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

This meeting was conducted via Zoom
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - 6:30pm

MINUTES

Present: Gayle Baron, Michele Birnbaum, Ed Hartzog, Sahar Husain, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider, 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

The committee reviewed the budget priority requests and the District Needs Survey in preparation for FY2027. Assistant District Manager Jordyn Lee provided an update on the results from the community survey. Currently 189 community members have filled out the survey.

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

The committee reviewed the District Needs Statement and agreed that the top 3 pressing issues for the district are: **Affordable Housing, Parks and Open Space, and Quality of Life/Safety and Security Issues.**

The capital priorities identified for individual agencies are as follows:

(DPR) Department of Parks and Recreation

1. 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.
2. Install call boxes every ten blocks along the East River Esplanade and install markings identifying the cross street on the Esplanade to protect public safety and the Parks Department's investment and repairs made to the East River Esplanade.
3. Provide funding to renovate the restrooms in Carl Schurz Park at 87th Street. The restrooms are dated and in need to renovation.
4. Provide funding to repair the Stanley Isaacs Playground at 96th Street.
5. Fund the reconstruction of Samuel Seabury Playground.
6. Fund phase 3 of Andrew Haswell Green Park.
7. Provide funding to redesign and renovate the one-hundred-year-old park house and related infrastructure in John Jay Park.
8. Fund the reconstruction of Samuel Seabury Playground.

CS. Expedite the reconstruction of Ruppert Park and the construction of a restroom at Ruppert Park.

- CS. Proceed with funded work at Andrew Haswell Green Phase 2B.
- CS. Continue reconstruction work at 24 Sycamores Park.
- CS. Continue reconstruction work at St. Catherine's Park.

(DSNY) Department of Sanitation

- 1. Increase the recycling program including solid waste. Enhance funding for composting and organics collection.

(DOT) Department of Transportation

- 1. 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.

(HRA) Human Resources Administration

- 1. Increase funding for more permanent housing for homeless people.

(HPD) Housing and Preservation Development

- 1. Provide more affordable housing for all income levels -- very low-, low- and middle-income New Yorkers.

(NYCHA) New York City Housing Authority

- 1. Fund needed repairs and upgrades at the Isaacs Houses/Holmes Towers: include elevator replacements, apartment repairs, and maintenance. There are over 1,100 open work orders at Holmes Towers and 1,500 open work orders at Isaacs Houses.

(NYPD) New York Police Department

- 1. Fund the renovation of the 19th precinct house including installation of a new cooling system. Fast track the \$300,000 discretionary grant from Council Member Menin.

(NYPL) New York Public Library

- 1. Provide funding for a ramp or other means of accessible access at the Yorkville Branch Library.
- 2. Please allocate \$5 million in funding to repair and improve the façade and windows as well as fund a partial replacement of the HVAC system on the third floor of the 67th Street Library.
- 3. Please allocate \$2.5 million for facade restoration at the Yorkville Library and allocate an additional \$4 million to install a new ADA elevator and 4 stop electrical upgrade at the library.

(SCA) School Construction Authority

- 1. Fund the construction of 3K and Pre-K seats in Community District 8.
- 2. Fund construction of a new high school or expand an existing high school in Community District 8.
- 3. Fund new air conditioners and upgrade the auditorium at the Julia Richman Educational Complex.

The expense priorities identified by individual agencies are as follows:

(ACS) Administration for Children's Services

- 1. Provide additional funding for Children Services, especially programs to prevent abuse and neglect.

(DHS) Department of Homeless Services

1. 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. Dedicate extra resources at 86th Street and Lexington Avenue, 72nd Street and Second Avenue, Second Avenue between 86th and 87th Streets and the west side of Second Avenue at 64th and 65th Streets.
2. 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.

(DFTA) Department for the Aging

1. Provide funding for eviction prevention services for at-risk senior citizens.
2. Increase funding for services for older adults, including personal and home care, transportation services, Meals On Wheels, senior congregate care programs, and case managers.

