

**Testimony of Dr. Mohamed Attalla**  
**Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management**  
**The City University of New York**

**New York State Senate Committee on Higher Education**  
**Maintaining Quality, Equity & Affordability in Public Higher Education throughout**  
**the Pandemic and Beyond**

**Monday, October 25, 2021 @ 11 am**

Good morning, Chair Stavisky, members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, staff and guests. I am Mohamed Attalla, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management at The City University of New York.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify this morning. I wish to start by expressing my gratitude on behalf of the University for the capital funding provided by the State for fiscal year 2022 and to the support of the State Senate and this committee.

**For fiscal year 2022**, the University received a total of \$466 million in total funding from the State including among other categories \$284 million for capital infrastructure upgrades to CUNY's senior colleges, \$100 million for new construction for CUNY's senior colleges, and \$35 million as the State's match to the City's capital funding for CUNY's community colleges. In addition, the University received re-appropriations totaling over \$3.1 billion.

These funds are planned to be utilized for projects such as mechanical and HVAC Upgrades, boiler and chiller replacements, fire alarms, roof replacements, health and ADA compliance, science labs renovations, science and technology equipment, Capital Expansions and Improvements projects and community colleges energy saving projects and improvement/infrastructure projects. The design has been initiated for a number of these projects.

**In the past couple of years**, we have completed numerous energy performance, capital infrastructure, and new construction projects. Some high-level projects recently completed are the Baruch College Phase 1 renovations, the Lehman College library renovations, and the College of Technology boiler/chiller replacement.

Other recently completed projects include the lighting systems at Kingsborough CC and Borough of Manhattan CC, centralization of the chiller plant at Queensborough CC, HVAC/control systems upgrades at Queens College, laboratory upgrades at Brooklyn College, ADA renovations at Borough of Manhattan CC, Utility upgrades at Bronx CC, Generator upgrades at College of Staten Island, and Security system upgrades at Medgar Evers College.

We have also accomplished a high level of compliance with our **MWBE** goal of 30% (18% for MBEs and 12% for WBEs). Despite COVID-19, we were able achieve a MWBE utilization for FY21 of 28.98% and for the first quarter of FY22 we have a MWBE utilization of 35.69%.

**Three major aspects are impacting our strategy** as we move forward:

- 1- COVID has changed the way we work and learn, and our buildings need to be updated to reflect that.
- 2- Hurricane Ida further illuminated the need to prepare for harsh weather conditions generated by climate change.
- 3- Energy Conservation and Sustainability mandate to reduce our GHG 40% by 2030 and contribute to 11TBtu energy savings across state agencies. (At community colleges the estimated cost to reduce GHG 40% by 2030 is \$262 million).

I once again want to thank the State for its funding and the Senate and this committee, in particular, for being a champion in its support for the University. I am very optimistic for the future of our university, despite the challenges we have collectively faced from the coronavirus.

That concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.