



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7116

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

March 5, 2007

Contact: Christopher Riley
Release # 025-2007

**SPEAKER QUINN CONVENES CAPITAL BUDGET HEARINGS IN ONGOING EFFORT
TO REFORM THE BUDGET PROCESS**

Holds separate Capital and Expense Budget Hearings

City Hall – In a continuing effort to improve the City’s budget process, City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn today began separate oversight hearings for the expense and capital budgets of large City agencies. Providing separate oversight for Capital budgets, which account for long-term construction projects, and for expense budgets, which account for operational funds for programmatic activities, will lead to more accountability and oversight of how City agencies allocate funds.

Speaker Quinn said, “To properly act as stewards of taxpayers dollars, we must be able to look closely at all aspects of the City’s budget. This is why, beginning today, we will more systematically conduct separate oversight hearings on large agencies’ capital budgets. This will allow us to examine each in depth, and to make sure agencies plans are consistent with our City’s priorities.”

The Council will hold separate hearings with the following six agencies on the following dates and times:

- Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) **Tuesday, March 6th, 1:00pm; (today)**
- Economic Development Corporation (EDC) **Wednesday, March 7th, 10:00am;**
- Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) **Friday, March 9th, 10:45am;**
- Department of Transportation (DOT) **Friday, March 9th, 11:45am;**
- Department of Education (DOE) and School Construction Authority (SCA) jointly, **Monday, March 12th, 10:00am;** and
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) **Tuesday, March 13th, 1:00pm.**

Last year, Speaker Quinn worked with the Administration in an effort to end the so-called "budget dance," in which the Council was forced to focus on restoring cuts to programs it had restored the preceding year. As part of the Council’s new approach, the Speaker enhanced the level of involvement among Council Members and concentrated a greater focus on funding based decisions on both need and track record of a program.

###