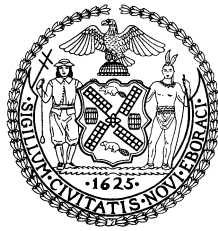


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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

FISCAL YEAR 2015 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GEOGRAPHY

Roosevelt Island and the Upper East Side of Manhattan, from the north side of East 59th Street to the south side of East 96th Street between Fifth Avenue and the East River, comprise Manhattan Community District 8. In addition to our diverse population, we are home to dozens of diplomatic residences, world famous hospitals, medical research centers, and world-renowned museums.

According to the 2010 census, 229,688 people live on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, a 6.0% increase from 1990.ⁱ Prosperous economic times and a major building boom that began during the 1990's have added thousands of new dwelling units to the district. Today, the district continues to grow at an amazing pace. The 1999 median household income for the District was \$74,134.ⁱⁱ Based on data from the 2000 census 6.5% of the individuals in the district live below the poverty level.ⁱⁱⁱ

There is also a large segment of the population with special needs. More than 14% of CB8's residents are senior citizens^{iv}, with a high number of frail elderly. There is also a number of working poor living in the district. With affordable housing becoming increasingly scarce, commercial rent escalating, and the prices of goods and services dramatically rising, our middle class residents are struggling to meet their budgets. The influx of new residents, shoppers, and tourists has strained the delivery of municipal service.

II. AREAS OF PERFORMANCE

2.1 LAND USE

Nearly every portion of CB8 has experienced major development. Where tenements and small commercial properties once stood, luxury apartment buildings now soar to thirty or forty floors (10 feet per floor). After a construction lull during the early to mid 1990's, residential and commercial development exploded on the Upper East Side. Currently, construction has decreased with the recession.

Zoning changes including R8-B enacted within the past fifteen years to protect the midblock, from massive structures and R10-A governing use of the plaza bonus and towers on a base for avenues and cross-town streets have only slightly moderated development. New 30-35 story buildings on some avenues, which currently are allowed, strain the infrastructure and municipal services.

CB8 and local civic groups have urged the Department of City Planning to review the Community Facility provisions of the Zoning Resolution. CB8 is the only district where community facilities are entitled to a 5.1 FAR in the R8B mid-blocks. CB8 has proposed modifications to the Department of City Planning to change the current community facility in R8B areas from a 5.1 to a 4.0 FAR.

CB8 seeks to preserve the Upper East Side's residential character. The C1 and C2 zoning (Local Retail Use) control commercial signage in the District. CB8 seeks to maintain a careful balance to prevent new buildings from detracting from CB8's historic districts. CB8 believes that new and more effective regulations, coupled with increased enforcement, would ease this problem.

Roosevelt Island is undergoing major residential development. In the long-planned area known as Southtown

there will be four completed sixteen story buildings by year end with a fifth and sixth under construction. The restoration of the historic lobby of the nineteenth century New York City Pauper Lunatic Asylum known as the Octagon and the construction of two wings, each with 250 apartments has been completed and all 500 units are occupied. The Small Pox Hospital ruin is undergoing extensive stabilization, funded largely by a grant from the City Parks Department. Plans for construction of South Park are nearing completion.

The entire board serves as the Land Use Committee reviewing all applications for zoning variances and changes after extensive public hearings. Land Use Task Forces serve developers and residents to address the special problems or areas of need.

CB8 frequently serves as a mediator between the community, developers and government entities such as the MTA, RIOC and DDC.

2.2 LANDMARKS

CB8 works closely with the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and community organizations on all landmark issues. CB8 reviews Certificate of Appropriateness Applications, designations, and matters related to individual landmarks and buildings within the six historic districts with CB8 (the Upper Eastside Historic Districts the Carnegie Hill Historic District; the Metropolitan Museum Historic District; the Treadwell Farm Historic District; the Henderson Place Historic District and the Hardenburgh-Rhineland Historic District.)

CB8 works closely with community organizations investigating and reporting violations of landmark regulations. With the significant number of landmarked buildings in the district, CB8 is well aware that the Commission is under staffed to handle the hundreds of applications, inspections, and violations for these properties. CB8 continues to request funding for additional Landmarks staff.

2.3 STREET LIFE

Community Board 8 is packed with bars, restaurants and sidewalk cafes. The number of inspectors to oversee this concentration of establishments is inadequate. CB8 has regularly requested additional inspectors to insure compliance with the sidewalk café and pedestrian obstruction regulations.

2.3.1 Liquor Licenses

CB8 reviews and makes a recommendation to the New York State Liquor Authority on roughly 400 liquor applications each year. While the many bars on the Upper East Side make CB8 an entertainment center, several of these bars are the source of noise and quality of life complaints. CB8 receives complaints on hours of operation, music volume and hours, incidents of violence and general neighborliness. Like many Community Boards in the five boroughs, CB8 attempts to encourage good behavior by bar owners. CB8 finds communicating with the New York State Liquor Authority a struggle, although there has been some recent improvement. CB8 supports changes to the law that would make the Authority more responsive to the needs and desires of the community.

