

NYC COMMUNITY BOARD 9, BROOKLYN

COMMENTS ON

THE AGENCIES' RESPONSES

TO THE

COMMUNITY BOARD'S CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

IN THE

FY 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

MARCH 22, 2011

Below are Community Board 9's comments on the responses to our Capital and Expense Budget requests for the FY 2012 Preliminary Budget. These comments reflect the community's testimony at the Board's public hearing held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

The Board's comments are addressed to specific agencies and are based upon the priority needs of this district.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Community Board 9's Budget

Community Board 9 is comprised of 47 non-salaried individuals of varying expertise and capabilities, and a paid staff of two, which includes the District Manager. That the Board has been able to carry out any of its Charter mandated responsibilities is not at all indicative of its "sizeable" budget allocation, but is due in large part to the commitment and sacrifices made by these individuals. The Board is therefore hard pressed to absorb the sizeable cut that is being proposed to its already miniscule budget.

Community Boards have been able to exist and function on their small budgets due to District Managers and non-salaried board members (comprised of architects, engineers, teachers, social workers, managers and others) who donate thousands of dollars in valuable time, energy and expertise to carry out their Charter mandated responsibilities. We do this to make this City the kind of place where people will want to establish their businesses and families will want to raise their children.

Community Board 9, as with all New York City Community Boards, continues to deal with land use matters, respond to citizens' complaints (in spite of 311) and participate in the City's overall budget process. The Community Board is your basic "grass roots government" fulfilling a Charter mandated responsibility to the communities they represent. We take this responsibility seriously and would like to continue to fulfill our obligations in an efficient, effective and productive manner.

Community Board 9 not only has its own website, but continues to use this technology to conduct the business of the board, through web postings and email. The Board's web address is: www.communitybrd9bklyn.org. This advancement in the Board's operations brings with it the need for continued technical support from a qualified computer consultant – an expense that is absolutely vital and necessary, but which will soon be beyond the capabilities of the Board's limited budget, and if not addressed will hamper the Board's ability to stay current and vital through the use of this technology.

In addition, empowered by the provisions of the New York City Charter, the Board has embarked upon the formulation of a 197-a Plan for this district. Although authorized by the Charter, there has never been a commitment of funds by the City to allow Community Boards to undertake these important planning, zoning and land use initiatives.

The Department of City Planning, that in the past, was more equipped to assist community boards with land use matters, are not available as they once were. They are faced with their own staff shortages, thus hampering their ability to fit this Board's (as well as other boards) needs into their schedule.

Budget constraints have made it more difficult to successfully tackle the work necessary to complete a comprehensive long-range plan for the district. The Board's undertaking of this plan will provide the City with a blueprint that will assist the agencies as they seek to improve their services to this district. Although we have sought and continue to seek pro bono expertise in the development of this plan, funds for research, equipment and other important technical support is still needed.

Community Board 9 is proud of its commitment to fiscal responsibility which is demonstrated by the effective management of its office operations within the limits of its current budget allocation, while at the same time becoming increasingly efficient and professional.

While we understand that City agencies must do more with less, we appeal to the Mayor and the City Council to reconsider and restore the proposed cuts to the Community Board's budget.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

Permanent Location for District 9's Sanitation Garage

The Department of Sanitation has put in a lot of hard work diligently searching for a site for the relocation of Community District 9's sanitation garage. Two locations that were previously identified as suitable alternatives for the placement of our sanitation garage were both located in other community districts and did not get the support we needed. The agency's response is "no alternate site has been identified to support the proposed action."

Community Board 9 would therefore like to recommend the parking lot adjacent to our existing sanitation garage as a possible location for siting a new state of the art sanitation garage for Community District 9. The lot is located at 723-771 Parkside Avenue (324-344 and 356-370 Winthrop Street) and is currently used as a parking lot by SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The board envisions that this lot could be utilized not only for the expansion of the adjacent sanitation garage, but also to provide parking (either underground or rooftop) for Downstate Medical Center as well

The Board would like the opportunity to meet with the Department of Sanitation, appropriate representatives from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and elected officials representing the district, to explore the feasibility of jointly developing this site to address this suggestion as a viable solution to the problems and negative impact that the current location of the sanitation garage creates for the district.

