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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Budget Committee**  
*Tuesday, September 3, 2024 - 6:30 PM*  
*Conducted remotely via Zoom*

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Lori Bores, Juno Chowla-Song, Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

Approximate Public Attendance: 31

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

**Item 1: PUBLIC HEARING:** Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026 Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities

Will Brightbill provided an overview of the budget process and described the role of the Community Board in preparing the district needs statement, noting the difference between capital and expense requests. Will then explained the survey the Community Board conducted of district residents and summarized the results of the survey.

Parks and Open Space were the top priority raised in the survey, followed by crime and public safety, homelessness and quality of life issues. The number 2 community priority was senior services and youth and children services.

Specific budget requests made at the meeting include:

- Prioritize schools
- Provide additional funding for the MTA to prioritize bus movements
- Prioritize capital improvements to the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct
- Strengthen street vendor enforcement
- Provide increased funding for Coler on Roosevelt Island to address staffing shortages and retention issues

The committee then reviewed the capital and expense priorities from last year's district needs statement and identified several issues.

- Andrew Haswell Green Park Phase 2B is still under construction and should be listed as continuing support.
- Traffic Enforcement Agents are desperately needed in the East 60's and should be moved up in the priority ranking.
- Street Vendor enforcement was moved to the Department of Sanitation.
- Delete the reference to the Safe Haven facility on East 91<sup>st</sup> Street. The project has changed.
- Add support for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Add A/C Need for Talent Unlimited High School

The Budget Committee will be meeting again on September 30<sup>th</sup>. It was requested that each Committee review the relevant section of the District Needs Statement along with the survey results in advance of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting and provide feedback on the priorities for the capital and expense requests.

Respectfully submitted, Gayle Baron and Felice Farber, Co-Chairs

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**FY26 Budget Committee Survey Preliminary Response Report**

**Introduction:**

Each year, Community Boards are required to submit a ‘Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests’ report for the next fiscal year’s city budget. This document must be submitted by the end of October each year. In order to solicit feedback for this document, Community Boards can conduct surveys and hold public hearings. CB8M created a survey this summer and the results are summarized below for the use of informing the Budget Committee in their preparation of the FY26 District Needs Statement.

**The Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests:**

Commonly referred to as the District Needs Statement, this document can basically be broken down into three sections – 1) Overarching Community District Needs, 2) Policy Area-Specific District Needs, and 3) Community Board Budget Requests.

1. Sections 1 – 4 provide an overview of the community district and the top three pressing issues affecting the district overall as identified by the community board. Any narrative provided by the board supporting their selection of their top three pressing issues is included. The board is given a list of 23 pre-written options to select from in order to identify their top three pressing issues.
2. Section 5 is organized by seven distinct policy areas aligned with the service and program areas of city agencies. For each policy area, community boards select the most important issue for their districts and could provide a supporting narrative. The policy area section also includes any agency-specific needs and a list of relevant budget requests submitted by the community board. If the community board submitted additional information outside of a specific policy area, it may be found in Section 6.
3. The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the budget cycle; one list for capital and another for expense budget requests. For each budget request, community boards were able to provide a priority number, explanation, location, and supporters. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests submitted to city agencies.

**CB8’s FY25 District Needs Statement Results:**

In Fall 2023, CB8 submitted its FY25 District Needs Statement. A copy of that report can be found on our website [here](#). CB8 identified Affordable Housing, Parks and Open Space, and Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.) as the top three pressing needs for FY25. Quality of Life was included in the list for the first time, replacing Schools. Continuing a trend from previous years’ DNSs, CB8 listed “Other” on the “Most Important Issue Related to...” questions on the seven different policy area sections (in section 5).