2.3.2 Sidewalk Cafes

The Street Life Committee carefully reviews all plans for new enclosed and unenclosed sidewalk cafes and all applications for renewals of these consents. The Board office refers complaints to the Department of Consumer Affairs that may result in citations or fines and on occasion, the confiscation of illegal tables and chairs.

CB8 believes more inspectors are needed to monitor and enforce cafe guidelines. CB8 often receives complaints about restaurants operating without a valid cafe license, with more tables and/or chairs than allowed by their license, cafes extending beyond their authorized area and cafes operating beyond their allowed hours of operation. CB8 is pleased that the Department of Consumer Affairs requires the posting of the allowable number of tables and chairs in restaurants. However, this regulation needs stronger enforcement as it is rarely followed.

2.3.3 Newsracks

The City Department of Transportation now regulates the placement, installation and maintenance of newsracks on City sidewalks. CB8 will continue to monitor the enforcement of the 2004 regulations. Unfortunately, there appears to be little effort made by the city to remove illegal or broken newsracks. The proliferation of newspaper vending machines and newsracks is a serious problem. On some corners as many as twenty newsracks clog the pedestrian walkways.

2.3.4 Public Pay Telephones

The Board also remains very concerned about the installation of privately owned public pay telephones on our sidewalks. Public pay telephones (PPTs) are very important to the residents and businesses of our district. PPT issues that have yet to be resolved include the enforcement of maintenance requirements to insure working telephones in a well maintained enclosure, the numbers and siting of PPTs, community notification, the rights of property owners, PPTs in historic districts and abutting landmarked properties, and the definition of nuisance telephones, among others. Community Board 8 wishes to foster a stronger working relationship with DoITT. DOITT has worked closely with CB8 on the issue of relocated PPTs removed from the Second Avenue construction zone.

2.3.5 Problem Nightclubs, Bars and Cabarets

The 19th Precinct's special detail, "Operation Last Call", targets unruly establishments. We urge the Police Department to continue assigning officers to "Operation Last Call" especially on Wednesday-Sunday nights. This problem remains serious enough to merit additional enforcement personnel. Known problem establishments in CB8 are spread over a large geographic area, unlike the situation in other parts of Manhattan. With large numbers of individuals hitting the street simultaneously at closing time, this often results in difficulty for the police to engage in preventive enforcement while responding to specific incidents. The 19th Precinct works closely with CB8 to target known areas of concern, but could use additional personnel during the overnight hours, particularly on weekends. Cabaret licenses are especially sensitive in our area given the highly residential nature of the community.

2.4 TRANSPORTATION

2.4.1 Highways and Streets

Community Board 8 has consistently ranked funding for street repair and maintenance high on its list of priorities, and we applaud the NYC Department of Transportation's Manhattan Highway Maintenance Division on the job they do managing this substantial task, especially in light of its need for an additional pothole gang, that the Board strongly supports (FY10 #11, 3082008083E).

CB8 supported DOT's pilot bus pad project (FY04 #13, 3080107A). As these concrete areas at bus stops, which replace the standard asphalt, reduce the wear and tear on our streets, we hope to continue to work with DOT to find suitable locations for bus pads in our district.

Sidewalks remain a problem in our district. Many are no longer in safe condition. We ask the NYC Department of Transportation to make a top priority the enforcement of sidewalk repairs to ensure that all property owners maintain a safe sidewalk for all pedestrians and people with disabilities. We also asked the NYC Department of Finance and the City Council to look for ways to ease the burden on property owners whose sidewalks exist over vaults. The cost to repair these sidewalks, actually the vault roof, can be \$50,000, much more than standard sidewalk repair. In many cases, this imposes a burden on the property owner. Because many of these sidewalks go unrepaired, pedestrians must continue to navigate unsafe sidewalks.

Community Board 8 continues to support the installation of pedestrian ramps and the maintenance and repair of the existing ramps (FY10, #18, 308200605E). Ramps are important not only for wheelchair users and the disabled, but also for senior citizens with shopping carts and parents with baby carriages.

We have strongly urged the installation of pedestrian countdown timers at dangerous intersections (FY10 #18, 308201005C). While we are pleased that DOT is planning a pilot program at 24 intersections citywide, we are disappointed that none of these locations are in CB8.

On Roosevelt Island, residents have requested that Main Street be repaved. We will work with the appropriate City and State agencies, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, and the Island residents to evaluate Main Street and develop a timetable for completion of this needed work. The Board also supports the reconstruction of the Roosevelt Island Bridge, currently underway, and funding for the full reconstruction of the Roosevelt Island Seawall (FY10 #5, 308200507C) which has been breached in several locations.

2.4.2 Traffic

We encourage the Department of Transportation to improve bike lanes throughout the city so that recreational bicyclists, messengers, delivery people and others riders may travel safely through the city streets.