Sanitation Police

We are pleased that the agency will "...try to accommodate this issue within existing resources" as it is vital that an adequate number of sanitation police personnel be available to ensure enforcement of sanitation codes and the apprehension of violators who illegally dump in our district. The city will benefit from revenue gained from fines, and residents will gain a cleaner, healthier community.

AGENCY FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Provide Additional Day Care Slots/Vouchers to CD 9 Establish a Head Start Program in CD 9

There is an ongoing need for adequate day care and head start programs to serve the growing population of pre-schoolers in the community. The agency's response is that the requests cannot be funded in FY 2012. Resubmit for consideration in 2013. This is not a new request; however, the agency's response has always been a negative one and this year is no exception. In the meanwhile, the shortage of day care and head start to address the need in the community continues.

This community needs some relief from this ongoing battle for adequate day care/head start services. We therefore call on our Federal and State elected representatives to take a closer look at the inadequacy of the funds that are provided to New York City for these purposes and address the inequity that currently exists.

Increase the Number of Social Workers (Case Workers)

This request was submitted in 2008. It is not a new request. Community Board 9 feels very strongly that the recent alarming numbers of incidents of death and serious injury being inflicted upon helpless children in troubled families calls for more scrutiny and diligence. Increased funding to provide adequate staffing will allow for a reduced, manageable caseload, which will guard against children "falling through the cracks" and for families to obtain more focused attention to help them to cope.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Clove Road - Contract No HWKP166

The "Bedford Pass" of the American Revolution

Research of historic maps, books and documents indicate that Clove Road, located within Community District 9, "... appears to be eligible for the **National Register** under Criterion A based on its association with the establishment of Kings County's 19th century public institutions, the Alms House, Hospital, Asylum, and Penitentiary, an event that significantly contributed to the broad pattern of New York's urban history. It is the only surviving remnant

of a road that pre-dated the urban grid, representing this part of Brooklyn in a time when it was still rural in character, far enough removed from the city to render it suitable for housing the sick, insane, and criminal..." The report goes on to say "The road possesses integrity of location, for it is unchanged from 1830 and remains to this day aligned toward the Kings County Hospital, and possible integrity of material, which can be confirmed through archaeology."

Community Board 9 is convinced that this stretch of roadway is the "Bedford Pass of the American Revolution." We eagerly await the findings of the archaeological dig that is scheduled to take place

Archaeological Dig for Clove Road

We appreciate the agency's cooperation in helping us document and confirm the historic significance of this location by engaging the expertise of an archaeologist to conduct the preliminary investigation into the history of the site. We are pleased that as a result of the consultant's findings, the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission has recommended that a preliminary archaeological "dig" be conducted at the site.

The archaeological dig is a critical next step in the process of documenting the historic significance of this location. We are extremely appreciative of our council member's commitment to the project with the allocation of the necessary funding to conduct the archaeological dig. We are very pleased that a contractor for the archaeological dig has been identified and wait expectantly for the commencement of the dig, scheduled for March 2011

Reconstruct Clove Road (and Malbone Street)

Community Board 9 will continue to work with all of our elected officials to fully fund the restoration of this historic roadway into an educational resource that will disseminate both historical and environmental information to residents and visitors, as well as providing a passive, secure landscaped public plaza/promenade for all to enjoy.

Empire Boulevard from Flatbush to Utica Avenues

The Board considers Empire Boulevard to be the "gateway" to Community District 9, and to our important historic cultural, recreational and educational institutions - Prospect Park, The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, Medgar Evers College and, The Brooklyn Public Library – to name a few. This is an important thoroughway in our district and features prominently in our 197a planning efforts.

The Board is pleased with the traffic calming measures that were implemented on Empire Boulevard in 2009, as well as the opportunity for beautification of the roadway with plantings. In addition the changes made to traffic flow on Empire Blvd/Flatbush Avenue/Ocean Avenue/Washington Avenue, has made that portion of the roadway safer for travel.

