

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Budget Committee**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:30pm

Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Lori Bores, Alida Camp, Rebecca Dangoor, Felice Farber, Ed Hartzog, Craig Lader, Abraham Salcedo, Judy Schneider

The committee reviewed the budget priority requests and the district needs statement in preparation for FY2026.

Co-chairs Rebecca Dangoor and Felice Farber updated the committee on a recent meeting with a Department of City Planning representative who gave feedback on last year's capital and expense budget requests.

The committee reviewed each budget priority line-by-line.

The capital budget priorities and expense budget priorities as discussed were approved by a unanimous vote that allowed the co-chairs to make additional edits as appropriate. (Bores, Camp, Dangoor, Farber, Hartzog, Lader, Schneider).

The committee reviewed the District Needs Statement and agreed on updating language and CB8M's top three pressing issues for the district to reflect the input of community members and board members: Public Safety/Quality of Life; Affordable Housing; and Parks/Open Space.

The District Needs Statement text as discussed was approved by a unanimous vote. (Bores, Dangoor, Farber, Hartzog, Lader, Schneider).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Rebecca Dangoor and Felice Farber, Co-Chairs

FY25 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT

The top three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Public Safety and Quality of Life – In a recent survey of CD8 residents, public safety and quality of life concerns topped the list of the most important issues facing the community. While these are separate topics in the district needs statement, they reflect growing community concerns about safety and security. Although crime statistics have declined over the same period last year, there still remains an uptick in neighborhood crime and the concerns from residents were repeated throughout the community survey. There is also an increase in homeless individuals on our neighborhood streets who are not obtaining the services and support they need.

Affordable Housing – The need for affordable housing continuously rates as a top issue in surveys of community residents and has long been a priority for Community Board 8. A recent report from Columbia University found that between 2010 and 2021, the Upper East Side gained a net of only 101 housing units, one of the lowest citywide. The trend in the district is towards tearing down older buildings and replacing them with larger luxury buildings that include fewer housing units. The result has exacerbated the affordable housing challenges in our district. The loss of inventory is making it harder for people on lower incomes or young professionals to get a toe-hold in the neighborhood. 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 and recommends additional units in new developments be set aside as affordable units. 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. The Board further recommends additional investments in NYCHA housing to bring the apartments up to a state of good repair.

Parks and Open Space – COVID-19 highlighted the relationship between parks and public health, public safety, climate resilience, and quality of life. Parks are critical infrastructure and must be funded as such. That is why we are calling for the mayor to keep his campaign pledge and commit to a percent for parks plan. Parks are not a luxury; they are a necessity and should therefore be funded as such. The Parks Department lacks the resources to properly maintain our parks and keep our parks safe with adequate levels of parks maintenance staffing and PEP officers.

Additional capital funding is needed to fix the East River Esplanade from 77-80th Streets to stop the cycle of repairs and sinkholes; to fully repair and upgrade John Jay Park rather than doing the work in bits and pieces; to rehabilitate the restroom in Carl Schurz Park at 87th Street; to upgrade the seating and lighting at Stanley Isaacs Playground; to renovate Twenty Sycamores Park, Samuel Seabury Playground; and Phase 3 of Andrew Haswell Green Park.

Funding for Community Boards – Additional funding is needed to adequately fund community board budgets. It is essential that we have sufficient funding to pay our staff members the salaries that they deserve, particularly as reliance on staff will increase when community board term limits come into effect. Community boards also need additional funding for other operational expenses. Since the pandemic — and with state legislative initiatives proposing permanent hybrid meetings for community boards — our operational costs have increased, as well as the number of hours our staff has to work as a result of additional responsibilities. Community boards are an essential part of city government, and we request they be adequately funded so that we can retain our staff and maintain the necessary services for our community members.

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Other All of the above.

Community Board 8 Manhattan remains strongly in favor of continued support for homeless services, mental health and substance abuse services, environmental health solutions, senior services, and domestic violence and elder abuse victim services, 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 supports Safe Haven facilities that provide on-site social, health and recreational support services to pave a path to permanent housing.

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education, and Child Welfare

Community Board 8 Manhattan would like to see more early childhood seats in the district. As more family size apartments are being constructed in the district, there is a need for more early childhood 3-K seats. We also request a location be identified to construct a new high school as many of the high school students in the district are matched with high schools far from their homes.

We must ensure that our neighborhood schools are fully accessible. P.S. 158 Bayard Taylor, Yorkville East Middle School, and Eleanor Roosevelt High School are close to becoming fully accessible. CB8M recommends prioritizing accessibility upgrades at these three schools before making needed upgrades at other schools within the district.

In addition, with migrant families being housed at the Bentley Hotel, there is a need to ensure adequate space to support educational opportunities for the children of migrants housed in this community.

