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

This meeting was conducted via Zoom
Tuesday, September 9, 2025 - 6:30pm

MINUTES

Present: Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Felice Farber, Sahar Husain, Craig Lader, Judy Schneider, and Todd Stein

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 10

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2027 Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities

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

Gayle Baron, Committee Co-Chair, noted that the Communications Committee discussed ideas for improving communication about the district needs statement survey.

Jordyn then reviewed the results of the community survey and the tabulation of the data collected. Crime and public safety, parks and open space, and quality of life issues were the top priorities raised in the survey. It was noted that when you delve further into the responses, many of the concerns in these categories overlap and focus on a perception of feeling less safe and the need to address quality of life issues such as noise and street conditions.

The committee then reviewed the capital and expense priorities from last year's district needs statement and discussed some of the items that needed to be updated. Will explained that CS or continuing support in the district needs statement indicates that the project is funded or underway, and the community board is expressing that the project remains a priority until it is completed.

Each of the community board committees will be asked to review the capital and expense priorities in the district needs statement and provide an update, as well as links to resolutions that may have been passed supporting priorities.

The capital and expense priorities, as well as text of the district needs statement will be reviewed and updated for the October 15th meeting, at which time the Budget Committee will review the capital and expense priorities and finalize the material for submission (attached).

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

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FY27 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 FY27 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 FY26 District Needs Statement Results:

In Fall 2024, CB8 submitted its FY26 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 FY26. Quality of Life was included in the list for the second time, the first being in FY25, replacing Schools from FY24. 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 FY27 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 previously limited options available for selection, we followed the same format from last year’s survey, to better understand why 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 “Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)” as their top pressing need. When asked to list contributing factors that made Quality of Life Issues their top pressing issue, they chose “Homelessness, Parks and Open Space, Street Conditions, Trash Removal, and Cleanliness” 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, we included an opportunity for participants to choose the “Most Important Issue Related to...” the seven policy areas (used in Section 5) like we did last year, in order to compare the data between FY26 and FY27.

FY27 Preliminary Results (as of 9/15/25):

Issues	Total of 1st pressing issue	% of issue 1	Total of 2nd pressing issue	% of issue 2	Total of 3rd pressing issue	% of issue 3	Total numbers	Total %
Affordable Housing	14	11.97%	11	9.40%	2	1.71%	27	23.08%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	2.56%	3	2.56%
Crime and Public Safety	26	22.22%	7	5.98%	6	5.13%	39	33.33%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	0	0.00%	2	1.71%	3	2.56%	5	4.27%
Economic Recovery and Development	0	0.00%	7	5.98%	2	1.71%	9	7.69%
Emergency and Disaster Response	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.85%	1	0.85%
Health Care Services	0	0.00%	3	2.56%	0	0.00%	3	2.56%
Homelessness	11	9.40%	14	11.97%	7	5.98%	32	27.35%
Infrastructure Resiliency	2	1.71%	1	0.85%	1	0.85%	4	3.42%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	10	8.55%	6	5.13%	11	9.40%	27	23.08%
Parks and Open Space	12	10.26%	16	13.68%	13	11.11%	41	35.04%
Police-Community Relations	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	2.56%	3	2.56%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	14	11.97%	14	11.97%	14	11.97%	42	35.90%
Schools	4	3.42%	1	0.85%	3	2.56%	8	6.84%
Senior Services	1	0.85%	2	1.71%	1	0.85%	4	3.42%
Social Services	1	0.85%	0	0.00%	4	3.42%	5	4.27%
Street Conditions	5	4.27%	5	4.27%	10	8.55%	20	17.09%
Street Flooding	0	0.00%	1	0.85%	1	0.85%	2	1.71%
Traffic	3	2.56%	6	5.13%	9	7.69%	18	15.38%

Transit (buses and subways)	5	4.27%	5	4.27%	9	7.69%	19	16.24%
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	8	6.84%	14	11.97%	11	9.40%	33	28.21%
Unemployment	1	0.85%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.85%
Youth and Children's Services	0	0.00%	2	1.71%	3	2.56%	5	4.27%

As shown above, 22.22% of participants listed Crime and Public Safety as their top pressing issue. After that, 13.69% chose Parks and Open Space, and 11.97% chose Quality of Life Issues.

