25 79:3	23:25 29:14	4:21 86:16	7:16 9:3 30:7
37:19	80:25 83:24	35:13 56:17	prepared (2)	32:2 33:20
participants	percent (1)	58:14 66:14	8:10 78:2	57:16 58:21
5:19 15:15	50:21	66:22 69:8	preregister (2)	86:22
participating	perfectly (1)	79:7,7,10	11:20,21	probably (1)
44:25	71:19	points (3)	preregistere	69:3
participation	period (2)	38:12 68:14	44:24	problem (4)
87:8	12:22 54:24	77:24	prescient (1)	31:4 60:7
particular (10)	permit (1)	policy (6)	78:19	83:15 84:20
6:19 10:22	58:17	4:16 5:10 6:23	present (10)	problematic
12:6 44:19,22	permitted (1)	48:8 52:13	9:14,15 16:8	80:13,20
45:4,8,10	6:11	70:24	32:10 40:10	procedures (1)
			l	
8				

				rage roz
4:20	53:2 58:19	47:1 48:1,16	qualified (4)	73:24 82:3
proceed (6)	59:21 67:9	49:1 50:1	63:6 65:13	85:18 86:4,7
14:18 36:3	71:4 84:22	51:1 52:1,16	68:19 69:6	quick (2)
41:5 75:3,10	provided (14)	53:1,7,13	quality (2)	63:16 73:7
77:13	20:8 24:5	54:1,20 55:1	16:15 65:15	
proceeding (41:25 42:2,4	55:3,22 56:1	Queens (14)	R
3:22,23 4:18	42:5,6,6	57:1 58:1	1:6 2:25 4:10	R (3)
5:22 7:14 8:8	45:13 49:10	59:1,5 60:1	12:13 21:7	2:2,15 88:2
8:12,21 9:8	50:4 58:24	61:1,8 62:1	35:18 44:11	radio (1)
86:15	59:17 70:19	63:1,22 64:1	49:7 57:25	85:4
proceedings	provider (1)	64:3,4 65:1	60:20,25,25	raise (1)
47:15	25:25	66:1,4,12,19	61:2 68:21	6:17
process (4)	providers (1)	67:1 68:1,16	question (48)	raised (1)
4:19 5:16	59:7	69:1,17,20,21	20:9 21:6 23:9	29:13
53:11 83:4	provides (3)	70:1 71:1,8	23:15,24	ranges (1)
produced (1)	5:19 49:4 50:3	72:1 73:1	24:15,16 27:7	49:8
4:24	providing (4)	74:1,13 75:1	27:17 28:8	reached (1)
professional	16:14 25:4	75:6 76:1	31:16,20,25	33:22
43:2 61:20	26:14 45:16	77:1,6,9 78:1	32:25 33:9,12	reaching (1)
professions (1)	public (141)	79:1 80:1	33:15 34:8	65:8
17:19	1:5,6 2:1 3:1,3	81:1 82:1	35:7 36:24	read (3)
program (2)	3:13 4:1,3 5:1	83:1 84:1	44:4 45:3	13:6 21:4 75:5
18:7 25:14	5:9,18 6:1,9	85:1 86:1	52:9 55:16	readily (1)
prohibits (1)	6:22,22 7:1	87:1 88:1,5	57:13 58:7	7:4
80:8	7:15 8:1,20	publicly (1)	59:12 63:16	reads (1)
proof (2)	9:1,3,21 10:1	41:10	64:3,15 66:6	51:4
10:18 53:6	10:3,6,7 11:1	published (1)	66:12 68:18	ready (1)
proposed (10)	11:4 12:1,23	7:16	74:5,12 75:13	3:17
8:4 19:8 20:18	13:1 14:1	pun (1)	75:17,19,19	real (1)
24:9 49:3,6	15:1 16:1	79:10	76:6 79:8,19	52:10
49:11 51:2	17:1 18:1	purchase (1)	79:22,25	reallocation (
52:15 58:19	19:1 20:1	38:2	82:16,17	7:5 29:14
pros (1)	21:1 22:1	purpose (4)	83:25 85:11	really (15)
71:5	23:1 24:1	5:11 10:10,11	questions (33)	24:16 28:9
proud (1)	25:1 26:1	53:2	3:12 6:12,17	36:20,22
17:23	27:1 28:1,23	purposes (2)	6:19 14:4,17	37:13 38:13
prove (1)	29:1,24 30:1	6:7 14:24	18:19 23:3	38:18,22 46:2
78:13	30:7 31:1,9	pursuant (1)	24:21 27:3	68:14 69:8,18 72:10 72:0
proven (3)	31:10 32:1	5:8	28:15,17,18	72:19 73:9
81:14,15 82:14	33:1 34:1	put (3)	28:22 35:25	78:10
