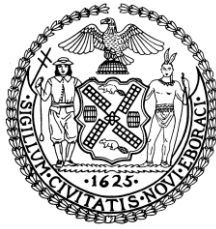


Alida Camp
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Budget Committee
Monday, October 7, 2019 - 6:30PM
Community Board 8 Manhattan Office
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620**

Attendance: P. Gayle Baron, Alida Camp, Barbara Chocky, Rebecca Dangoor, Judy Scheinder, Will Brightbill, Marco Furtes, Gabriele Mels

The Committee approved the FY21 Priorities and District Needs Statement by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed.

FY2021 District Needs and Budget Priorities

FY 2021 Capital Budget Priorities

1. **Request:** Other request for services for the homeless

Explanation: DHS should work closely with HPD to fund much needed housing for the most vulnerable of our residents. We ask that this request be given the necessary funding and highest priority in the Five-Year Plan.

Responsible Agency: Department of Homeless Services

2. **Request:** Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Provide funding for a ramp or other means of accessibility at the Yorkville Branch Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

Location: Yorkville Branch

3. **Request:** Other Park facilities and access requests

Explanation: Provide funding to repair, restore, and design the entire Esplanade including the piling on the lower level between 60th and 125th Streets, and install belowground infrastructure to expand water access along the entire Esplanade.

Responsible Agency:

4. **Request:** Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Provide funding for a new HVAC system at the Webster and Yorkville Branch Libraries.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

5. **Request:** Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals

Explanation: Increase funding for audible accessible crossing signals for intersections in CD8.

Responsible Agency: DOT

6. **Request:** Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Explanation: Provide funding to redesign and renovate Ruppert as a whole, including the installation of new irrigation to improve and expand planting areas.

Responsible Agency: Parks

7. **Request:** Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Explanation: Provide funding to redesign and renovate John Jay Park as a whole.

Responsible Agency: Parks

8. **Request:** Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

Explanation: Fund the NYC Department of Sanitation for the placement of "rat-proof" garbage containers with lids in CD8, preferably solar powered compactor baskets. We ask the agency to work closely with neighborhood groups and local BIDs to find funding for this request.

Responsible Agency: DSNY

9. **Request:** Other street trees and forestry services requests

Explanation: Install new trees where missing.

Responsible Agency: Parks

10. **Request:** Other street trees and forestry services requests

Explanation: Install tree guards where they are missing or when new trees go in, and extend the tree beds where needed.

Responsible Agency: Parks

11. **Request:** Upgrade existing facilities for the homeless

Explanation: Provide funding for air conditioning in all homeless shelters.

Responsible Agency: Department of Homeless Services

12. **Request:** Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Upgrade electrical system at Webster Branch Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

13. **Request:** Other park facilities and access requests

Explanation: Fund a fully built park along the East River between 60th and 63rd Streets on the Esplanade including future phases 2B & 3 of Andrew Haswell Green Park.

Responsible Agency: Parks

14. **Request:** Other requests for park, building, or access improvements

Explanation: Fund the return of the Queensboro Oval to the community for year round public use.

Responsible Agency:

15. **Request:** Other affordable housing programs requests

Explanation: Provide more affordable housing for all low and middle income New Yorkers.

Responsible Agency: HPD

16. **Request:** Renovate or upgrade a senior center

Explanation: Fund the bathroom repair at Stanley Isaacs.

Responsible Agency: Department for the Aging

Location: Stanley Isaacs Senior Center

Address: 415 East 93rd Street

Capital Projects Continued Support:

Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Fund the expansion of the Roosevelt Island Branch of the NYC Public Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Provide funding for rooftop repairs for the East 67th Street Branch Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Provide funding for new HVAC systems at the 67th Street Branch Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

Request: Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library

Explanation: Fund exterior rehabilitation of windows and replace where needed at the 96th Street Branch Library.

Responsible Agency: NYPL

FY2020 Expense Budget Priorities

1. **Request:** Other educational programs requests

Explanation: Fund 3-K and Pre-K seats in CD8.

Responsible Agency: DOE

2. **Request:** Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for elementary school students

Explanation: Fund Out of School Time and DayCare programs for all children who go to school in CD8 or who have parents that work in CD8.

Responsible Agency: DYCD

3. **Request:** Other youth workforce development requests

Explanation: Increase funding for youth programs in CD8.

Responsible Agency: DYCD

4. **Request:** Other animal and pest control requests

Explanation: Increase funding for rodent extermination on city streets.

Responsible Agency: DOHMH

5. **Request:** Other park maintenance and safety requests

Explanation: Preserve funding for year round workers and Associate Parks and Recreation Workers (APSW's) at NYC Parks and Recreation.

Responsible Agency: Parks

6. **Request:** Improve trash removal and cleanliness

Explanation: Provide funding for exterminators in all parks within CD8.