Community Board 8 supports stronger enforcement of drivers running red lights and stop signs, reckless and

unlicensed commercial and recreational bicyclists, bicyclists on sidewalks and bus lane violators. We urge the issuance of summonses for horn honking as this is one of the major noise complaints received by the Community Board 8 office. Traffic enforcement, especially at peak travel times, remains one of Community Board 8's highest priorities. In particular, we are concerned about the following conditions:

1) The Queensboro Bridge area. Over 179,125 cars and trucks exit the Bridge daily.^v They often travel at high speeds, creating a danger for pedestrians and other vehicles. Congestion, gridlock, and air pollution are all ongoing problems. Unnecessary horn honking creates intolerable noise for nearby residents. Community Board 8 continues to work with our elected officials, the Police and the DOT Commissioner regarding these concerns. We strongly urge the Mayor and the Police Commissioner to fund and permanently assign traffic enforcement agents to the area as well as the district's cross-town streets: 72nd, 79th, 86th and 96th.

2) Public safety. We are pleased that the Administration is directing more police attention to traffic-related violations -- i.e. running red lights, double-parking and blocking the crosswalk ("blocking the box"). However, more needs to be done. The Board supports strict enforcement of all traffic laws.

Community Board 8 supports the Red-Light Camera Program, which photographs drivers in the act of running red lights. There are currently three cameras in District 8. We have encouraged the Department of Transportation to install others, particularly at Lexington Avenue and E. 86th Street. We are pleased that the State has authorized a total of 100 cameras citywide. We urge City and State officials to expand this program even further and allow the installation of decoy cameras, as well.

3) Traffic control at intersections. Many intersections in our district are difficult for pedestrians to navigate safely. Intersections such as East 96th Street and First Avenue, East 96th Street at the FDR Drive, East 71st, 72nd and 73rd Streets at York Avenue, intersections around the Queensboro Bridge and Greater Bridgemarket Area, and intersections along the East 86th Street corridor all present safety problems. A particularly bad intersection in the Board 8 area is 79th Street and York Avenue where express buses, group taxi lines and illegal vans converge near the entrance to the FDR Drive. This intersection has an unusually high incidence of traffic accidents involving both property and human loss. Hundreds of elementary school children from P.S. 158 and hundreds of elderly individuals use this intersection several times a day. Community Board 8 has recommended a four-way red light (Barnes Dance) at this intersection and increased enforcement.

Community Board 8 has requested traffic control agents at: East 79th Street and East End Avenue; near the entrances and exits to the FDR Drive on York Avenue at East 62nd and 63rd Street; and at the Queensboro Bridge exit ramps at East 61st Street and East 63rd Street between First and Second Avenues. We continue to oppose service cuts in traffic control and enforcement and we urge the retention of traffic control agents along York Avenue in the vicinity of the entrances and exits to the Drive.

Furthermore, we have requested additional traffic engineering staff be hired by DOT to address problem intersections, and the agency has agreed additional staff is necessary. We look forward to working with agency staff to alleviate safety problems at difficult intersections.

The installation and maintenance of street and parking signs, lampposts (FY10 CS, 308199907C), traffic signals, and other traffic devices is of paramount importance to Community Board 8. Over the years we have supported increasing the amount of funding available for producing new signage, especially for the production of signs specific to the needs of certain blocks, and for the bucket trucks and personnel to install them (FY10 #12, 308200802C). Due to cuts to the NYC Department of Transportation's budget, the number of crews available to install or change signs has been drastically reduced, resulting in long waiting periods for the installation of signs, and occasional confusion regarding the rules in effect at a given location. Community Board 8's Transportation Committee regularly considers requests from local businesses and residents for changes in parking signage. Changes recommended by the Board often address traffic congestion and/or public safety concerns on particular blocks.

Community Board 8 is pleased that the New York City Council has begun to authorize licenses for commuter vans that had been operating illegally and without adequate insurance or inspections. Only when these vans are properly regulated to ensure safe operation should any consideration be given to their use as an alternative mode of transportation.

Community Board 8 has fully supported the plans to reconstruct the 81st Street pedestrian bridge over the FDR Drive (FTY10 CS, #308201010C) and still await a revised design proposal from DDC for the Bridge.

2.4.3 Public Transportation

Large numbers of residents, daily workers and visitors contribute to traffic congestion, noise, pollution, and crowded streets and sidewalks. With only one subway line traveling the East Side, public transit continues to be overwhelmed. The MTA/NYC Transit must work with commuters and the Board to address service issues such as punctuality, bus bunching and dwell times.

We strongly support the MTA's Select Bus Service (a/k/a Bus Rapid Transit) on the M15 Line. We look forward to working with the MTA on developing the final plans for this enhanced service.

The implementation of articulated buses results in the de facto reduction in service due to the decreased number of buses from four to three during peak periods, from five to four during non-peak hours, the increased dwell time, and time between buses.

The Lexington Avenue IRT subway carries hundreds of thousands of commuters each day and is more than 110% over capacity at rush hour. With the completion of the East Side Access project in 2019 an additional 19,000 riders are expected during rush hour on the Lexington Avenue IRT at the Grand Central Terminal. Regarding the Second Avenue Subway, we are grateful to our elected officials who have lobbied for this desperately needed subway expansion, and we are pleased that Phase One has is scheduled to open in December 2016. At that time, it will carry some 210,000 passengers. This construction has created a new set of problems for the residents and businesses in the work zone. We have urged local government to provide funding in support of local businesses hurt by the construction work (FY10 #20, 308201002E) Our Second Avenue Subway Task Force works actively with the MTA and local officials to help mitigate these temporary situations.