provide (17)	35:1 36:1,4	13:16 57:24	39:22 43:10	reason (5)
5:12 17:11	37:1,11 38:1	74:5	43:16 46:12	51:23 52:10
22:4 26:2	39:1 40:1,5	putting (1)	55:10 57:11	80:24 82:18
27:12 34:15	41:1 42:1	36:11	60:9 65:21	83:3
35:11,20 38:8	43:1,20 44:1	0	67:15,18 70:6	reasonable (1)
49:6 51:15	45:1,9 46:1	¥	71:14,19	9:22

Page	10) 3

				rage 105
reasons (1)	regardless (1)	68:10	70:1 71:1	requires (3)
36:19	81:11	relevant (1)	72:1 73:1	56:2 68:17
rebuttal (9)	regards (2)	59:5	74:1 75:1	71:7
10:10,10,16	20:15,23	rely (1)	76:1 77:1	Rescue (2)
39:5,13,17	region (1)	42:24	78:1 79:1	2:8,13
77:11 82:4	24:14	remain (1)	80:1 81:1	reserve (1)
85:20	Regional (30)	28:2	82:1,12 83:1	39:5
receipt (1)	1:2 3:2 5:2,6	remaining (1)	84:1 85:1	resident (4)
54:3	6:6,15 18:19	39:6	86:1 87:1	2:20 25:24
received (8)	23:2,22 27:2	remains (1)	88:1	42:20 51:19
5:23 6:2 8:5,20	27:5 28:14	8:5	REMSCO's (residential (1)
9:7 50:21	29:20 35:24	REMSCO (1	9:5	73:2
53:17 54:9	39:21 41:7	2:1,4,5,7,9,11	remuneratio	residents (3)
receiving (1)	43:15,18	2:12,13 3:1	37:13	32:16 51:8,16
62:10	52:24 55:9	4:1 5:1 6:1	render (1)	resources (6)
recite (1)	57:10 67:14	7:1,20 8:1,19	52:24	7:6 29:14
10:24	70:5 72:5,20	9:1 10:1 11:1	repeat (1)	30:21 32:18
recognize (2)	73:11,23	12:1 13:1	10:3	34:4 63:24
14:8 47:20	76:19 82:2	14:1 15:1	report (4)	respect (12)
recommenda	86:23	16:1,3 17:1	4:22,24 21:20	29:18 39:13
86:19	registered (2)	18:1 19:1	86:16	44:5 45:4
reconciled (1)	7:19 10:21	20:1 21:1	REPORTED	57:15 63:19
21:17	Rego (5)	22:1 23:1	1:24	72:13 73:17
record (8)	17:4 26:8,16	24:1 25:1	reporter (1)	77:8,24 81:12
5:21,24 26:21	42:20 47:23	26:1 27:1	88:4	85:19
40:17 41:13	Reisner (19)	28:1 29:1	represent (2)	respond (7)
48:16 75:23	2:16 9:2,14,14	30:1 31:1	36:16 47:13	35:11 39:17
86:13	22:2 36:2,5	32:1,11 33:1	representativ	52:17 57:17
rectify (1)	39:12,22 77:9	34:1 35:1	66:2	67:20 84:4
76:3	77:12,20	36:1 37:1	representativ	85:5
redacted (4)	81:24 82:4,13	38:1 39:1	9:12 66:17	responded (1)
7:9,10 19:24	84:2 85:15	40:1 41:1	69:11 80:17	54:19
29:13	86:3,6	42:1 43:1	represented (responders (1)
reduced (1)	reiterate (1)	44:1 45:1	47:15,16	47:19
6:24	72:15	46:1,14 47:1	representing	responding (1)
refer (1)	related (2)	48:1 49:1	12:6 72:11	25:18
70:15	52:18 74:13	50:1 51:1	request (1)	response (11)
reference (1)	relation (1)	52:1 53:1	48:13	27:6,18,22
51:22	48:2	54:1,14 55:1	requested (2)	28:2 36:23
referenced (1)	relationship 65:6	56:1 57:1	9:19,20	38:8 49:11,14
70:13		58:1,13 59:1 60:1,10 61:1	requesting (2) 54:10,21	49:18,21 82:3
referring (1) 20:2	relationships 68:24	62:1 63:1,19	required (1)	responsible (1) 80:25
regarding (3)	relative (1)	64:1 65:1	48:18	80:23 rest (2)
17:10 75:17	27:7	66:1 67:1	requirement	81:21 86:3
87:2	relentless (1)	68:1 69:1	56:5	result (1)
01.2	1 (1(11)(55 (1)	00.1 07.1	50.5	1 Court (1)
	I	I	I	I

				rage 104
75:21	robust (2)	26:6 33:21	4:5 7:24	84:19,21