In addition, CB8 strongly supports continuing increased funding for summer youth employment programs, after-school programming, youth workforce development and other summer employment, adolescent substance abuse, child welfare, adoption and foster care, and mental health services for youth. We strongly urge the city to maintain high levels of funding for these programs and not cut funding in planned budget cuts.

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Other All of the above.

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. To enable the 19th Precinct to protect our community, the Board supports efforts to upgrade and repair the building that houses the 19th Precinct. This includes repairs to the precinct's air conditioning system, which is currently supported by an external system parked on the street taking up three parking spots, generating noise, vibrations, and pollution, and creating an eyesore on the street. With record high temperatures experienced this summer and rising global temperatures, CB8M strongly encourages the city and the Police Department to prioritize essential repairs to this station house.

When CB8M surveyed residents to ascertain their district priorities, crime and public safety topped the list. While crime statistics have declined somewhat this year, data shows major felonies are still up by almost 40 percent over two years ago, and the perception of the lack of safety and increase in crime is exacerbated by the increase in homeless and people with mental issues on the streets. The Board strongly supports an increase in community policing in our neighborhoods and in our parks. The Board is concerned about the increased number of homeless in the community. 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. CB8M would also like to see an increase in street vending enforcement as unlicensed food vendors are popping up around construction sites and siphoning business away from law-abiding, tax paying small businesses

Most Important Issue Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services, and Resiliency

Other All of the above.

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 increase in litter on the streets, the lack of big belly garbage bins to help control the rat population, as well as the condition of existing bins. We further request garbage bins be emptied on a more frequent basis, including composting bins, to ensure that there is capacity in the bins to support community interest in composting. 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. Recent storms have highlighted the critical need to protect our communities from rising sea levels and more frequent and severe storms. COVID-19 highlighted the critical need for broadband access for lower-income New Yorkers and especially for NYCHA residents.

Most Important Issue Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Other All of the above.

Community Board 8 Manhattan opposes the taking of any common space for private development, while we recognize the need for additional affordable housing in our district. CB8M calls on the Department of City Planning to conduct a detailed analysis of the potential to convert specific blocks in CD8 that are currently zoned M1-4 or C8-4 with the goal of rezoning some or all of these blocks to residential use and any new developments subject to mandatory inclusionary housing requirements.

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

Other All of the above.

The transportation network serving Community District 8 should be resilient, safe, convenient and reliable for all users, including persons who commute on foot, by bus, subway, car, bike, or other mode. The implementation of congestion pricing must be done in such a way as to minimize the detrimental impacts on New Yorkers living within and outside the congestion zone.

Most Important Issue Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Other All of the above.

Our community ranks 47 out of 51 in terms of open space despite being one of the densest in the entire city. As we experience the effects of climate change – including more frequent severe storm events and record heat – it is imperative that we invest in our parks and open spaces, which are vital resources to our overall resiliency and public health. Our goal is to ensure the parks in CD8 are clean, safe, and in good condition. The Community Board is grateful to our Council Members for securing funding for the full reconstruction of Ruppert Park, including the construction of a restroom in the park as well as funding to provide an accessible entrance to the multi-purpose play area in John Jay Park and other park improvements. This funding is essential to ensure all community members have access to our park facilities.

Additional capital funding is required for the following projects:

The Parks Department has scraped together funding to make some critical repairs to John Jay Park but has left several key repairs open due to a lack of capital resources. Additional funding is needed in John Jay Park to repair the handball courts and address the constant drainage issues in the children's playground.

While our Council Members have provided funding for the reconstruction of Ruppert Park and the installation of a restroom in the park, the project still has not moved forward and the reconstruction of the park and the restroom are moving forward on separate tracks and by different agencies. We urge the city to clear the bureaucratic hurdles and accelerate and coordinate these critical projects. Each day the projects are delayed, construction and material costs increase.

We call on the city to provide funding for repairs to the East River Esplanade between 77th and 80th Streets. While some funding has been provided, and the sinkhole was repaired once before, we urge the city to fund and move forward with the necessary repairs to address the root cause of the problem that is causing the soil to subside and sinkholes to develop. The bulkhead at 80th Street is also crumbling and in need of repairs.

Other parks in need of capital funding include 24 Sycamores Park, Samuel Seabury Playground, and the Stanley Isaacs Park, including improved lighting, seating, and other park repairs at Stanley Isaacs Park. We also need funds to improve the lighting on James Cagney Place. We appreciate the funding from the New York Rangers to repair the hockey rink and hope that additional funding can be identified to repair the rest of the park.

Finally, capital funding is needed for Phase 3 of Andrew Haswell Green Park to complete the construction of this beautiful park along the East River.