We oppose any cuts to north-south service, which has faced continuing, severe cuts over the past several years. In particular, we call on NYC Transit to restore service on the M31, M79, M66, M30, M86, M15 and the X90-92. We urge the restoration of everyday service on the M30 and increased frequency on the M31 route.

The large number of express buses that travel daily through our city streets belching fumes and barreling through red lights on their way to and from midtown continues to be of great concern. The Board recommends no new or renewed franchises until the Department of City Planning completes its study of express bus policy.

The Board continues to urge the MTA/NYC Transit and the Department of Transportation to phase out diesel buses and replace both the private and public transit fleets with natural gas-powered vehicles and efficient, cleaner burning hybrids. We are pleased that natural gas buses will be eligible for funding under the State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act.

We are pleased that the city has developed plans to institute ferry service to Roosevelt Island. We have consistently supported increased ferry service on the East River and have requested the complete restoration of the East 90th Street pier for many years (FY10 CS, #30820703C)

2.5 HOUSING

New York has often led the nation in responding to housing needs and concerns. In 1864 the New York Council of Hygiene of the Citizens Association mounted a campaign to raise housing standards, while in 1901 New York State passed the Tenement House Law, the legislative basis for addressing the lack of light, air and space in tenements. City and Suburban Housing was designed to accommodate more light and air. The Emergency Tenant Protection Act of 1974 states that an emergency exists if the rental vacancy rate is 5 percent or less. Today, with a citywide rental vacancy rate of 3 percent, the New York area housing market continues to be defined as a housing emergency.

Community District 8 is home to 161,142 households. Of those households 42,487 are owner households and 79,622 are renter households^{vi}. Over 98 percent of owner households live in housing types classified as either a cooperative or a condominium. The Upper East Side rental vacancy rate is 2.8 percent. Approximately 52 percent of renter households pay rent in excess of 30 percent of their income; another 23 percent of renter households pay more than 50 percent of their income toward rent. The median monthly gross rent in 2009 was \$1,735. The district encompasses a wide range of housing forms including condominiums, cooperatives, market rate and rent regulated housing. Of renter households, 35 percent live in market rate. Regulated housing includes rent stabilization (54 percent of renter households), Mitchell-Lama, public housing, and rent control.

In response to New York City's (NYC) and the district's lack of sufficient affordable housing units; the Committee has voiced its overall support of retaining and increasing affordable housing in the district. Additionally, the Committee recommends rescinding the NYC Administration Code §26-511, C, 9 of the NYC Rent Stabilization Law of 1969, a law that has increased institutional expansion within the district. More specifically, the law allows not-for-profit building owners to refuse to renew a tenant's lease if the not-for-profit will use the housing accommodations in furtherance of its mission; thereby eliminating affordable housing units forever.

The Housing Committee advises and assists residents with district-wide housing issues; proactively impacting city housing policy to better address housing concerns in the district as a whole; and raises the level of discourse to ensure that the housing needs of residents figure prominently in the planning of our community. Community Board 8's Housing committee focuses on educating district residents about housing issues ranging from rent control/rent stabilization, senior/elderly housing concerns/issues, Mitchell-Lama housing; and cooperatives and condominiums concerns.

The Housing Committee has held town hall forums examining a variety of housing subjects including: indoor air quality, emergency preparedness, the tax and legislative issues of cooperatives/condominiums shareholders/owners; women and housing discrimination, rent control/rent stabilization; and affordable housing.

2.6 PUBLIC SAFETY

CB8 maintains a close working relationship with the 19th Precinct, Manhattan North, the Central Park Precinct, and the 114th Precinct, which serves Roosevelt Island from Queens. CB8 commends the NY Police Department for the amazing work it has done with reduced staff to reduce crime, catch criminals, and confiscates weapons and contraband. CB8 looks forward to continued success in these areas. CB8 residents continue to volunteer to be civilian crime watchers.

CB8 remains concerned with the movement of uniformed personnel to specialized units resulting in a reduction in the number of uniformed personnel on the streets. The on-going development on Roosevelt Island has produced greater vehicular traffic and variety of public safety concerns. CB8 feels there is a need for an NYPD substation on Roosevelt Island. Additionally, CB8 supports the restoration of funding for police civilian employees to fill administrative and clerical positions lost due to City budget cuts. A full corps of uniformed personnel will continue the historic reductions in crime. We look forward to working with the Police Department towards restoring the precincts to their full complement of officers.

CB8 is also concerned about quality-of-life problems. Bicycling, rollerblading and scooters on the sidewalks and in our parks can be dangerous. Reckless cyclists and rollerblades, endanger pedestrians, resulting in injuries especially to the elderly and children. CB8 applauds the 19th Precinct's efforts to decrease this problem through outreach and enforcement and encourages the Central Park Precinct to address this problem in Central Park. CB8 encourages the NYPD to pay special attention to all traffic violations, whether committed by bicyclists or drivers. CB8 commends the police for expanding the program to confiscate illegally used bicycles.