return (1)	17:16 25:14	saying (4)	seen (1)	serviced (2)
54:2	roles (1)	20:14,22 39:15	43:6	84:18 85:9
review (3)	41:20	79:11	semantics (1)	services (23)
5:12 22:9 53:3	room (2)	says (4)	63:4	1:2 5:2,7 7:22
reviewed (1)	12:13 64:25	15:16 20:2,24	Senate (2)	17:15 25:5
70:17	rooted (1)	29:15	50:7,11	30:16,17,25
reviewing (1)	37:7	school (1)	Senator (9)	34:7 43:23,25
20:20	ROTKOWI	25:13	2:21 11:10	48:14 49:5
revoked (1)	2:25	schools (1)	46:22 71:23	50:23 53:14
80:22	Rotkowitz (26)	17:15	71:24 72:2	67:6,9 69:5,9
rich (2)	12:3,4,9 13:2	scope (1)	73:21,24 74:7	69:12 73:7,13
17:6 37:7	60:13,14,15	10:16	sending (1)	serving (2)
Richmond (19)	60:18,19	Scott (2)	53:24	4:13 69:7
2:23 4:7 11:16	63:14 64:2,15	2:7 23:24	sense (4)	4.13 09.7 session (1)
19:14 20:3	65:21,25 67:4	Scouts (1)	72:18,21 73:5	36:4
21:14 22:14	67:15,19,20	18:4	73:6	set (3)
26:13 34:17	67:24 68:12	screen (3)	sent (2)	3:20 4:25
35:8,14 55:24	69:19 70:3	15:6,15,16	54:3,15	88:10
58:5 72:24		second (6)	sentiments (1)	share (3)
74:18 79:4	71:14,15,21 79:9	12:17 14:7	52:20	79:21 80:3
80:18 81:10	Rotkowitz's (15:10 19:21		85:4
84:24			servants (1) 37:11	
	66:14,22 78:18	20:20 82:8	37:11	shares (1)
Didgewood (montinely (2)	geoords (1)	(0)	24.11
Ridgewood (routinely (2)	seconds (1)	serve (8)	24:11
2:22 11:12	35:11 57:18	75:10	37:11,23 51:17	sharing (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11	35:11 57:18 rules (1)	75:10 section (7)	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4	sharing (1) 55:20
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5)	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19)	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36)	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u>	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6	<pre>sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24</pre>
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12	<pre>sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18</pre>
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12)	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8)	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19	<pre>sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6</pre>
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15 70:11 71:20	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16 satisfaction (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2 67:16 73:25	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6 45:9,13 48:19	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17 shown (1)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15 70:11 71:20 78:20 79:10	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16 satisfaction (1) 21:19	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2 67:16 73:25 82:5 86:8	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6 45:9,13 48:19 51:10 52:15	<pre>sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17 shown (1) 82:19</pre>
