Testimony of Lynne Turner Graduate Assistant, CUNY Graduate Center PSC-CUNY Vice-President for Part-time Personnel CUNY Board of Trustees Hearing at LaGuardia Community College May 12, 2025

Hello, I am Lynne Turner, the Vice-President for Part-Timers for the PSC CUNY. I am here to demand that CUNY Administration cease its stonewalling and to honor the multiyear appointment agreement for teaching adjuncts, as a whole and specifically with regards to the expansion of eligibility for those who teach in credit bearing academic programs as agreed to in the 2023-2027 contract.

CUNY runs on the labor of nearly fourteen thousand part-timers including eleven thousand teaching adjuncts. Our adjunct faculty teach the majority of undergraduate classes, we share our expertise and mentor students, we conduct research, we coordinate essential programs, many of us for multiple decades. Yet, the vast majority of our adjunct faculty continue to labor under the conditions of extreme contingency which CUNY has appallingly come to rely on as its business model. By contrast the multiyear appointments agree`ments, Appendix E, bargained over multiple contracts, have provided several thousand long-serving adjunct faculty with a measure of job security and stability benefiting not only themselves but CUNY students, departments, and the university as a whole.

The Appendix E pilot adopted for the 2023-2027 contract provides for a review for eligibility of courses in academic programs and for these reviews to be conducted in a timely fashion for appointments beginning in Fall 2025. As Vice-President for Part-timers I have received numerous emails from adjunct faculty that teach in academic programs - some for close to two decades teaching consecutively at least six contact hours per semester thereby meeting the criterion for eligibility many times over – who wish to be considered for eligibility and instead are running into unnecessary barriers due to the stonewalling of CUNY administration. The time is now to stop stalling and stonewalling and to honor the multiyear appointments agreement that we bargained.

In closing, I want to add my voice to the chorus of condemnation against the CUNY Central Administration's decision to bring many dozens of the NYPD's Strategic Response group onto the Brooklyn College campus to suppress and disperse a non-violent student protest. CUNY campuses should be spaces in which CUNY students and workers can exercise their rights to free speech, free assembly, and academic freedom without fear of retaliation, intimidation, or police suppression. We call upon, indeed demand, that the CUNY Board of Trustees safeguard these rights for all members of the college community.