CB8 is home to approximately 345 bars and restaurant, which provide food and gathering to metropolitan NYC. The 19th Precinct has responded to the community's complaints about disruptive bars. A special detail - Operation Last Call - patrols the area. Operation MARCH (Multi-Agency Response to Community Hotspots) which involves the NY Police and Fire Departments, the NYC Departments of Buildings, Environmental Protection, and Health, and the NY State Liquor Authority targets underage drinking, health, building and fire code violations, and noise complaints. Most nightlife establishments are operated responsibly. CB8 supports the 19th Precinct's efforts to control community nuisances. We encourage the expansion of both Operation Last Call and Operation MARCH.

CB8 supports full funding for all fire and emergency medical services in our district and citywide. CB8 is particularly concerned about the loss of fire marshals in recent years, and we have requested the restoration of funding for these personnel (FY10 #15, 308200603E).

2.7 PARKS AND RECREATION

The population density of Community Board 8 makes our parks and greenery a precious commodity. Although our district is adjacent to Central Park, open space in CB8M is woefully inadequate. According to results of a new survey by the organization, New Yorkers for Parks, Manhattan's Upper East Side has among the least amount of open space of any New York City district.

Specifically, New Yorkers' for Parks' data show that the Upper East Side has only 0.07 acres per 1,000 people of open space for active uses, such as play areas, gardens and sports and only 0.26 acres of passively used open space for sitting and relaxing. Those amounts fall far short of the norm for an area of 1 acre per 1,000 residents of active open space and 1.5 acres per 1,000 people for passively used open space. Indeed, some 20,000 Upper East Side residents near Second Avenue don't live within walking distance of any park, reports New Yorkers for Parks

Community Board 8, Manhattan, has been working to protect and expand on the limited park facilities in our district. In April, 2013 CB8M's Parks Committee co-sponsored with New Yorkers for Parks a forum on the need for more public open space on the Upper East Side. Held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, this event brought together major thought-leaders, including Holly Leicht, executive director of New Yorkers for Parks; Fred Kent, president of Project for Public Spaces; Dan Barasch, co-founder of the Lowlane Project; and City Council Member Dan Garodnick. These four panelists shed light on ways to gain the additional green space the CB8M community needs.

Even before the forum, the Parks Committee had noticed a growing public interest in expanding open space. The Committee will be following up on ideas generated by the forum and encouraging even more public attention to this crucial quality-of-life issue.

All the while, the Committee continues to champion the need for reconstruction and redesign of the East River Esplanade—a project the committee launched with a forum several years ago. As a follow-up to that seminal event, several Parks Committee members have been participating in an East River Task Force, headed by City Council Member Jessica Lappin and Congress Member Carolyn Maloney. Expanding on the work of that group, the Parks Committee soon will be creating a list of desired Esplanade improvement projects in the CB8M district.

Over the past three years, the Parks Committee has initiated and championed the creation of an Older Adults Recreation Center in John Jay Park. This project, which includes new benches, chess and checkers tables, exercise equipment, safety surfacing and other amenities, is now nearing completion.

As for Central Park, the Committee has been pleased by an array of landscaping improvements and on-going maintenance that keeps this landmarked area a treasure. Among the many projects the committee has addressed: review of the redesign for several of the park's playgrounds and open spaces; review of plans to redesign the park's East 69th St. entrance and pathway; and, approval of plans by the DOT and Central Park Conservancy to move a lane of traffic along Terrace Drive to create space for a second bike lane along that roadway. In addition, the committee remains vigilant about biking issues in the park—and the need to enforce biking rules.

To promote beautification in the CB8M area, the committee has approved of an array of art installations along the Park Avenue Mall and in Tramway Park. However, the community still urgently needs more trees, both for beautification and air quality purposes. Many local trees have been felled for the creation of the Second Avenue Subway, leaving the community woefully short of the number of trees needed in this heavily built-up area. Worsening the problem, 2012's Hurricane Sandy destroyed numerous trees along the East River Esplanade. The Committee will be continuing to work with public officials and community groups to obtain replacements for lost trees—and to promote efforts to find more green spaces and public parkland so badly needed in CB8M.

2.8 ANDREW HASWELL GREEN PARK

Community Board 8 has developed a 197-a plan for the site. By creating a new waterfront park at the former heliport site, the city will bring much needed open space to our community. Phase I of the park has been completed. Planning for Phase II has been completed. The Pavilion area of Phase IIa is expected to go out for bid October 2013 and hopefully start construction in Spring 2014. Phase IIb has come to a halt because the

Inspection by engineers has determined that the pilings under the Waterfront Level of the Park have deteriorated due to the marine borers and need reinforcement/replacement. The waterfront level work cannot start until these funds are identified and obtained. This may be happening with the building of the CUNY/MSK Project. They have proposed Incentive Zoning for this site which would cover these costs. Planning for Phase III has not yet begun

2.9 HEALTH, SENIORS, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CB8M supports both public and private sector efforts to assist the large and diverse population in our community.