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15 70:11 71:20 78:20 79:10 82:11	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16 satisfaction (1) 21:19 save (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2 67:16 73:25 82:5 86:8 seek (1)	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6 45:9,13 48:19 51:10 52:15 59:5 66:7	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17 shown (1) 82:19 shows (3)
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15 70:11 71:20 78:20 79:10 82:11 Robinson (4)	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16 satisfaction (1) 21:19 save (1) 79:15	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2 67:16 73:25 82:5 86:8 seek (1) 51:16	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6 45:9,13 48:19 51:10 52:15 59:5 66:7 67:2 69:5	<pre>sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17 shown (1) 82:19 shows (3) 20:16 21:7</pre>
2:22 11:12 29:8 30:11 31:12 32:3 47:6,13 55:13 55:19 58:3 61:13 66:18 72:10,12 73:18 80:2,12 80:19,19 84:14,24 Ridgewood's 71:10 78:11,14 81:12 right (12) 12:18,25 15:15 36:18 46:7 54:7 68:15 70:11 71:20 78:20 79:10 82:11	35:11 57:18 rules (1) 61:22 run (3) 59:3,15 61:21 RVAC (1) 76:3 <u>S</u> S (3) 2:2,15,15 safety (7) 15:19 41:20,21 42:15 61:10 65:3 66:4 salient (1) 24:16 satisfaction (1) 21:19 save (1)	75:10 section (7) 48:25 49:15,17 50:2,3,19 51:3 see (19) 15:5,12 19:2 20:13,17 26:10 29:16 39:3 40:10,11 40:13 64:5 67:25 69:18 74:4,11,20,22 82:6 seeing (8) 16:19 39:23 46:15 47:2 67:16 73:25 82:5 86:8 seek (1)	37:11,23 51:17 61:2 65:4 66:24 69:15 78:24 served (5) 31:3 50:15 56:3 84:3,12 service (36) 1:6 7:3 8:4 16:11,16,24 17:3,7 22:16 24:6,10 25:6 26:14 27:12 27:13 30:24 33:18,19 34:16 38:21 40:19 43:6 45:9,13 48:19 51:10 52:15 59:5 66:7	sharing (1) 55:20 short (1) 38:17 shortage (1) 62:15 shorthand (1) 88:4 shortly (1) 63:16 show (4) 27:25 32:19,24 72:18 showed (1) 52:6 showing (1) 72:17 shown (1) 82:19 shows (3)

				. I age 105
side (1)	10:25 11:18	9:10 14:2	street (4)	7:17 30:13
46:16	11:20 12:4,19	20:23 61:16	78:24 79:13	72:18
sideways (1)	13:7,10,14,24	started (1)	81:20 82:22	suppression (
37:15	44:17 48:11	25:23	streets (1)	62:17
sign (2)	56:8 61:4	state (10)	82:24	sure (5)
13:18 44:24	62:18,19	4:15 5:9 13:25	strive (1)	27:6 38:20
signed (2)	73:16 75:6	48:8,18 50:7	18:10	46:23 63:7
40:22 75:4	77:3	50:11 52:5,12	structure (2)	75:14
simple (1)	speaker (2)	88:5	80:19 81:2	surge (1)
56:13	6:19 10:22	stated (8)	stunned (1)	64:18
simply (1)	speakers (3)	27:18 32:2,14	12:10	surrendered
82:12	10:24 39:9,14	39:18 54:14	subject (3)	59:24
Sinai's (1)	speaking (7)	55:22 75:20	10:15 45:5	surrenders (1)
18:6	11:11,13 14:2	84:11	55:12	58:15
sir (3)	20:21 41:10	statement (11)	submission (1)	swear (1)