As we have pointed out, notwithstanding these “short term” improvements Empire Boulevard is still in need of reconstruction. The agency has responded that “Funds are unavailable for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e., Borough President, Council/Assembly member or State Senator.” We are therefore seeking the cooperation of our elected officials to allocate the necessary funding to enable the agency to move this project forward.

Traffic Calming

Community District 9 is a residential community, home to thousands of families with children. About fifteen years ago the Department of Transportation, at the Board’s request, conducted a Traffic Calming study of the district. The recommendations in the study were not implemented and now 16 years later with changing demographics, the findings from that time most likely no longer apply. While we appreciate the attempts at traffic calming on sporadic blocks in the district, the Board does not believe that the planning for traffic calming in the district is cohesive. In addition residents still endure the negative impact of speeding vehicles, traffic congestion, truck traffic, and the like, all impacting upon the safety of our residents.

A new traffic calming study of this district is necessary. The agency’s response is again, very disappointing – “This request cannot be funded in FY 2012. Resubmit for consideration in FY 2013.” Community Board 9 was one of few agencies advocating for a traffic calming study of the entire district. 16 years later still finds us making the same request. We fully intend to resubmit this request in 2013 and call on our elected officials to provide funding for this critical study.

Increase Asphalt Allocation for CD 9

Wear and tear from snow and salt, street openings and excavations by utility and private companies, all lead to the deterioration of our neighborhood streets. An increase in the asphalt allocation will help a great deal in street maintenance and street resurfacing of those badly deteriorated streets in the district. We hope that the agency’s response that they will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources means that we will a substantial increase in the number of streets/blocks that will be resurfaced in the district. We intend to submit locations within the district that are in dire need of resurfacing.

Curb Replacement

There is an urgent need, at various locations throughout the district, for the replacement of broken, damaged and missing curbs. The entire length of curb on the N/S of President Street between Bedford and Franklin Avenue is broken and/or missing, the street has caved in, in front of 1023/1025 President Street, causing severe flooding when it rains and dangerous ice conditions in the winter. Similar conditions exist at other locations within the district. The Board and community cannot in good conscience accept the agency’s response that “capital funding constraints, project capacity and city-wide priorities preclude this project

at this time. Correcting these conditions is a priority for this board; we would like the locations within this district to be included in the city-wide priorities of the agency.

DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION

The creation and expansion of parks, playgrounds and open space is a top priority in Community Board 9's 197-a Plan. Parks and playgrounds serve as a safety valve for the energies of our youth. Research has shown that green spaces have a positive impact upon the citizenry. Research also shows that in the Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 9 has the least amount of open space and one of the largest, if not the largest, youth population in the city. The Board feels that the provision of adequate open space and positive activities is vital to the overall well being and development of our community's youth population – our future.

We are pleased to note that the provision of open space has been given a high priority in the Mayor's PlaNYC 2030. Many of the ideas contained in the plan have been priorities that Community Board 9 has consistently advocated for over the past twenty-five years. Community Board 9 long ago recognized that this shortage of open space in the district "... threatens our environment, our health, and our quality of life." It is refreshing to see in PlaNYC that the importance of parks and open space to the population is finally being recognized and given the prominence it deserves.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, whose budget has been steadily cut for the past 15-16 years is finally taking its rightful place as an agency that provides vitally needed city services. With the current budget crisis the agency is again being hampered in their ability to provide their Charter mandated responsibilities. This seriously impacts upon Community District 9, and the city as a whole. Community Board 9 urges the Mayor and the City Council to increase the level of funding to the agency that will comprehensively address capital projects already on the drawing board and the ability to develop additional open space for the immediate future.

Capital Reconstruction Projects

Hamilton Metz park

Hamilton Metz Park is another of the heavily utilized parks in the district. The park has only been partially renovated. An additional commitment of funds is urgently needed to complete the rehabilitation of this entire park. We agency recommends that "...this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member. We therefore call on our elected officials to provide the necessary funding to complete this park, making it safe for the children in our community.

The addition of an "exercise area" in this park is a need that has been expressed by the community and been brought to the attention of our elected official. We support the community's request and are pleased to say that funding has been allocated for this project.

We will continue to work with our elected official to ensure that this amenity is developed inside the park.