Responsible Agency: Parks

7. **Request:** Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)

Explanation: Provide funding to NYC DOT for necessary materials and personnel to repair potholes and repave avenues curb to curb and major crosstown streets more frequently than every 10 years within CD8.

Responsible Agency: DOT

8. **Request:** Enhance home care services

Explanation: Increase funding for services to older adults including Personal and Home Care, Transportation Services, Meals-On-Wheels, Senior Congregate Care Meal Programs and Case Managers

Responsible Agency: Dept for the Aging

9. **Request:** Other park maintenance and safety requests

Explanation: Increase funding for additional roving park maintenance staff, tree pruners and tree climbers.

Responsible Agency: Parks

10. **Request:** Expand street outreach
Explanation: Further increase funding for Homeless Services Outreach personnel, especially during the overnight hours and provide DHS with updated information technology equipment.
Responsible Agency: Dept of Homeless Services
11. **Request:** Other programs to address public health issues requests
Explanation: Increase funding for the Department of Health enforcement of all food vendor rules and regulations.
Responsible Agency: DOHMH
12. **Request:** Rehabilitate bridges
Explanation: Increase the number of workers to inspect, repair, and preserve the Department of Transportation's infrastructure-(Bridges and Roads).
Responsible Agency: DOT
13. **Request:** Expand building inspector training programs
Explanation: Hire additional DOB inspectors for compliance and code enforcement, and hire auditors for applications.
Responsible Agency: DOB
14. **Request:** Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth
Explanation: Provide additional funding for Children's Services, especially programs to prevent abuse and neglect.
Responsible Agency: ACS
15. **Request:** Assign additional traffic enforcement officers
Explanation: Provide additional funding to further increase the current number of Traffic Control agents.
Responsible Agency: NYPD
16. **Request:** Assign additional traffic enforcement officers
Explanation: Provide additional funding to expand the Truck Traffic Enforcement Unit.
Responsible Agency: NYPD
17. **Request:** Increase health inspections, e.g. for restaurants
Explanation: Provide funding for inspectors and enforcement personnel in agencies dealing with restaurants and food trucks.
Responsible Agency: DOHMH
18. **Request:** Enhance programs for elder abuse victims
Explanation: Provide funding for Eviction Prevention Services for At-Risk Senior Citizens.
Responsible Agency: Dept for the Aging
19. **Request:** Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs
Explanation: Restore Sunday service to one library in CD8 without cutting weekday hours.
Responsible Agency: NYPL
20. **Request:** Other garbage collection and recycling requests
Explanation: Increase recycling program including solid waste.
Responsible Agency: DSNY
21. **Request:** Renovate or upgrade NYCHA community facilities or open space
Explanation: Increase funding to ensure all NYCHA community and senior centers remain open. Maintain all current open space.
Responsible Agency: NYCHA

22. **Request:** DCA Inspectors

Explanation: Fund additional DCA inspectors for sidewalk cafes and compliance permits regulation enforcement.

Responsible Agency: Dept of Consumer Affairs

23. **Request:** Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness

Explanation: Provide more health and building inspectors for NYCHA facilities, and increase funding for maintenance

Responsible Agency: NYCHA

24. **Request:** Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)

Explanation: Fund additional PEP officers to enforce parks' rules in all CD8 parks.

Responsible Agency: Parks

25. **Request:** Provide rental assistance/vouchers for permanent housing

Explanation: Further increase funding for more permanent housing for homeless people.

Responsible Agency: Dept of Homeless Services

Fiscal Year 2021 District Needs Statement

Section 1: District Overview and Narrative

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. 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. Based on data from the 2000 census 6.5% of the individuals in the district live below the poverty level.

There is also a large segment of the population with special needs. More than 14% of CD8's residents are senior citizens, 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 have strained the delivery of municipal service.

Section 2: Most Pressing Issues Overall

Affordable Housing, Parks, and School

Affordable housing-In response to New York City's (NYC) and the district's lack of sufficient affordable housing units; the Board has voiced its overall support of retaining and increasing affordable housing in the district. Additionally, the Board recommends rescinding the NYC Administrative Code §26-511, C, 9 of the NYC Rent Stabilization Law of 1969, a law that has increased institutional expansion within the district.

Parks-The aging East River Esplanade in the CD8 has been crumbling, creating a dangerous situation for its many users. Repairing it is an urgent necessity. And by implementing the existing, proposed designs for the Esplanade's repairs and improvements, the City can create a vital and long-lasting public amenity.

Schools-We need Pre-K, elementary, middle and high school seats because our district is woefully lacking in these now, and we are being overwhelmed with new high-rise construction featuring 3,4, and 5 bedrooms, thus encouraging families to purchase. The increase in the number of school children in our district will further overwhelm the system and the crowding in the existing schools will diminish the quality of the education for everyone. Also, a good school system keeps families from moving out of the city, and these families form our tax base which is desperately needed so as to provide the other services that the city requires. School funding is a necessity in our district and will determine the fate of the city.