**CB8’s FY26 Survey Changes and Goals:**

CB8 has conducted surveys in previous years to inform our Budget Committee and Board regarding the thoughts and priorities of district residents and visitors. Given the tight nature of the form Community Boards must use for their District Needs Statements and the limited options available for selection, this year we hoped to get more data on why survey participants chose an option as one of their top three pressing needs. In order to accomplish this, we asked respondents to identify other potential answers that they thought contributed to the topic they chose as

their answer. Example: Participant 19 chose “Affordable Housing” as their top pressing need. When asked to list contributing factors that made Affordable Housing their top pressing issue, they chose “Crime and Public Safety, Cultural Facilities and Programs, Economic Recovery and Development, Homelessness, Police-Community Relations, Social Services, Street Conditions, Unemployment” from the 22 other pre-written options.

We hoped that this additional data could be used to better understand why participants selected the options they chose as their top three pressing issues and move beyond the symptoms to find the underlying problems that might be the root cause of the needs they see in their community.

Finally, for the first time we included an opportunity for participants to choose the “Most Important Issue Related to...” the seven policy areas (used in Section 5).

#### **FY26 Preliminary Results (as of 9/18/24):**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Total of 1st pressing issue</b>	<b>% of issue 1</b>	<b>Total of 2nd pressing issue</b>	<b>% of issue 2</b>	<b>Total of 3rd pressing issue</b>	<b>% of issue 3</b>
Affordable Housing	33	11.19%	17	5.76%	19	6.44%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	0	0.00%	3	1.02%	3	1.02%
Crime and Public Safety	41	13.90%	35	11.86%	19	6.44%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	4	1.36%	4	1.36%	11	3.73%
Economic Recovery and Development	3	1.02%	9	3.05%	10	3.39%
Emergency and Disaster Response	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	4	1.36%
Health Care Services	1	0.34%	1	0.34%	6	2.03%
Homelessness	18	6.10%	44	14.92%	21	7.12%
Infrastructure Resiliency	4	1.36%	7	2.37%	3	1.02%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	9	3.05%	15	5.08%	14	4.75%
Parks and Open Space	102	34.58%	65	22.03%	66	22.37%
Police-Community Relations	0	0.00%	5	1.69%	8	2.71%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	28	9.49%	28	9.49%	24	8.14%
Schools	4	1.36%	3	1.02%	6	2.03%
Senior Services	2	0.68%	4	1.36%	8	2.71%
Social Services	1	0.34%	3	1.02%	7	2.37%
Street Conditions	12	4.07%	15	5.08%	11	3.73%
Street Flooding	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.34%
Traffic	9	3.05%	10	3.39%	13	4.41%
Transit (buses and subways)	8	2.71%	12	4.07%	7	2.37%

Trash Removal and Cleanliness	15	5.08%	13	4.41%	28	9.49%
Unemployment	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Youth and Children's Services	1	0.34%	2	0.68%	6	2.03%

As shown above, 34.5% of participants listed Parks and Open Space as their top pressing issue. After that, 13.9% chose Crime and Public Safety, 11% chose Affordable Housing, and 9.5% chose Quality of Life Issues.

Across the other two pressing issues questions, Parks and Open Space received the largest share of responses. When we combined the three questions and ranking together, 79% of participants listed Parks and Open Space in their top three pressing issues. After that, the top answers were Crime and Public Safety at 32%, Homelessness at 28%, Quality of Life Issues at 27%, and Affordable Housing at 23%.

Issues	Total numbers	Total %
Affordable Housing	69	23.39%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	6	2.03%
Crime and Public Safety	95	32.20%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	19	6.44%
Economic Recovery and Development	22	7.46%
Emergency and Disaster Response	4	1.36%
Health Care Services	8	2.71%
Homelessness	83	28.14%
Infrastructure Resiliency	14	4.75%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	38	12.88%
Parks and Open Space	233	78.98%
Police-Community Relations	13	4.41%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	80	27.12%
Schools	13	4.41%
Senior Services	14	4.75%
Social Services	11	3.73%
Street Conditions	38	12.88%
Street Flooding	1	0.34%
Traffic	32	10.85%
Transit (buses and subways)	27	9.15%
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	56	18.98%
Unemployment	0	0.00%
Youth and Children's Services	9	3.05%

Taking a closer look at those who chose **Parks and Open Space** as one of their top three issues, they associated these subsequent issues with it: 47.6% of responders identified Quality of Life Issues with Parks and Open Space, followed by Senior Services (44%), Youth and Children's Services (43%), and Social Services (35.6%).