While Capital funding for our neighborhood parks is essential to bring the parks up to a state of good repair, expense funding is equally as critical to ensure that our parks are maintained, trees are pruned and maintained, rats are eradicated from the parks, and our parks are clean and safe for the neighborhood residents. The Parks Department suffers from constrained staffing of maintenance workers, millions of dollars in deferred maintenance, and minimal funding for recreation centers.

To that end we call on the City to fund the Parks Department at 1 percent of the City's operating budget – today it is only 0.6 percent. The additional funding will optimize parks maintenance for cleaner parks, preserve and grow the tree canopy, and provide improved safety and support to manage compliance with park rules.

CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

FY 24 PRIORITY NUMBER	NEW PRIORITY NUMBER	TYPE	REQUEST	REASON
01	7	C	Provide a new or expand an existing high school	There is a need for a new high school in Community District 8. The number of qualified students admitted to Eleanor Roosevelt High School from Community District 8 has declined significantly forced qualified students to travel to other parts of New York City. Accordingly the district needs a new high school.
02	1	C	Renovate or upgrade public housing developments	Fund needed repairs and upgrades at the Isaacs Houses/Holmes Towers. The playground at Stanley Isaacs houses was inundated with water during Superstorm Sandy. While some repairs have been made to the playground, the playground surface mat requires replacement.
03	3	C	Other capital budget request for DEP	Fund resiliency investments to protect Community District 8 against future storms. The northern end of the community floods during heavy rainfall. Storm drains should be cleaned regularly including on East End Avenue between 88th and 90th Streets, additional rain gardens and bioswales should be installed to absorb excess rainfall. In addition, during heavy rainfall the FDR drive floods, especially in the 70s and the cause of the flooding should be addressed.
04	2	C	Renovate or upgrade existing precinct houses	Fund the renovation of the 19th Precinct House including the installation of a new air conditioning system. Please provide an update on the status of the study of this project.
05	8	C	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	Provide funding to complete the full structural repair of the East River Esplanade between 59th and 96th Streets, including all below ground infrastructure and seawall repair. There are three identified sinkholes along the Esplanade. The location in the 80's has been repaired within the past several years and has again begun to sink. While the need for repairs has been identified, we urge the City to provide full depth repairs to stop the continued subsidence and protect the Esplanade from future sinkholes
06		C	Install streetscape improvements	Resurface the bike lanes on the Roosevelt Island Bridge to improve safety for bicyclists

07	4	C	Other capital budget request for DHS	DHS should work closely with HPD to fund much needed housing for the most vulnerable of our residents. This includes full funding of new Safe Havens in CD8. This includes full funding of the Safe Haven CB8 approved for 91st Street.
08	16	C	Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (NYPL)	Provide funding for a ramp or other means of accessibility at the Yorkville Branch Library. We appreciate that this project is in front end planning and request that the project be accelerated as accessibility of the libraries is critically important.
09	5	C	Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (NYPL)	The lift at the 67th Street Library is frequently out of order and inhibits full access to the library for mobility challenged individuals. We strongly recommend that the lift at the 67th Street library be repaired or replaced.
10	6	C	Other affordable housing programs requests	Provide more affordable housing for all income very low, low, and middle income New Yorkers.
11	10	C	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	Install crosstown bike lanes approximately every 10 blocks between 60th Street and 110th Street on both sides of Central Park and a two-way protected bikeway around Central Park .
12	12	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Provide funding to redesign and renovate John Jay Park as a whole, including reconstructing the central walkway and providing an accessible entrance to the multipurpose play area.
13	13	C	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	Fund the NYC Department of Sanitation for the purchase and installation of capitally-eligible "rat-proof" garbage containers with lids in CD8, preferably solar powered compactor baskets. We ask the agency work closely with neighborhood groups and local BIDs to find funding for this request.
14		C	Other street trees and forestry services requests	Install tree guards where missing from or when new trees go in and extend the tree pit where needed.
15		C	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	Fund the return of the Queensboro Oval to the community for year round public use.
16	11	C	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	Fund phase 3 of Andrew Haswell Green Park.
17	9	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Fund the reconstruction of 24 Sycamore Park

18	14	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Fund the reconstruction of Samuel Seabury Playground
19	15	C	Other capital budget request for DEP	Install Catch Basin at the Northwest Corner of 72nd Street and Second Avenue.
CS		C	Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (NYPL)	Fund exterior rehabilitation of windows and replace where needed at the 96th Street Branch Library.
CS	CS	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Fund a fully built Park along the East River between 60th and 63rd Streets on the Esplanade including phase 2B of Andrew Haswell Green Park.
CS	CS	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	The reconstruction of Ruppert Park and the construction of a restroom at Ruppert Park have been funded but are scheduled to proceed as two separate construction projects. We urge the city to advance the two projects together under one construction contract and to accelerate the delivery of this project. The longer the project is delayed, the higher the costs gets.
NEW	17	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Provide funding to renovate the restrooms in Carl Schurz Park at 87th Street. The restrooms are dated and in need to renovation. This is critical as there is an insufficient number of public restrooms in the district and is an issue that comes up at many community board meetings
NEW	18	C	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	Provide funding to repair the Stanley Isaacs Playground at 96th Street. We appreciate the funding provided by the NY Rangers to replace the hockey rink. However, repairs and upgrades are needed to the playground as well, including improved lighting, new benches and new play equipment.