29:10 57:7	47:5 64:25	4:16 5:11,14	51:21	64:4
60:7	speaks (1)	6:23 29:22	submissions	system (3)
sit (1)	38:13	48:9 52:13	10:13	5:20 66:4
53:18	special (1)	53:5,16 70:7	submit (1)	69:18
sitting (1)	17:4	84:10	86:16	
64:19	split (8)	statements (3)	submitted (5)	T
situation (2)	31:22 33:3,4,7	10:12 52:19	21:20 48:2	T (3)
78:22 79:17	34:9 35:3	85:19	52:25 54:12	61:23 88:2,2
smells (1)	79:24 80:5	states (2)	80:10	table (1)
81:3	splitting (4)	52:14 75:19	subsequent (1)	67:7
solely (1)	32:12 55:20	statics (1)	21:10	take (3)
10:17	79:8 84:15	62:13	substantiate	56:10 81:5
solicitation (2)	spoke (1)	statistics (2)	49:10	84:25
53:24 54:4	77:22	49:4,7	sufficient (2)	taken (2)
somebody (3)	spoken (6)	stay (1)	29:23 63:23	5:23 33:20
12:10 32:19	51:5 62:3	71:2	suggest (2)	talk (6)
74:5	65:14 75:5	stenographer	69:8,12	12:23 54:24,25
somewhat (3)	77:2 79:2	13:23	suggestion (1)	63:10 66:23
10:2 63:15	squad (1)	stenographic	21:24	69:13
78:9	17:16	5:21 88:8	support (19)	talked (2)
sorry (3)	staff (6)	step (1)	2:14 6:20 12:8	37:25 80:14
13:20 17:2	3:11 11:9 16:2	37:16	12:10,11 18:3	talking (5)
59:8	38:11 46:21	stop (4)	31:11 49:5	38:24 44:6
sort (1)	52:3	17:12 25:16	50:20,25 51:4	45:14 62:7
78:10	stage (1)	42:5 63:3	51:15,17,24	79:17
sought (1)	38:5	straight (1)	52:10 54:11	tallying (1)
57:19	staging (1)	78:17	55:5 63:23	68:14
south (2)	38:12	stream (1)	72:16	taught (1)
20:16,17	Stand (1)	75:25	supported (1)	61:19
speak (21)	20:19	streaming (1)	47:17	teachers (1)
9:20,23 10:21	start (4)	3:10	supporting (3)	37:10
	l	I		

				Fage 100
Team (1)	21:21,22 22:7	78:9,16,18,19	tonight (13)	71:11 72:9,15
41:15	22:22 23:7	79:9,15 80:13	16:7 23:13	80:14
technical (6)	24:21 26:18	81:16 82:16	47:12 48:10	turn (1)
2:14 5:12	27:16 28:19	82:20 83:15	49:16 62:23	3:18
13:15 15:11	29:2 31:24	83:19 84:3	69:10 71:12	twelve (1)
16:17 53:3	33:13 35:4,5	thinks (1)	72:7,17 80:22	66:8
telemetry (1)	35:21 36:5	27:10	81:15,22	two (14)
61:3	40:3 41:6,8	Thorne (5)	tonight's (6)	23:14 32:22
tell (3)	42:18 43:9,12	11:5 14:13	4:14 9:25 16:5	34:16 49:9,19
61:11 72:12	46:10,18 47:8	40:6,9,11	43:21 57:14	54:24 63:24
78:8	55:4,6,21	thought (1)	74:25	66:8,22 69:5
telling (7)	57:5 58:8	59:8	Totally (1)	70:12 82:17
61:6,24,25	60:6,16 63:12	three (4)	34:22	82:21,22
62:20 63:9	63:13 65:17	32:23 49:9,15	-	two-and-a-h
64:7,8	67:11 70:2	54:25	training (5) 17:15 41:25	24:12 28:4
	72:2,5,8		42:3 45:16,20	
ten (3)		Tim (8) 2:3 3:7 4:11		type (2) 46:3 80:22
9:25 50:12 60:23	73:15,19,20 74:7,15 76:23	12:3 64:2	transcript (3)	
	· ·		86:15 88:7,8	typographica
tend (1)	77:20,21	71:15 72:2	transfer (1)	21:3
10:2	81:22,23 84:9	74:7	48:21	U
terms (3)	85:13 86:5	time (28)	transmitted (2)	unable (1)
9:22 22:8 24:2	87:7,10	3:23 8:13,18	8:19,25	51:12
territories (1)	thanking (2)	9:22 10:11,14	transports (3)	underscores