Mount Prospect Park

Mount Prospect Park is another of the beautiful park spaces in the district, perched strategically between the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The work done on the playground, stairs and paths during the late Council member Mary Pinkett's tenure was a welcomed improvement to this park. However, the opportunity exists for the development of creative uses for this space and the amenities to go along with that. This project has been brought to the attention of our City Council member and the Borough President to provide the necessary funding. We continue to encourage our elected officials to fund a preliminary design investigation for the development of this park; as well as providing the necessary funding for a reconstruction project for this park that will focus on developing this wide expanse of open space with amenities that could be enjoyed by the community, as well as improving access to the park.

Reconstruction/Expansion of Wingate Park

Community Board 9 is dismayed to note that the agency's funds are insufficient for this project. The Board would like to remind the agency that Wingate Park is a largely athletically oriented park attracting users from across the Borough. On any given day Wingate Park attracts scores of residents, not only from this district, but from other parts of Central Brooklyn as well. The demand for this park has outgrown its size and has led to the deterioration of the park facilities. In addition, Community Board 9 feels that the athletic focus of this park should be complimented by additional recreational facilities. Acquisition of the existing property adjacent to the park would provide much needed parkland and the opportunity to provide the type of facilities currently lacking at this park.

We understand that although this is a worthwhile project, the Department of Parks and Recreation, with its budget stretched to the limit may not have sufficient resources to fund this project. We therefore appeal to the Borough President and our City Council members to provide the necessary funds to not only rehabilitate the existing Wingate Park, but, to also acquire the available property adjacent to Wingate Park – 617-633 Brooklyn Avenue - for the expansion. This is a worthwhile project and will enhance the quality of life of our community.

Prospect Park – Concert Grove

The response to this request is still "Department of Parks funds are insufficient for this project we recommend that this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e., Borough President and/or city council member." We implore not only those elected officials within whose jurisdiction this park falls, but all our Brooklyn elected officials to consider jointly/fully funding the restoration of one of the most formal and beautiful spaces within Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all of Brooklyn.

Oriental Pavilion

The Oriental Pavilion has been the site of many, many community sponsored activities. This ideal location in Prospect Park has served all of the Brooklyn community well and is in need of rehabilitation. There are insufficient funds in the agency's budget for this project therefore we must once again call upon Brooklyn elected officials to jointly and fully fund the restoration of this valuable Brooklyn asset.

Acquisition of Property for Creation of Open Space

Flatbush Avenue/Ocean Avenue/Empire Blvd

The site at this intersection is city-owned property. There is a parking lot here that is currently being used by employees of the NYC Transit Authority to park their cars. It is an eyesore. The NYCTA employees have a total disregard for this community and its residents, illegally parking their cars at will on the sidewalk on a daily basis without regard to pedestrians. In addition, during this past 2011 winter blizzards, the sidewalk was not cleared to make a safe path for the public instead, the NYCTA employees parked their cars in the travelling lane on Ocean Avenue at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue without any regard for the community's safety.

Our constituency does not feel that it is the taxpayers' responsibility to provide free parking for employees of the city, especially ones that have a blatant disregard for the community they are working in.

Community Board 9 has identified this site as the potential location for a passive park for the community. Not only will it rid the community of the current eyesore, but it will help in our quest to create additional open space for the residents of this district. We will continue to work diligently for this vision to become a reality for our constituency.

Vacant Property on the Grounds of Kingsborough Psychiatric Center

This city-owned property on the grounds of Kingsborough Psychiatric Center is currently lying vacant and unused while the district yearns for additional open space. Acquisition of this property will provide that additional open space that we so desperately need. Again, we are aware that the "Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project..." However, we do ask the Department of Parks and Recreation to work with us to develop additional open space. This proposal is work exploring. Let's sit down and talk about it. We would therefore like to continue this discussion with the agency and our elected officials so that we can make this dream become a reality "in the ten year plan, maybe?"

Community Recreation Center

This community is urgently in need of a recreation center for the youth in our district. This center would be a place, in the neighborhood, where their energies can be channeled into

constructive activities, helping to build character and sportsmanship. We call on our elected officials – City Council, Borough President, Senators and Assembly – to respond to the needs of the children in our community and to provide the necessary funding to make this vision a reality.