Our district is served by several world-renowned private hospitals, among them: Hospital for Special Surgery; Lenox Hill Hospital and its subsidiary, Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Institute (both now part of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System); Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; New York-Presbyterian; and Rockefeller University Hospital. We welcome North Shore-LIJ Health System to our community.

Our district is also home to Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island; Coler-Goldwater is the only NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation facility in CB8M and the only hospital to include long-term care among its specialties. We are concerned about what impact the coming transformation of Roosevelt Island will have on Coler-Goldwater and the patients who rely on it both for medical services and for long-term care.

The population of our district includes the largest percentage of older adults, 60+, in Manhattan (20.8%). A significant percentage of these (21.5%) live below the poverty level, or are frail, or both. Contrary to popular perception, it also includes a varying but seemingly growing number of individuals without shelter. In addition, soup kitchens, food pantries, and other food programs are seeing growing numbers of people, including more women and children and families, turning to them to augment their diets.

A primary and consistent concern for our board is protecting the senior centers and programs that provide services to seniors regardless of income. These centers and programs provide older members of the community with social interaction and nutrition, two elements vital to maintaining their long-term health and wellbeing. It is imperative that senior center budgets be included in the Mayor's budget, and we urge that in the future critical senior programs such as case management and elder abuse prevention be treated as essential budget items.

The main programs for seniors are offered by Lenox Hill Neighborhood House (partially funded by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center (a NYCHA facility), Carter Burden Center for the Aging, Roosevelt Island Senior Center, and Search and Care. CB8M has advocated for maintaining NYCHA social service programs, including the NYCHA senior centers at Lenox Hill and Stanley Isaacs, congregate meal programs, and the youth, family, and after school programs.

CB8M remains strongly in favor of continued support for homeless services and supports public and private sector efforts to assist the diverse homeless population in our community. Given the Bloomberg administration's termination of the Advantage program, a top capital priority is increased funding for permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and families.

Lenox Hill operates the Park Avenue Women's Mental Health Shelter. This shelter, which is located in the Park Avenue Armory, was in desperate need of modernization. We again urge the city to take all steps necessary to ensure that the rehabilitation of this important haven for women is completed in a timely fashion.

We support the efforts of the faith-based organizations to maintain their homeless shelter beds and of the food pantries in and out of our district to continue their work of feeding our hungry.

Overall, the area of homeless services continues to be one of loss and insufficiency. The absence of the services the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc. (NCS) provided for almost two continues to be felt and underpins the urgent need for programs that address the needs of the homeless. In addition, we remain disappointed that homeless outreach services were consolidated in one central agency outside our district and outreach to CB8M street homeless individuals is no longer provided by a local organization.

We are particularly concerned that with the city's homeless population at record setting levels, the Department

for Homeless Services saw fit to promulgate, and persists in its attempts to implement, new shelter eligibility rules deemed likely to further swell the numbers of homeless single individuals.

CB8M continues to support strongly the services and programs aimed at aiding those of our community who are in need; they remain critically important. CB8M urges the city to respond strongly to this growing segment of our city's population.

2.10 LIBRARIES

For more than a century, the New York Public Library has provided quality service to all New Yorkers. The branch libraries are an important public resource for local residents, especially senior citizens and students. CB8 supports the funding for the expansion of the Roosevelt Island Library branch of the New York Public Library (FY 10 #10 308200704C) and the renovation of the Carnegie Branch Library (FY 09 #7 308200601C). RIOC is discussing alternative spaces with the NY Library, which would be conducive to expansion and more centrally located as the island's population grows.

The library budget must be maintained. CB8 urges the Mayor and the City Council to maintain funding for the operating costs to allow the continuation of 6 day a week service at all branches. We also urge increased funding for infrastructure, technological improvements and library materials, particularly increased funding for books, periodicals, and other information resources in all our branch libraries. The system-wide replacement of Checkpoint Booktheft Detection System should be completed by 2011 in all branches and central units, costing \$1.2M. Funding should be found to allow libraries to operate at full hours (i.e. 10-5 Monday through Saturday) and expanded evening hours at least twice a week.

As sources of information have evolved, the Library has kept pace, offering one of the only free points of access to the internet in New York City. CB8 believes that all New Yorkers should have free opportunities to use electronic resources. Since the recession of 2008, the libraries have become a resource to assist person seeking employment.

CB8 advocates for barrier-free access at all our branch libraries. Senior citizens and disabled are entitled to use this public resource.

Too many librarians are leaving for other jobs. CB8 urges the Mayor, the City Council, and the New York Public Library to fund adequate, competitive salaries and benefits for city librarians and staff, including specialized children's librarians.

2.11 YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Community Board 8 applauds the DOE for finding permanent homes for PS 151 and 267, as well as starting a new elementary school PS 527 located in the former Our Lady of Good Council school. Community Board 8 is extremely concerned about the cutback in capital and expense funding which results in: overcrowding in our community district; conversion of cluster rooms to regular class rooms and a lack of specialty teachers for art, music etc. for the schools in our district.