79:9	15:25 36:7	10:22 13:14	17:8,11 25:7	66:19,21
territory (13)	Thanks (4)	26:3,4 27:22	tremendous (underserved
3:6 22:11	28:10 30:6	28:2 31:12	38:15 42:13	16:11 17:3
23:15 38:6,9	71:20 74:10	39:5,6,13	trend (1)	26:9 31:5
48:20 55:20	thereof (1)	54:24,25 55:5	49:10	67:9 68:16
60:3 79:21,24	48:12	59:12 63:12	trouble (2)	69:16
80:3,5 81:9	thereon (1)	66:11 69:22	33:22 81:4	
tested (1)	71:10	76:6 79:12,13	troubled (1)	understand (2)
19:5	thing (3)	86:12 87:11	33:18	20:21 64:20
testify (1)	64:21,24 82:20	timeline (2)	true (1)	Understood (2) 56:22 57:5
43:5	things (6)	8:9 22:3	88:7	
testimony (10)	25:17 37:15	times (14)	truly (1)	undisputed (1)
4:23 5:15,23	45:23 54:21	35:16 36:12	45:24	37:3
6:13 47:25	61:23 78:7	38:8 41:22	trust (2)	unequivocall
49:16 52:22	think (31)	42:4,18,23	8:16 68:6	79:22,25
70:19 78:18	14:6 22:16	49:11,14,18	try (1)	Unfortunatel
81:15	36:22 37:2,5	49:21 64:10	13:18	42:22
Texas (1)	37:19 38:13	64:13 87:2	trying (1)	UNG (11)
19:2	38:17,22	today (4)	53:20	2:14 13:11
thank (62)	43:19 63:3	44:17 52:22	Tuesday (11)	28:18 40:2,13
3:20 13:3 14:2	66:13,14,18	57:16 77:22	23:9,12 29:5	46:17 67:18
14:14,21	67:24 68:13	today's (1)	29:21 30:8	74:13 75:11
18:12 21:20	69:3 71:18	9:3	32:2 43:21	77:4 86:11
		I	l	

				rage 107
unmute (2)	1:8 2:2,15		74:10	Wolfe's (1)
39:7 82:8	Village (1)	wait (3)	West (3)	53:16
unsubstantia	58:4	61:12 63:2	35:18 44:11	wood-frame
52:20	Vincent (2)	64:13	50:17	73:3
unwillingnes	2:12 31:18	waited (1)	Western (1)	Woodhaven
82:19	virtual (1)	62:6	57:25	2:23 4:7 11:16
update (1)	6:4	waiting (1)	WHEREOF	19:14 20:3
54:6	visitors (1)	64:9	88:10	21:14 22:14
upkeep (1)	32:16	want (13)	wherewithal	26:12 33:23
38:7	voice (1)	23:24 33:16	37:22 38:3,16	34:17 35:8,14
use (3)	62:24	34:19 51:9	William (1)	55:24 57:17
8:23 34:2	voided (1)	52:19 59:11	76:7	58:4,23 59:13
70:20	57:24	69:18 72:4	willing (8)	59:20 72:24
uses (1)	volumes (1)	75:14 76:13	31:22 33:8	74:18 79:4
5:18	38:13	84:18 85:9,10	35:3 55:19	80:17 81:9
Usually (1)	volunteer (66)	wanted (2)	79:20,23 80:2	84:24
62:13	2:8,13,24 3:4	13:21 23:23	80:5	work (16)
	4:4 11:6,12	wants (6)	willingness (1)	17:25 24:18
V	11:16 14:19	15:2 53:9	37:25	32:7 34:3
VAC (8)	15:20,23 16:7	68:10 70:25	winded (1)	36:10 44:8
1:5 2:16,17,18	16:10,13,15	82:21 84:11	10:2	47:21 61:10
2:22 51:4,14	16:23 17:5	wasn't (1)	wish (2)	67:8 82:19,20
54:16	18:8 19:15	55:2	9:15 75:6	83:10,13,21
vaccinated (2)	22:14 24:7	wave (1)	wishes (2)	83:23 85:11
19:4 26:22	25:2,22 26:5	6:8	11:22 70:25	worked (7)
valued (3)	26:6 27:9,13	way (6)	WITNESS (1)	44:11 61:18
42:16 43:4	29:8 30:9,11	16:25 36:21	88:10	64:17 68:20
45:12	30:17,23 32:3	39:3 67:24	witnessed (1)	83:2 84:23
Van (2)	32:20 33:23	78:6 79:3	73:4	85:3
21:5,8	34:6,24 37:6	ways (2)	Wolfe (42)	working (5)
various (1)	37:17,20	45:14 67:8	2:17 9:12 11:2	60:24 68:23,25
52:4	38:11,15,24	we've (6)	14:6,10,11,14	84:16,20