TOTALS 1+2+3 Parks and Open Space	Number Answered	% of total Answers	% of total people
Affordable Housing	4	0.60%	1.72%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	14	2.10%	6.01%
Crime and Public Safety	23	3.45%	9.87%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	28	4.20%	12.02%
Economic Recovery and Development	3	0.45%	1.29%
Emergency and Disaster Response	1	0.15%	0.43%
Health Care Services	4	0.60%	1.72%
Homelessness	10	1.50%	4.29%
Infrastructure Resiliency	11	1.65%	4.72%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	44	6.60%	18.88%
Parks and Open Space	0	0.00%	0.00%
Police-Community Relations	4	0.60%	1.72%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	111	16.64%	47.64%
Schools	70	10.49%	30.04%
Senior Services	102	15.29%	43.78%
Social Services	83	12.44%	35.62%
Street Conditions	17	2.55%	7.30%
Street Flooding	7	1.05%	3.00%
Traffic	9	1.35%	3.86%
Transit (buses and subways)	2	0.30%	0.86%
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	19	2.85%	8.15%
Unemployment	1	0.15%	0.43%
Youth and Children's Services	100	14.99%	42.92%

In order to see what underlying issues responders listed most frequently, we calculated the total numbers of associated responses for each topic area to get further data on the root causes for participants' selections. As seen in the below table, the leading contributing issue listed was **Quality of Life Issues**. All totaled, it was **chosen 315 times** across the first, second and third pressing issues. The next most frequently chosen factors listed were **Social Services (199)**, **Homelessness (178)**, **Crime and Public Safety (170)**, **Senior Services (159)**, and **Street Conditions (152)**.

Total Contributing	total of 1+2+3 number
Affordable Housing	99
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	78
Crime and Public Safety	170
Cultural Facilities and Programs	58
Economic Recovery and Development	101
Emergency and Disaster Response	18
Health Care Services	79
Homelessness	178
Infrastructure Resiliency	68
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	125
Parks and Open Space	92
Police-Community Relations	65
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	315
Schools	110
Senior Services	159
Social Services	199
Street Conditions	152
Street Flooding	21
Traffic	82
Transit (buses and subways)	46
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	112
Unemployment	47
Youth and Children's Services	138

### **Policy Area Questions:**

With respect questions on the “Most Important Issue Related to…” for the seven policy areas (used in Section 5) the below charts indicate the top preferences among participants.

Policy Area: Healthcare and Human Services	Total in numbers	%
Access to healthy food and lifestyle programs	13	6.77%
Animal and pest control services	14	7.29%
Chronic disease prevention and management (diabetes, hearth diseases, etc.)	6	3.13%
COVID-19 management (incl. vaccination, testing, outreach, education, etc.)	1	0.52%
Environmental health issues (noise, lead, respiratory illness, moisture, mildew, mold, etc.)	18	9.38%
Health code enforcement	4	2.08%
Health facilities (existing conditions, capacity, new facilities, etc.)	9	4.69%
Infectious disease prevention and management (HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.)	3	1.56%
Mental Health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs	61	31.77%
Programs, services, or facilities for seniors (incl. remote programming, cooling centers)	9	4.69%
Services for domestic violence victims	3	1.56%
Services for low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers	11	5.73%
Services to reduce or prevent homelessness	37	19.27%
Services and communication for New Yorkers who are homebound/have disabilities	3	1.56%