Across the other two pressing issues questions, Quality of Life Issues received the largest share of responses. When we combined the three questions and ranking together, 35.90% of participants listed Quality of Life Issues in their top three pressing issues. After that, the top answers were Parks and Open Space at 35.04%, Crime and Public Safety at 33.33%, Trash Removal and Cleanliness at 28.21%, and Homelessness at 27.25%.

Issues	Total numbers	Total %
Affordable Housing	27	23.08%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	3	2.56%
Crime and Public Safety	39	33.33%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	5	4.27%
Economic Recovery and Development	9	7.69%
Emergency and Disaster Response	1	0.85%
Health Care Services	3	2.56%
Homelessness	32	27.35%
Infrastructure Resiliency	4	3.42%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	27	23.08%
Parks and Open Space	41	35.04%
Police-Community Relations	3	2.56%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	42	35.90%
Schools	8	6.84%
Senior Services	4	3.42%
Social Services	5	4.27%
Street Conditions	20	17.09%
Street Flooding	2	1.71%
Traffic	18	15.38%
Transit (buses and subways)	19	16.24%
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	33	28.21%
Unemployment	1	0.85%

Youth and Children's Services	5	4.27%
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Taking a closer look at those who chose **Quality of Life Issues** as one of their top three issues, they associated these subsequent issues with it: **50% of responders identified Crime and Safety with Quality of Life Issues, followed by Street Conditions (33.33%), Homelessness (33.33%), and Traffic and Trash Removal and Cleanliness equally (30.95%).**

	Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	% of total Answers	% of total people
TOTALS 1+2+3 Quality of Life Issues			
Affordable Housing	4	3.01%	9.52%
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	4	3.01%	9.52%
Crime and Public Safety	21	15.79%	50%
Cultural Facilities and Programs	3	2.26%	7.14%
Economic Recovery and Development	6	4.51%	14.29%
Emergency and Disaster Response	1	0.75%	2.38%
Health Care Services	3	2.26%	7.14%
Homelessness	14	10.53%	33.33%
Infrastructure Resiliency	4	3.01%	9.52%
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	7	5.26%	16.67%
Parks and Open Space	8	6.02%	19.05%
Police-Community Relations	2	1.50%	4.76%
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	0	0.00%	0.00%
Schools	1	0.75%	2.38%
Senior Services	1	0.75%	2.38%
Social Services	4	3.01%	9.52%
Street Conditions	14	10.53%	33.33%
Street Flooding	4	3.01%	9.52%
Traffic	13	9.77%	30.95%
Transit (buses and subways)	2	1.50%	4.76%
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	13	9.77%	30.95%
Unemployment	3	2.26%	7.14%
Youth and Children's Services	1	0.75%	2.38%

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 73 times** across the first, second and third pressing issues. The next most frequently chosen factors listed were **Street Conditions (71)**, **Crime and Public Safety (69)**, **Homelessness (63)**, **Economic Recovery and Development (49)**, **Land Use Trends (48)**, **Traffic (47)**, **Trash Removal and Cleanliness (46)**, and **Affordable Housing (46)**.

Total Contributing	total of 1+2+3 number
Affordable Housing	46
Civic Engagement (elections, participatory budget)	37
Crime and Public Safety	69
Cultural Facilities and Programs	20
Economic Recovery and Development	49
Emergency and Disaster Response	15
Health Care Services	28
Homelessness	63
Infrastructure Resiliency	33
Land Use Trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc)	48
Parks and Open Space	43
Police-Community Relations	19
Quality of Life Issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)	73
Schools	15
Senior Services	16
Social Services	39
Street Conditions	71
Street Flooding	13
Traffic	47
Transit (buses and subways)	29
Trash Removal and Cleanliness	46
Unemployment	22
Youth and Children's Services	26

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	7	8.05%
Animal and pest control services	5	5.75%
Chronic disease prevention and management (diabetes, hearth diseases, etc.)	2	2.30%
COVID-19 management (incl. vaccination, testing, outreach, education, etc.)	1	1.15%
Environmental health issues (noise, lead, respiratory illness, moisture, mildew, mold, etc.)	10	11.49%
Health code enforcement	2	2.30%
Health facilities (existing conditions, capacity, new facilities, etc.)	1	1.15%
Infectious disease prevention and management (HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.)	2	2.30%
Mental Health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs	26	29.89%
Programs, services, or facilities for seniors (incl. remote programming, cooling centers)	1	1.15%
Services for domestic violence victims	0	0.00%
Services for low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers	10	11.49%
Services to reduce or prevent homelessness	20	22.99%
Services and communication for New Yorkers who are homebound/have disabilities	0	0.00%