(DOB) Department of Buildings

1. Hire additional DOB inspectors for compliance and code enforcement, including for illegal signage, and hire auditors for applications.

(DOE) Department of Education

1. Fund 3-K and Pre-K seats in CD8.

(DEP) Department of Environmental Protection

1. Clean the catch basins in the district, especially at Second Avenue and East 87th Street and 89th and 90th Streets at East End Avenue.

(DOHMH) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

1. Fund increased rodent control throughout the district, especially on 85th Street between Second and Third Avenues and on 88th Street between Fifth and Park Avenues.
2. Increase funding for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for enforcement of all food vendor rules and regulations working with the Department of Sanitation.

(DPR) Department of Parks and Recreation

1. Fund additional Parks Enforcement officers to enforce parks rules in all district parks.
2. Provide increased funding for senior programming at community parks, and senior centers.
3. Restore the Parks budget and provide additional funding for year-round workers and Associate Parks and Recreation Workers (APSWs) at NYC Parks and Recreation, including parks maintenance staff, gardeners, and tree pruners.
4. Provide funding for rodent exterminators in all Parks within CD8 and plant rodent resistant foliage.
5. Install new trees that are missing CD8.

(DSNY) Department of Sanitation

1. Increase the frequency of sanitation pick up and street sweeping.
2. Clean the catch basins in the district, especially at Second Avenue and East 87th Street and 89th and 90th Streets at East End Avenue.

3. Increase recycling program including solid waste. Enhance funding for composting and organics collection.
4. Provide funding for inspectors to regulate and enforce rules covering mobile food vendors.

(DOT) Department of Transportation

1. Fund additional DOT inspectors for regulation enforcement of the outdoor dining program.
2. Increase the number of workers to inspect, repair, and preserve the DOT's infrastructure -- both bridges and roads – as well as sidewalk repairs for pedestrian safety.

(DYCD) Department of Youth and Community Development

1. Increase funding for youth programs in CB8. Fully fund the Summer Youth Employment Program, Learning to Work Program, and other youth workforce development programs.
2. Fund accessible and affordable out-of-school time and daycare programs for all children who go to school in CD8 or who have parents who work in CD8.
3. 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.

(HRA) Human Resources Administration

1. Increase funding to support food pantries and other community organizations that provide meals and groceries to food insecure residents of Community District 8.
2. Further increase funding for more permanent housing for homeless people.

(HHC) New York City Health and Hospital Corporation

1. Provide additional funding for Coler on Roosevelt Island to address staffing needs.

(NYCHA) New York City Housing Authority

1. Provide more rodent extermination in the Isaacs Houses and Holmes Tower.

(NYPD) New York Police Department

1. Fund additional police officers for the 19th Precinct and the Central Park Precinct.
2. Fund additional traffic agents near the Queensboro Bridge, especially East 62nd and East 63rd Streets as well as to enforce bike and electric scooter rules to protect pedestrians and cyclists.
3. Provide funding to increase the hours of traffic agents at the 96th Street entrance to the FDR.
4. Provide additional funding to expand the Truck Traffic Enforcement Unit.
5. Provide funding to increase the current number of traffic control agents and school crossing guards.
6. Provide funding to increase the number of officers focused on bike and scooter enforcement.
7. Provide funding for increased enforcement of parking placard abuse and general parking enforcement.

(NYPL) New York Public Library

1. Fund Sunday service at one library in Community District 8 without cutting weekday hours.

(OMB) Office of Management and Budget

1. Increase funding for community boards to support and retain staff and pay staff fairly.

2. 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.

(SBS) Small Business Services

1. Expand funding and support programs to address challenges faced by small businesses.

The District Needs Statement priorities as discussed were approved by a unanimous vote (G. Baron, M. Birnbaum, E. Hartzog, S. Husain, V. Mason, J. Schneider, T. Stein).

Items 2/3: There being no Old Business or New Business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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