Forestry Program

Tree Pruning/Stump Removal

Our community has been severely impacted by the lack of forestry service. Consequently, overgrown trees have not been pruned resulting in darkened streets and property damage and an indirect cost to the city. Restoration of at least 10% of the budget for forestry will impact in a small way on the current backlog of tree pruning/stump removal complaints.

Park Maintenance

Community Board 9 cannot overemphasize the importance of maintenance for our parks. We urge the Mayor and City Council to provide appropriate funding to maintain adequate staffing levels for park maintenance.

Park Enforcement

The Board will continue to advocate for personnel for park enforcement. The provision of a safe environment within our parks cannot be overemphasized. An infusion of funds by the Mayor and the City Council will help to restore adequate park enforcement and park rangers.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Reconstruction of District Schools

PS 91, PS 92, PS 161, PS 221, PS 241, PS 397

PS 352 and PS 375

MS 61, MS 391

These school buildings are in critical need of renovation. Except for some cosmetic work that is usually done over the summer, such as painting and fixing windows, these buildings have yet to receive the extensive work needed to restore them, in order to provide the type of environment that is conducive to teaching and learning. Our old school buildings are in various states of deterioration and disrepair. These conditions have a negative impact upon our students and deny them their rights to be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning. These are critical needs that we are bringing to the attention of our elected officials. We urge that full funding be made available for the restoration of these institutions of learning.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Land Acquisition for Housing

There is currently, on the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, vacant land that can be used for housing (and open space.) One building on the site is currently being utilized by the Department of Homeless Services as a shelter for single men. With the acute shortage of affordable housing in the district, and in keeping with the Mayor's plan to build and preserve 165,000 units of housing by 2013, this city-owned land would be an ideal choice to partially fulfill the city's ambitious and laudable plan. The agency in its response to this request indicated that "further study of this new request is needed..." We will contact the agency to discuss.

Increase Code Enforcement Inspectors

There is a need for additional Code Enforcement Inspectors to respond to complaints from tenants living in sub-standard/hazardous conditions in their apartments. Identifying these sub-standard conditions, issuing violations and bringing them to the attention of landlords for repair, is extremely essential for the improvement of living conditions for many tenants in this district. We are counting on the agency to urgently address this issue.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Board 9 continues to advocate for an increase in the **Out of School Time** funding allocation for programs serving Community District 9. This funding would greatly assist our community-based organizations in providing much needed educational, social and recreational services to large numbers of deserving youth within the district.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

The senior citizens in our community are among the most vulnerable of our populations. This population is largely underserved in areas of transportation, meals on wheels and related services. The agency has indicated that it has very limited or no funding for this purpose. The will continue to advocate for federal and state funds..." Funding for these services is absolutely vital to addressing the inequities in service delivery to this segment of our population. We urge our elected officials to recognize the urgency of these needs and to provide the resources so necessary so that our seniors are not penalized any further due to a reduction and/or complete elimination of these vital services.

The proposed closing of senior citizen centers is a callous disregard to the needs of our elders. For the vast majority of seniors the senior citizen center is there one opportunity to eat a decent meal. It is the one place where they can meet and socialize with others to get away from being alone in their apartment. For some it's the reason they wake up in the morning because it's a place to be, to feel alive, to participate. It is heartless to take that away from

them. We call on our elected officials to restore funding to keep these centers open to serve our seniors.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Renovate the 71 Precinct

Police officers place their lives on the line every day for the people in this district. The Board believes that providing appropriate, safe facilities for police personnel to work in will go a long way towards improving morale and maximizing performance. This Precinct house is in woeful, borderline derelict condition, every square foot of the building. These conditions do not lead to maximum performance and diminishes morale. The agency's response says that "...funding constraints, project capacity and department priorities rule out including this project at this time. The deplorable conditions that exist in this precinct should not be allowed to continue. We call on all elected officials representing this district to come together and provide the funding necessary to upgrade the precinct to a state of the art facility for combating crime and improving public safety in the community.