EXPENSE BUDGET PRIORITIES

FY24 PRIORITY NUMBER	NEW PRIORITY NUMBER	TYPE	REQUEST	REASON
01	4	E	Other educational programs requests	Fund 3-K and Pre-K seats in CB8
02	8	E	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	There are over 1,100 open work orders at Holmes Towers and 1,500 open work orders at Isaacs Houses. Residents of NYCHA houses in our district have requested an Increase frequency of extermination services in apartments in need and provide more rat traps on the grounds of NYCHA housing. Provide more health and building inspectors for NYCHA facilities, in particular related to lead, mold, and bedbugs.
03	3	E	Other youth workforce development requests	Increase funding for youth programs in CB8. Fully fund the Summer Youth Employment Program, Learning to Work Program, and other youth workforce development programs.
04	12	E	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	Increase funding for rodent extermination on city streets and in the parks
05	x	E	Other garbage collection and recycling requests	Increase recycling program including solid waste. Enhance funding for composting and organics collection.
06	5	E	Provide, expand, or enhance the out-of-school youth program for job training and employment services	Provide additional funding for youth services at the Isaacs Center and give priority for Isaacs Center programs to youth and adolescent residents of Holmes Towers and Isaacs Houses.
07	6	E	Other park maintenance and safety requests	Preserve funding for year round workers and Associate Parks and Recreation Workers (APSWs) at NYC Parks and Recreation, including parks maintenance staff and tree pruners.
08		E	Enhance home care services	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.
09	1	E	Other community board facilities and staff requests	Increase funding for community boards to support and retain staff, and pay staff fairly.

10	7	E	Expand, or enhance Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP)	Increase funding to support food pantries and other community organizations that provide meals and groceries to food insecure residents of Community District 8.
11		E	Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals	Increase funding for audible accessible crossing signals for intersections in CD8 to accelerate the installation of accessible crossing signals.
12	4	E	Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections (NYPL)	Restore Sunday Service to one library in CB8 without cutting weekday hours.
13	6	E	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	Provide funding for rodent exterminators in all Parks within CB8.
14	2	E	Expand street outreach	Increase funding for mental health and other services targeted to the homeless as well as for Homeless Services Outreach personnel, especially during the overnight hours.
15	11	E	Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for elementary school students (grades K-5)	Fund accessible and affordable Out of School Time and DayCare programs for all children who go to school in CD8 or who have parents that work in CD8.
16	5	E	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	Fund additional PEP officers to enforce parks rules in all District parks.
17		E	Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth	Provide additional funding for Children Services, especially programs to prevent abuse and neglect.
18	x	E	Other expense budget request for DOT	Fund additional DOT inspectors for regulation enforcement of the outdoor dining program.
19	8	E	Other programs to address public health issues requests	Increase funding for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Enforcement of all food vendor rules and regulations.
20	10	E	Other expense budget request for DCA	Fund additional DCWP inspectors for regulation enforcement of mobile food vendors and outdoor dining.
21		E	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	Provide additional funding to expand the Truck Traffic Enforcement Unit.
22		E	Other traffic improvement requests	Increase the number of workers to inspect, repair, and preserve the DOT's infrastructure -- both bridges and roads -- as well as sidewalk repairs. These are critical for pedestrian safety.

23		E	Address illegal conversions and uses of buildings	Hire additional DOB inspectors for compliance and code enforcement, including for illegal signage, and hire auditors for applications.
24		E	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	Provide funding to increase the current number of Traffic Control agents and School Crossing Guards. Additionally, please provide funding to increase the number officers focused on bike and scooter enforcement. Finally, provide funding for increased enforcement of parking placard abuse and general parking enforcement.
25		E	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	Provide funding for Eviction Prevention Services for At-Risk Senior Citizens.
26	9	E	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs/vouchers for permanent housing	Further increase funding for more permanent housing for homeless people.
27		E	Plant new street trees	Install new trees where missing in CD8.
28		E	Provide or expand business recovery assistance after an emergency	Create grants, low-interest loans and other financial supports to assist small businesses in adapting to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.
29		E	Other expense budget request	For the Board of Elections and Election Day Support. Provide funding for more voting locations; more maintenance staff/mechanics available to repair machines/ensure machines are working.