



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW

CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

November 16, 2022

Ms. Lorraine Grillo
First Deputy Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear First Deputy Mayor Grillo:

We are writing to follow-up on the Council's previous requests for information about the costs of operating the Humanitarian Emergency Relief and Recovery Center on Randall's Island ("Randall's Island HERRC"), as well as those HERRCs operating out of hotels. While we welcomed the Administration's announcement that it plans to close the Randall's Island HERRC by the end of this week (November 14, 2022), its closure less than one month after it opened on October 19, 2022 raises questions about the effectiveness of supporting asylum seekers and efficiently using taxpayer dollars. After our initial requests for costs associated with the HERRCs at a September 30, 2022 oversight hearing and during a subsequent tour of the Randall's Island HERRC were deferred by the Administration, it is perplexing why this information has still not been provided to the Council weeks later, and especially as the City is now preparing to close the Randall's Island HERRC. Therefore, we are requesting detailed information from the Administration on the contracts and costs associated with the Randall's Island HERRC and other HERRCs, along with additional information on the impacts of these operations, by November 23, 2022:

Contracts / Costs

1. Please provide copies and details of all contracts, sub-contract agreements, and agency expenses (including NYC Health + Hospitals), including total expenditures related to them through the date of your response to this letter, pertaining to the operation, construction, and maintenance of the Randall's Island HERRC, Orchard Beach HERRC, Watson Hotel, Hotel Wolcott, and Row Hotel HERRCs.
2. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the staff workforce at the aforementioned HERRCs, distinguishing between government and contracted workers, identifying any associated union labor agreements, and including salary costs and staff purposes on an individual and overall basis.
3. In relation to any contracts pertaining to the operation of the Randall's Island and Orchard Beach HERRCs, please list any early termination fees, penalties, or assessments that the City will face based on the non-opening and / or closure of these HERRCs.

4. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the costs associated with moving the initial Orchard Beach HERRC to Randall's Island, including any contract amendments or expense adjustments due to the site relocation.
5. Please detail any contract or operational expenses the Administration may seek to be reimbursed for by federal or state authorities based on the non-opening and / or closure of these HERRCs, including City funds disbursed to the State relating to reimbursement for services provided by state authorities (including, but not limited to, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the National Guard, etc.).
 - a. Please detail if and how the Administration is separating receipts for costs involving asylum seekers from costs involving the general homeless population, for potential reimbursement from federal or state authorities.
6. Please list any contracts with not-for-profit service providers – executed and unexecuted – related to services at the Randall's Island and Orchard Beach HERRCs that will no longer be fulfilled.
7. By City agency, provide a breakdown of the number of City employees assigned to work at all aforementioned HERRCs, including the total amount of overtime paid by each government agency / entity related to staffing at these HERRCs.
8. Will any contractors currently operating at the Randall's Island HERRC staff the Watson Hotel HERRC? If so, are there changes to their contracted operations?

Randall's Island HERRC

9. Please provide a breakdown by week of the total number of migrants housed at the Randall's Island HERRC, including by country of origin.
 - a. Please provide a breakdown of how many migrants served at the Randall's Island HERRC arrived from the Port Authority Bus Terminal and from other locations.
10. How many relocations and reunifications were arranged for those served at the Randall's Island HERRC?
11. How many placements into DSS shelters were arranged for those served at the Randall's Island HERRC?
12. For migrants currently housed at the Randall's Island HERRC, please detail the process to have them reassigned to other HERRC facilities, DSS shelter facilities, or other placements.
 - a. Please detail transportation plans, including any City agencies involved, to relocate the migrants.
 - b. Will any migrants be sent to be processed at the 30th Street Men's Intake Shelter?
 - c. What is the Administration doing to ensure that services provided at the Randall's Island HERRC will also be provided at sites to which migrants are relocated?
13. Please detail any services that may change between what was provided at the Randall's Island HERRC and those provided at the Watson Hotel and other HERRCs.
14. What plans, if any, does the City have for the Randall's Island HERRC site? For example, will it return to its previous use or will services still be provided at this location related to the migrant crisis?

Please send the requested information and any questions to the Council's Director of Oversight & Investigations, Aaron Mendelsohn, at amendelsohn@council.nyc.gov or (212) 482-4240.

Sincerely yours,



Diana Ayala
Deputy Speaker
Council Member, 8th District
Chair, General Welfare Committee



Gale A. Brewer
Council Member, 6th District
Chair, Oversight & Investigations Committee



Justin Brannan
Council Member, 43rd District
Chair, Finance Committee



Julie Won
Council Member, 26th District
Chair, Contracts Committee



Shahana Hanif
Council Member, 39th District
Chair, Immigration Committee

Cc: Anne Williams-Isom, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Cc: Philip Banks, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
Cc: Jacques Jiha, Budget Director