Off Street Parking Facility

Community Board 9 is committed to accomplishing a "master plan" for this district. Inherent in this plan is the improvement of the quality of life in our community. One of the problems currently impacting on this quality of life is the one created by the Police Department which does not provide parking for agency vehicles and vehicles that are impounded in the course of conducting the work of the agency. These vehicles are parked indiscriminately on streets and sidewalks surrounding the precinct, creating congestion and blocking sidewalks, forcing pedestrians into the street and into oncoming traffic.

This situation is intolerable. The solution is to acquire available property in the vicinity of the 71 Precinct, either by **lease or purchase**, to provide the parking necessary for the Precinct. The successful realization of this project cannot be accomplished without an infusion of funds specifically earmarked for the acquisition of a suitable site. Since the agency's "funding constraints...rule out including this project at this time", we definitely need that infusion of funds from our elected officials. Although we are in tough economic times, the safety and well-being of our residents is of vital importance and should be a priority to all concerned.

Increase Police Personnel

While it may not be feasible to place a police officer on every block and corner of our district, we strongly urge an increase in police visibility within our community. This presence is an effective deterrent to the commission of crime and has a direct impact upon the feeling of safety and security that people feel when they see police officers on duty, on foot (or bikes) in the community. We urge the provision of the funding necessary to provide for the assignment

of an adequate number of police personnel, to fight crime and provide protection for our citizens.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety Education

Community Board 9 continues to strongly urge the agency to provide the necessary funding for increased fire safety education programs. The Child Fire Starter Program has proven to be an invaluable tool to educate children who might be at risk of starting fires. We urge the continuation and expansion of this program. The Board is convinced that educating our residents about the danger of fires will have a major impact in decreasing the number of fire related deaths. On too many occasions, we learn that children are found beneath beds and in closets, where in their innocence they hide to get away from fires, only to end up its tragic victims. The Board wholeheartedly supports the expansion of the Fire Safety House program to provide hands-on fire-safety education for children.

We urge our elected officials to provide funding the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Detector Distribution Programs. These are life saving equipment and these programs must be preserved. We also urge that adequate funding be provided for the purchase of CPR Kits.

Fire Marshals

The numbers of Fire Marshals in our city has been decimated over the years. The Board and community disagree with the agency's response that the request is not recommended for funding. Without adequate numbers of Fire Marshals to investigate fires, specifically suspicious fires, many arsonists may be getting away with committing arson. It is not only important to investigate the cause of some fires, it is important that all fires should be investigated to determine cause. Our city cannot be safe from arsonists without Fire Marshals. Funding should be restored to adequately provide this service.

Generators for Battalion 38 Specifically Engine Co 249/Ladder 113

The blackout that affected the city in the summer of 2003 was a wake-up call for everyone. The provision of a generator for Engine Company 249/Ladder 113, and for all Engine/Ladder companies in the city is obvious. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that funding should be provided for this purpose. We are pleased to have positive feedback from our elected officials for the provision of funds to purchase and install a generator for Engine Company 249 Ladder 113.

We are also optimistic that funding will be provided by our elected officials for the replacement of the roof of our Fire House at 491 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn.

**Restore the Fifth Man on
Engine Companies 234, 249 and 280**

Our Brooklyn districts served by these Engine Companies are densely populated with numerous apartments and multiple dwellings; removing the 5th man would lead to a loss of three men per tour which poses a significant to the lives of the residents in these communities. We urge the agency to reconsider its response that the request is not recommended for funding. The loss of even one life due to inadequate staffing is unacceptable.

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

We request the Transit Authority, along with our elected officials to fund the rehabilitation of the President Street and Winthrop Street subway stations. These stations are badly deterioration and should be repaired and upgraded to meet standards projected for the rest of the subway system. There are leaks in the ceiling and walls of the President Street Station and torrents of water entering the tracks from rain and melting snow. The Winthrop Street station is heavily utilized by personnel, students, and patients at nearby Kings County Hospital and SUNY Downstate Medical Center and is in desperate need of being renovated.