Section 3: Health Care and Human Services

Community Board 8 Manhattan remains strongly in favor of continued support for homeless services, mental health and substance abuse services, environmental health issues, senior services, domestic violence and elder abuse victims, and supports public and private sector efforts to assist the diverse population in our community.

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.

Section 3a: Health Care Facilities and Programming

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. A top capital priority is increased funding for permanent affordable housing for homeless individuals and families.

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. There is an urgent need for additional programs that address the root causes of homelessness.

Section 3b: Facilities and Programming for Older New Yorkers

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.

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 well-being. 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.

Section 3c: Facilities and Services for the Homeless

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.

Section 3d: Services and Programming for Low-Income and Vulnerable New Yorkers

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.

Section 4: Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Community Board 8 Manhattan would like to see more school seats including Pre-K seats in all schools within the district, after school programming, youth workforce development and summer employment, adolescent substance abuse, child welfare, adoption and foster care, mental health services for youth, etc.

Section 4a: Educational Facilities and Programs

CB8M 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 classrooms and a lack of specialty teachers for art, music, etc. for the schools in our district.

The Board and CD8 residents feel there is a great need for more Middle School seats in Community District 8, and supports increasing seats from 3-K to High School.

Section 4b: Services for Children and Child Welfare

The Board also recognizes the importance of providing adequate day care and after school facilities for our children. There are many CD8 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.

An important issue yet to be adequately addressed is the need for programs to prevent abuse and neglect. CB8M 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.

Section 4c: Youth and Community Services and Programs

The Board also recognizes the importance of providing adequate day care and after school facilities for our children. There are many CD8 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.

Section 5: Public Safety and Emergency Services

Community Board 8 Manhattan 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.

CB8M continues to be concerned about bike enforcement and the number of scams and fraud against the elderly and vulnerable as well as Grand Larceny and Pedestrian Safety cases. The Board is concerned about the rise of violent crimes in the district.

Section 5a: Policing and Crime

CB8M supports full funding for all fire and emergency medical services in our district and citywide. CB8M is particularly concerned about the loss of fire marshals in recent years, and we have requested the restoration of funding for these personnel.

Section 5b: Emergency Services

CB8M supports the maintenance of emergency response capacity. The Board supports provision of ambulances with a mobile stroke treatment units.

Section 6: Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Community Board 8 Manhattan is responsive to residents' concerns about sanitation and the environment. We receive numerous complaints and are trying to be responsive to our residents and businesses about sanitation and the environment. We continue to be concerned about the lack of corner baskets and request additional baskets which should be emptied on a more frequent basis. We strongly urge additional enforcement of commercial property owners who fail to clean their sidewalk and 18 inches from the curb into the street with emphasis on East 86th Street between Lexington and Second Avenues. We also need more garbage collections and street cleanings in an integrated approach to a cleaner community. We support more frequent sanitation inspections and efforts to consistently maintain presentable clean-swept sidewalks and streets.

Section 6a: Water, Sewers and Environmental Protection

With regards to drinking water, CB8M 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 upon 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.

CB8M supports additional inspections for flooding complaints, storm catch basins, and sewers. The Board supports additional resources for cleaning and maintenance of sewers and catch basins.

Section 6b: Sanitation Services

CB8M 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. We support the Adopt-a-Basket program, and additional resources for education related to this program.

Section 7: Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Community Board 8 Manhattan opposes the taking of any public space for private development, while we recognize the need for additional affordable housing in our district.

Section 7a: Land Use

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 tall story buildings on some avenues, which currently are allowed, strain the infrastructure and municipal services, and reduce access to light and air. The Board supports a height limitation of 210 feet for new developments on Third, Second, First and York Avenues.

CB8M and local civic groups have urged the Department of City Planning to review the Community Facility provisions of the Zoning Resolution. CD8 is the only district where community facilities are entitled to a 5.1 FAR in the R8B mid-blocks. CB8M 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.

CB8M seeks to preserve the Upper East Side's residential character. The C1 and C2 zoning (Local Retail Use) control commercial signage in the District. CB8M seeks to maintain a careful balance to prevent new buildings from detracting from CD8's historic districts. CB8M believes that new and more effective regulations, coupled with increased enforcement, would ease this problem.

Roosevelt Island is undergoing major change with the addition of the Cornell Tech graduate center. The campus will occupy most of the southern part of the island. The graduate center benefits the community and city, but the quality of life of the residents must be protected while the island undergoes major construction for the years to come.