Community Board 8 has been engaged with the Department of Education about the future space that was vacated by East Side Middle School at PS 158. The DOE listened to the community and made it a middle school and are in the process of holding hearings on a school that is half screened and half limited unscreened. However they did not state the criteria for the screening process and the parents were adamant they did not want it based solely on test scores.

Community Board 8 is concerned that funding for youth programs in our community remains inadequate given the need (FY13, #2 308200518E). We are consistently dismayed by budget cuts that target youth services.

The need for these programs is very clear. While some children on the Upper East Side enjoy the benefits of private schools, many others rely on after-school programs and weekend sports activities run by Community Based Organizations. A longstanding concern of Community Board 8 has been the lack of recognition on the part of the City and the State of the number of programs that serve large numbers of non-resident youth. This has resulted in a small allocation of community share funds particularly to our UES district.

Community Board 8 is concerned about the insufficient number of public pre-kindergarten programs to serve our growing three and four year old populations. We strongly recommend the addition of more public pre-kindergarten seats in Community District 8. Pre-kindergarten is essential to providing quality foundation

education, social and development skill development. Without available pre-kindergarten seats in our community district, parents will either have to privately fund early education for their children or commute outside of their neighborhoods to attend public pre-k programs in other community districts.

Community Board 8 supports the funding for student tuition subsidies for the City University of New York, particularly in light of the current economic situation. As home to Hunter College, we recognize the importance of CUNY to both students and the city. The renovation of Hunter College Library would only enhance Hunter College.

The Board also recognizes the importance of providing adequate day care and after school facilities for our children. There are many Community Board 8 residents, especially single working parents, who need affordable day care and after school programs, but whose income slightly surpasses eligibility requirements. Additional Affordable programs are essential. We continue to request increased funding for childcare and after-school programs, including infant care (FY13 #1, 308200801E).

An important issue yet to be adequately addressed is the need for programs to prevent abuse and neglect (FY13 #17, 308199707E). Community Board 8 feels that there is a need for strong evidence-based programs to provide intensive support to at-risk families. Such therapies will increase family functioning while reducing the need for unnecessary and costly out of home care.

2.13 ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION

Community Board 8 (CB8) is responsive to residents' concerns about sanitation and the environment. The cleanliness of our streets and neighborhoods is of great importance to our community and is related to successful business operations, to our well-being, and to the quality of life. In an integrated approach to a cleaner community, we support frequent sanitation inspections and efforts to consistently maintain presentable clean-swept sidewalks and streets.

CB8 is extremely concerned about the possibility of gas drilling via hydraulic fracturing in New York State, including within the watersheds that supply NYC's drinking water. In June 2012, CB8 hosted a Q&A panel on hydraulic fracturing broadcast on the CB8 Speaks Cable TV show that aired on July 28th and featured guests from the Natural Resources Defense Fund and the Manhattan Borough President's Office. The session also included attention on concerns about a proposed Spectra Gas Pipeline, including in regard to potential risks pertaining to radon. We passed a resolution in September 2010 calling for a moratorium on gas drilling by means of hydraulic fracturing at least within the Catskill/Delaware watershed region, unless and until it may be determined by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and other decision makers that hydraulic fracturing is safe to practice within NYS, including posing no threat to NYC's water supply. We also requested that NYS DEC convene one or more public meetings in New York City, including in Manhattan CB8, to discuss environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. And, CB8 requested in its resolution that NYC DEP should report upon the possible risk of hydraulic fracturing on the NYC drinking water supply, including in context of the 1997 Watershed Agreement and Filtration Avoidance Determination.

In another matter pertaining to drinking water, CB8 passed a resolution in February 2012 in favor of DEP's proposal to build a bypass tunnel to facilitate repair of the Delaware Aqueduct in order to ensure that DEP can continue to deliver high quality drinking water every day to NYC, and further resolved that this support is contingent DEP minimizing and mitigating potential environmental impacts in the areas where the work is to be performed, and upon DEP having an adequate plan in place to supplement the water supply with high-quality drinking water during the shut-down phase of up to 6 to 15 months of the Delaware Aqueduct.

Community Board 8 remains deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of the Marine Transfer Station (MTS) on 91st Street. Residents remember when the MTS was formerly in use and recall the odors, noise, vermin and sanitation trucks lined up from 91st Street to 86th Street. Since the time that the MTS was last in operation the population of the area has expanded; especially significant has been the increase in the number of children.

The current proposed site of the MTS bisects Asphalt Green, a New York City Park. Asphalt Green services thousands of residents per year, and is also a space for school children all over the city to participate in school athletics (many thousands of asthma afflicted children use this facility). In addition, there is also a day camp in the summer. When the MTS was previously in operation, it created an offensive environment for the campers and many children were forced to leave the program because they were getting sick from the noxious odors.