Policy Area: Youth, Education, and Child Welfare	Total in numbers	%
Adolescent substance abuse	6	4.35%
Adoption and foster care	4	2.90%
After school programs	39	28.26%
Child protective services	6	4.35%
Community and/or home-based support services for families	12	8.70%
Education attainment	13	9.42%
Juvenile justice and services for at-risk youth	13	9.42%
Remote learning and technology	1	0.72%
Runaway and homeless youth	2	1.45%
School and education facilities (capacity)	20	14.49%
Schools and educational facilities (maintenance)	2	1.45%
School diversity and inclusion	3	2.17%
Support services for special needs youth (disabled, immigrant, non-English proficient, etc.)	8	5.80%
Youth workforce development and summer youth employment	9	6.52%

Policy Area: Public Safety and Emergency Services	Total in numbers	%
Crime prevention programs	28	19.58%
Emergency and disaster preparedness	2	1.40%
Emergency service delivery (including rapid response)	7	4.90%
Fire safety	2	1.40%
General crime	45	31.47%
Police-community relations	15	10.49%
Public nuisance (noise, other disturbances)	9	6.29%
Support for people on probation	6	4.20%
Traffic violations and enforcement	29	20.28%

Policy Area: Core Infrastructure, City Services, and Resiliency	Total in numbers	%
Air quality and pollution	11	8.33%
Cleanliness/trash collection	64	48.48%
Environmental concerns affecting citizens	10	7.58%
Hazardous materials	1	0.76%
Noise pollution	11	8.33%
Organic waste collection and composting programs	6	4.55%
Preparedness for extreme weather events (incl. coastal flooding, heat waves, cold snaps, heavy wind and rain)	8	6.06%
Protective infrastructure (sea walls, flood walls, etc.)	4	3.03%
Recycling facilities and services	5	3.79%
Sewer capacity	3	2.27%
Snow clearing	4	3.03%
Water pollution control	1	0.76%
Water runoff and flooding	3	2.27%
Water supply	1	0.76%

Policy Area: Housing, Economic Development, and Land Use	Total in numbers	%
Affordable housing creation	36	28.80%
Affordable housing preservation	11	8.80%
Building code and/or zoning enforcement	8	6.40%
Commercial district revitalization	8	6.40%
Condition of public housing	5	4.00%
Housing support services (for tenants and homeowners)	4	3.20%
Industrial business services/support	0	0.00%
Land use and zoning	15	12.00%
Neighborhood preservation	16	12.80%
Real estate development trends	9	7.20%
Small business services/support (incl. BIDs)	9	7.20%
Unemployment/underemployment	3	2.40%
Workforce development (including MWBE opportunities)	1	0.80%

Policy Area: Transportation and Mobility	Total in numbers	%
Accessibility (ADA related compliance and infrastructure enhancements)	10	7.41%
Bicycle network (bike lanes, signage, bike safety, etc.)	29	21.48%
Bridge maintenance and operations	1	0.74%
Bus service (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)	8	5.93%
Ferries	3	2.22%
Freight movement (loading zones, freight related traffic, etc.)	0	0.00%
Parking operations	3	2.22%
Pedestrian safety (safer crossings, sidewalk management, etc.)	20	14.81%
Roadway maintenance	2	1.48%
Roadway and traffic design	3	2.22%
Street lighting	2	1.48%
Subway service and quality (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)	18	13.33%
Traffic congestion	14	10.37%
Traffic safety and enforcement (cars, scooters, ebikes, etc.)	21	15.56%
Open space programs (Open Streets, Open Restaurants, plazas, etc.)	1	0.74%

Policy Area: Parks, Cultural, and other Community Facilities	Total in numbers	%
Access to and quality of cultural programming	7	5.30%
Access to and quality of park programming	2	1.52%
Community board resources (offices, staff, and equipment)	0	0.00%
Community facility access and programming	1	0.76%
Insufficient park or open space	29	21.97%
Landmarks, monuments, sites of cultural significance (new or existing)	0	0.00%
Library facilities and access	12	9.09%
Park access and park facility access	8	6.06%
Park care and maintenance	16	12.12%
Park safety	19	14.39%
Privately owned public spaces (POPS)	4	3.03%
Quality of library programming	6	4.55%
Quality of parks and park facilities	19	14.39%
Street tree and forestry services, including street tree maintenance	9	6.82%