vehicles (2)	43:23 47:6,13	69:9 73:4	14:20,21 15:5	worse (1)
38:5,12	47:22 48:12	83:12,12 85:2	15:9,21,21	64:13
versus (2)	50:16 53:4,21	85:3	16:17,22	writes (1)
24:19 27:12	54:10 55:13	wearing (1)	18:15,16 19:4	50:20
vetted (1)	55:25 57:23	26:23	21:21 22:2	Wyck (2)
68:6	58:5 65:11	weather (1)	23:3 24:20	21:5,8
viable (4)	66:9 67:6	30:21	28:21 30:3,7	
29:16 30:15	69:4 73:14	website (1)	31:13 32:14	X
34:12,20	74:19 79:18	75:24	33:14 35:5,7	x (2)
Vice (2)	84:14,19,21	week (2)	35:13 36:20	1:4,9
2:17 15:22	volunteerism	3:25 86:25	40:17 68:9	
video (1)	37:14	welcome (5)	77:10 84:6,8	<u> </u>
5:21	volunteers (2)	9:17 14:16	85:14,16,24	year (2)
VIDEOCON	34:25 42:2	47:11 57:7	86:2,2	64:14 72:7
		17.11 57.7		years (14)

				Page 106
16161767	1/31 (1)	1071 (2)		(1.12.(2.(
16:16 17:6,7	1/21 (1)	1971 (2)	8:8 20:3 27:22	61:12 62:6
26:16 34:13	54:15	16:24 25:23	3/04/21 (87)	63:2 64:9
35:16 37:16	10 (7)	1996 (3)	2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1	68:21 75:9
41:18 44:11	19:18,23 20:24	17:2 25:21	6:1 7:1 8:1	32 (1)
49:9 50:12	21:16,18 50:2	26:8	9:1 10:1 11:1	50:7
60:24 68:21	50:8	1A (1)	12:1 13:1	3777 (1)
84:25	100 (1)	20:24	14:1 15:1	48:22
YEDIDYAH	50:21	1st (1)	16:1 17:1	4
2:5	102 (2)	53:17	18:1 19:1	
yesterday (1)	50:8,13	2	20:1 21:1	4 (3)
83:12	102nd (2)		22:1 23:1	1:8 2:9 8:13
York (24)	4:9 44:15	2 (2)	24:1 25:1	4th (1)
1:3 2:7 3:3	106 (2)	7:25 20:3	26:1 27:1	88:11
4:12,15 5:3,7	50:9,13	20 (5)	28:1 29:1	5
5:8 9:5 16:2	106th (2)	50:19 61:12	30:1 31:1	
18:2 20:25	4:9 44:16	62:6 63:2	32:1 33:1	5 (5)
32:11 41:13	109 (2)	64:9	34:1 35:1	8:22 27:22
48:8,18 52:12	20:16,17	2016 (3)	36:1 37:1	41:16 52:13
57:22 62:25	11 (2)	16:12 31:5	38:1 39:1	52:13
66:3,5 68:22	7:8 75:22	33:20	40:1 41:1	5,000 (1)
82:25 88:6	11/13/2020 (1)	2018 (1)	42:1 43:1	62:13
youth (4)	54:2	49:7	44:1 45:1	50 (5)
17:15,16,17	112th (8)	2020 (1)	46:1 47:1	16:16 17:6,7
25:13	2:19 11:7	53:23	48:1 49:1	26:15 34:13
YouTube (4)	17:24,24	2021 (7)	50:1 51:1	6
2:14 3:10,11	40:25 41:19	1:8 7:8 26:10	52:1 53:1	$\frac{0}{6(3)}$
75:24	44:5,7	54:18 75:22	54:1 55:1	9:9 41:16
	11415 (1)	86:24 88:11	56:1 57:1	49:17
Z	20:25	21 (1)	58:1 59:1	6,500 (3)
ZIP (1)	12 (3)	51:3	60:1 61:1	62:10,11,12
20:25	29:12 50:18	23 (1)	62:1 63:1	6:04 (2)
Zoom (3)	51:3	86:24	64:1 65:1	
1:8 36:14	12/27 (1)	23rd (1)	66:1 67:1	1:9 3:23
75:12	54:8	76:2	68:1 69:1	6:13 (1)
	12/7/2020 (1)	24 (4)	70:1 71:1	53:17
$\frac{0}{0}$	54:5	22:5,20 53:19	72:1 73:1	65,000 (1)
06-06 (8)	1203 (1)	55:2	74:1 75:1	62:11
4:16 5:11,16	58:17	24-hour (1)	76:1 77:1	7
6:23 48:9	13 (1)	54:24	78:1 79:1	$\frac{1}{7(2)}$
52:13 70:15	48:25	26 (1)	80:1 81:1	49:17 54:18
71:7	14 (4)	53:23	82:1 83:1	7:33 (2)
1	21:12,18 50:2	29 (1)	84:1 85:1	86:13 87:11
	50:8	50:7	86:1 87:1	00.13 07.11
	15 (5)		88:1	8
7:14 20:2	2:21 19:9 20:8	3	30 (8)	
1/19 (1)	21:18 50:8	3 (3)	5:8 44:11	9
54:12				
	1	1	I	I

Page 109