Section 7b: Housing Needs and Programming*

Community District 8 has a larger percentage of renters (37.5%) compared to rest of Manhattan (23%) and New York City (32%). Residents of Community District 8 pay more for rent than the rest of Manhattan and New York, indeed, median rent in CD8 was \$2,290/month in 2016, the 3rd highest of all community districts in New York City - \$1,380/month. Conversely, median "asking rent" in Community District 8 was lower (\$2,799) than in Manhattan (\$3,195) or the City (\$2,800). However, the difference between "asking rents" and "median rents" was closer in Community District 8 (\$509) than the rest of Manhattan (\$1,505) or New York City (\$1,420). The percentage of rent-burdened residents (i.e., paying more than 30% of income for rent) was lower in Community District 8 (41.5%) than either Manhattan (45.9%) or New York City (53.5%) – although 19.5% of the district's residents were paying over 50% of their income on rent. The district also has a smaller share of affordable units to low-income households than Manhattan or the City. Specifically, 12.5% of available units were affordable to households earning 80% of AMI, 4.7% for households earning 50% of AMI and 2.1% for households at 30% of AMI. In terms of rent regulated units, Community District 8 has a smaller share (33%) of units than Manhattan (44%) or the City (45%). Community District 8 has a higher median income (\$119,261) than Manhattan (\$79,077) or the City (\$60,008) and a lower share of "low-income" (below 80% AMI) residents (27%) than Manhattan (47%) or the City (61%). The District also has a smaller share of residents living in poverty (6.5%) than Manhattan (17.3%) or New York City (18.9%). It does however, have a larger share of seniors (18.1%) than Manhattan (14.9%) or the City as a whole (13.5%). Overall, the district offers disproportionately few housing opportunities for low-income New Yorkers and needs much more affordable housing developments to meet the City's affordable housing need and fair housing obligations.

Section 7c: Economic Development

CB8M works with the Madison Avenue Business Improvement District, the East Midtown Partnership and the DOE Fund on a range of issues. CB8M's efforts on traffic and quality of life are critical to our local businesses. We support city programs that promote the retention and growth of local businesses.

Section 8: Transportation and Mobility

The streets are unsafe in their present condition for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

Section 8a: Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

Community Board 8 Manhattan 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.

Traffic Congestion has become an increasing problem in Community District 8 and will get worse with the additional hospital construction projects and the Marine Transfer Station. We request that the proposed traffic study for the full length of York Avenue (paid for by CUNY MSK) be carried out as soon as possible.

Large numbers of residents, daily workers and visitors contribute to traffic congestion, for hire vehicles, noise, pollution, and crowded streets and sidewalks. Even with a second 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.

Section 8b: Transit Services

We support the need of more buses servicing bus lines in our district. The 4,5,6, and Q lines need additional service. We support full funding of the Fast Forward program, including enhanced technology to improve service.

Section 9: Parks, Cultural and other Community Facilities

The aging East River Esplanade in Community District 8 has been crumbling, creating a dangerous situation for its many users. Repairing it is an urgent necessity. By implementing the existing proposed designs for the Esplanade, the city can create a vital and long-lasting public amenity. CD8 has among the least amount of parkland of any district in NYC. Preserving and enhancing our vital parks and open space is a critical priority. CD8 needs additional funding to redesign some of our most used parks, including Ruppert, John Jay, and phase 3 of Andrew Haswell Green. Additionally, we must protect other public space that is currently being taken for private use. Community Board 8 Manhattan passed a resolution strongly urging the City to return the Queensboro Oval Park to the public full-time and in conjunction with the Upper East Side community, has identified uses for a deprivatized Oval that would benefit a large portion of the public.

Section 9a: Parks and Recreational Facilities and Programming

The population density of CD8 makes our parks and greenery a precious commodity. Although our district is adjacent to Central Park, open space in CD8 is woefully inadequate. According to results of a 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.

CB8M's Parks Committee has been working to protect and expand the community's limited parkland. Its on-going major projects include its Open Space initiative, launched in 2013 with a public forum on the Need for Open Space on Manhattan's Upper East Side, and its East River Esplanade project, to renovate and beautify the Esplanade.

Section 9b: Cultural and other Community Facilities and Programming

We support cultural programming and the use community facilities to enhance the quality of life in our district.

Section 9c: Library Facilities and Programming

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.

The library budget must be maintained. CB8M urges the Mayor and the City Council to maintain funding for the operating costs to allow the continuation of 7 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.

Funding should be found to allow libraries to operate at full hours (i.e. 10-5 Monday through Sunday) 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. CB8M believes that all New Yorkers should have free opportunities to use electronic resources. We support the restoration and enhancement of libraries in their use as a community facility.

Section 9d: Community Boards

We support strengthening the ability of community boards to provide vital services to our districts.

Section 10: Additional Information and Other Requests

Fund additional DCA inspectors for sidewalk cafe and compliance permits regulation enforcement.

Barbara Chocky, Chair