Policy Area: Youth, Education, and Child Welfare	Total in numbers	%
Adolescent substance abuse	1	1.45%
Adoption and foster care	0	0.00%
After school programs	16	23.19%
Child protective services	2	2.90%
Community and/or home-based support services for families	9	13.04%
Education attainment	12	17.39%
Juvenile justice and services for at-risk youth	3	4.35%
Remote learning and technology	0	0.00%
Runaway and homeless youth	1	1.45%
School and education facilities (capacity)	11	15.94%
Schools and educational facilities (maintenance)	3	4.35%
School diversity and inclusion	2	2.90%

Support services for special needs youth (disabled, immigrant, non-English proficient, etc.)	1	1.45%
Youth workforce development and summer youth employment	8	11.59%

Policy Area: Public Safety and Emergency Services	Total in numbers	%
Crime prevention programs	11	14.10%
Emergency and disaster preparedness	4	5.13%
Emergency service delivery (including rapid response)	3	3.85%
Fire safety	1	1.28%
General crime	25	32.05%
Police-community relations	5	6.41%
Public nuisance (noise, other disturbances)	8	10.26%
Support for people on probation	1	1.28%
Traffic violations and enforcement	20	25.64%

Policy Area: Core Infrastructure, City Services, and Resiliency	Total in numbers	%
Air quality and pollution	9	12.00%
Cleanliness/trash collection	31	41.33%
Environmental concerns affecting citizens	5	6.67%
Hazardous materials	0	0.00%
Noise pollution	6	8.00%
Organic waste collection and composting programs	5	6.67%
Preparedness for extreme weather events (incl. coastal flooding, heat waves, cold snaps, heavy wind and rain)	10	13.33%
Protective infrastructure (sea walls, flood walls, etc.)	2	2.67%
Recycling facilities and services	1	1.33%
Sewer capacity	0	0.00%
Snow clearing	0	0.00%
Water pollution control	1	1.33%
Water runoff and flooding	4	5.33%
Water supply	1	1.33%

Policy Area: Housing, Economic Development, and Land Use	Total in numbers	%
Affordable housing creation	17	24.29%
Affordable housing preservation	7	10.00%
Building code and/or zoning enforcement	4	5.71%
Commercial district revitalization	4	5.71%

Condition of public housing	3	4.29%
Housing support services (for tenants and homeowners)	2	2.86%
Industrial business services/support	1	1.43%
Land use and zoning	11	15.71%
Neighborhood preservation	12	17.14%
Real estate development trends	4	5.71%
Small business services/support (incl. BIDs)	4	5.71%
Unemployment/underemployment	1	1.43%
Workforce development (including MWBE opportunities)	0	0.00%

Policy Area: Transportation and Mobility	Total in numbers	%
Accessibility (ADA related compliance and infrastructure enhancements)	5	6.49%
Bicycle network (bike lanes, signage, bike safety, etc.)	9	11.69%
Bridge maintenance and operations	0	0.00%
Bus service (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)	13	16.88%
Ferries	1	1.30%
Freight movement (loading zones, freight related traffic, etc.)	3	3.90%
Parking operations	1	1.30%
Pedestrian safety (safer crossings, sidewalk management, etc.)	19	24.68%
Roadway maintenance	0	0.00%
Roadway and traffic design	4	5.19%
Street lighting	1	1.30%
Subway service and quality (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)	11	14.29%
Traffic congestion	1	1.30%
Traffic safety and enforcement (cars, scooters, ebikes, etc.)	7	9.09%
Open space programs (Open Streets, Open Restaurants, plazas, etc.)	2	2.60%

Policy Area: Parks, Cultural, and other Community Facilities	Total in numbers	%
Library facilities and access	6	8.96%
Park access and park facility access	4	5.97%
Park care and maintenance	15	22.39%
Park safety	3	4.48%
Privately owned public spaces (POPS)	2	2.99%
Quality of library programming	1	1.49%

Quality of parks and park facilities	6	8.96%
Street tree and forestry services, including street tree maintenance	6	8.96%