The Marine Transfer Station is adjacent to four parks including Carl Schurz, Asphalt Green and DeKovats, Mill Rock Island and sits across from a NYC Landmark – Gracie Mansion. Community Board 8 seeks to preserve this valuable parkland. CB8 also is concerned that the proposed facility is located in a Hurricane Flood Zone A with a 1% annual chance of flooding according to FEMA, and is in close proximity to the 125th Street Fault Line where significant tremors occurred as recently as 2001. CB8 highlighted concerns about flooding and earthquake in its 2008 testimony to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Mill Rock is officially designated a Park. CB8 passed a resolution on June 15, 2011 in opposition to the MTS at E. 91st street or in any residential neighborhood at a public meeting that helped lead to the formation of Residents for Sane Trash Solutions – a community-based organization that has been leading the charge in opposition to the proposed MTS. A subsequent CB8 neighborhood meeting was convened at Asphalt Green on February 27, 2012 attended by hundreds of community members who came to learn more about the plans, express their concerns about the proposed MTS and to pose questions to the NYC Department of Sanitation Deputy Commissioner who provided a presentation at the meeting. On June 19, 2013, CB8 passed proposed and passed a resolution at its Full Board meeting highlighting concerns about flooding in response to an informational presentation made during the meeting by the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) constructed a vertical water supply shaft, Shaft 33B, to bring water from City Tunnel No. 3 to the local water distribution system in East Manhattan and the Upper East Side in Manhattan. Construction of City Tunnel No 3, Stage 2 – Manhattan leg is currently proceeding beneath Manhattan. The shaft would be an unmanned underground facility capable of conveying water from the new City Tunnel No. 3 to the surface distribution system that serves East Midtown and the Upper East Side. The site is located on the northwest corner of E. 59th Street and First Avenue adjacent to the Queensboro Bridge in Community District 8. The Shaft 33B project would also involve water main construction required to connect the new shaft with the existing subsurface water distribution system that serves the East Midtown and Upper East Side areas. Two water main connections are to extend from the Shaft 33B Site beneath the City streets, connecting the shaft to a trunk-main at Third Avenue.

The Community Board continued to meet with the DEP and DDC to monitor the construction of the East 59th Street water main. The Community Board is also concerned about the start/completion of the secondary main and if 14 Honey Locust Park will be used during this part of the project. Community Board 8 also seeks the full restoration of Honey Locust Park, which was used as a Shaft 33B water main staging area for these many years.

Noise complaints remains a major quality of life issue for Community Board 8. Noisy traffic (particularly unnecessary and illegal horn honking), and noisy nightlife establishments are a large problem. Technology to measure the frequency, decibel levels of noise and vibrations, as well as the cumulative effect of noise sources, should be employed. We support increased funding to restore personnel for enforcement of air and noise codes.

CB8 also has been concerned about the continued operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant and passed a resolution in May 2011 that calls on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to independently and objectively evaluate the safety, security, and environmental standards of the Indian Point nuclear power plant as well as its evacuation plan, before it considers renewing its reactor licenses.

2.14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.14.1 Business Improvement Districts

CB8 works with the Madison Avenue Business Improvement District, the East Midtown Partnership and the DOE Fund on a range of issues. CB8 efforts on traffic and quality of life are critical to our local businesses.

2.14.2 Street Vendors

The impact of street vending remains a very serious issue throughout CB8. The Board office and the Vendor Committee Chair receive daily complaints about peddlers and vendors operating on the street. Most licensed general merchandise vendors are non-compliant with vendor law and regulations and operate with oversized or unapproved displays that often block building entrances, fire hydrants and crosswalks.

Food truck vendors are most often parked at meters or in “No Parking” and” No Standing” zones throughout the district, and when they feed the meters, they take important parking spots meant for

business customers.

Food vendors that cook on the street offend passer-byes, street level businesses and low floor apartments and offices, as strong, potent odors penetrate these premises.

Our Community Board has passed four major resolutions regarding the control, monitoring and restraint of street vendors and has been actively engaged in having our suggestions become law.

Fruit vendors who position themselves in front of bodegas, fruit markets and supermarkets are having a significant negative impact on those businesses as they undercut their pricing because they have no overhead. Their large inventory trucks park illegally by their curb and keep them supplied with fruit all day long, thus allowing them to operate 24 hours a day. Most do not leave because they don't want to lose their spots.

Trucks parking on restricted streets inhibit ambulance and emergency vehicles from passing safely and in a timely manner.

We have been working tirelessly with the 19th Precinct to effect enforcement and thank them for their effort, but only a separate, designated vendor enforcement squad will really make the difference to enforcement of existing law and quality of life for residents and businesses in our community.

We believe that there is strong support for a separate vendor enforcement squad that could be self-funding, and that it will be very difficult to ameliorate the existing situation without such a squad and increased police presence.

Please allocate funds towards this effort.

ⁱNYC Department of City Planning Website: www.nyc.gov/planning

ⁱⁱNYC Department of City Planning Website: www.nyc.gov/planning

ⁱⁱⁱNYC Department of City Planning Website: www.nyc.gov/planning

^{iv}NYC Department of City Planning Website: www.nyc.gov/planning

^v2009 Hub Bound Report: www.nymtc.org/files/hub_bound/2009_HUB_BOUND_REPORT.pdf

^{vi} NYU Furman Centers 2010 State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods Annual Report <http://furmancenter.org/research/sonychan/>