The Kingston Avenue station brings hundreds of visitors to the Jewish Children's Museum. The request is for an elevator for this station to provide handicapped accessibility for subway riders. We strongly urge the agency and our elected officials to provide the necessary funding for the rehabilitation of these subway stations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Catch Basin Construction Project

Community Board #9 has repeatedly discussed with the agency the issue of a catch basin capacity problem in some areas of the district; and the absence of any catch basins at all in other streets in the district. These conditions lead to flooding when it rains and when the snow melts. While one of the locations identified for correction of this problem may involve additional work by another agency, there are still other areas which need to be addressed solely by the Department of Environmental Protection. This is not a new request. The Board has been submitting this request since 1996. We will contact the agency to further discuss this capital request.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Increase Operating Funds for the Brooklyn Museum

The Board strongly supports our historic cultural institutions. The Brooklyn Museum represents just one of the many treasures that our district shares with visitors and residents alike and which must be preserved and enhanced. An infusion of funds is desperately needed to provide adequate maintenance, education and technical services at the Museum. We call on

our elected officials to provide the funding that is necessary to enable the Museum to continue to preserve and provide vital and valuable programming.

HEALTH & HOSPITALS CORPORATION

Therapeutic Horticultural Center for Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (DSSM), provides excellent nursing and rehabilitation services for its clients. The Center is constantly striving to maintain its leadership role in Communication Rehabilitation and has identified the provision of Horticultural Therapy to promote healing as a result of direct contact with the physical/natural environment. Community Board 9 strongly urges our elected officials to provide adequate funding for the establishment of a Therapeutic Horticultural Center at DSSM.

Bariatric Beds and Ultrasound Machines for Kings County Hospital

Obesity has reached an all-time high in New York City and is not limited to adults only. Over 40% of public school children in the City from kindergarten through eighth grade are overweight or obese. Kings County Hospital is in need of two (2) Bariatric Beds. These beds are made especially for obese patients following medical procedures. It is critical that these beds be provided to allow patients to recover from life saving medical procedures.

Kings County Hospital Center's (KCHC) existing Ultrasound Machines are old and outdated. This places KCHC at a disadvantage in the quality of care that it must provide to the thousands of patients that it treats every year. The acquisition of two Ultrasound Machines will improve efficiency, safety, and quality of care while reducing risk-management issues. Community Board 9 is heartened by the agency's response that it will try to accommodate these issues within existing resources. We will follow up with the agency regarding the timeframe for the acquisition of these vitally needed medical equipment.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

With the increasing number of building collapses and illegal renovations, there is need for constant inspections by the agency. There should be at least one inspector in each community district throughout the City and funding is critically needed to provide this improved service.

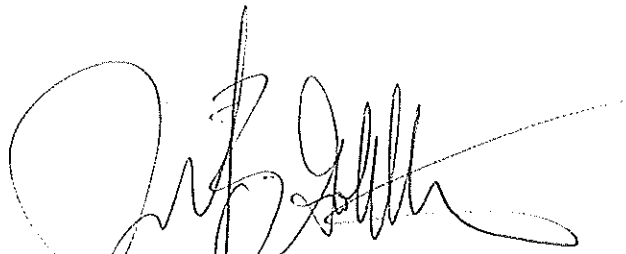
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES

The Kingsboro Men's Shelter has degenerated from a model that could have been replicated in other parts of the city to a place where homeless men roam our street and are not involved in constructive activity. Convicted sex offenders are housed at this shelter without regard for its close proximity to elementary schools in the neighborhood. This shelter is not being run under the terms that were agreed to by the Department of Homeless Services. We

have tried to work with the agency to correct these conditions but we have largely been ignored. Community Board 9 wants funding to be restored so that this shelter is operated as agreed upon between the Department of Homeless Services and Community Board 9 when the shelter was established.

The agency's response is "DHS currently funds programs to address these issues and concerns. To learn more about these programs and available resources in your district please contact the agency. We beg to differ with DHS. Community Board 9 does not have to contact the agency to learn about resources. It is Community Board 9 who brought the deplorable, disgraceful conditions existing at this shelter to DHS' attention. It was the Board who advised the agency that drugs were being used on the grounds of the shelter under the very noses of the "guards" at the facility. The loitering, the increase in criminal activity that is overwhelmingly traced back to shelter residents; all of these issues were brought by the board to the agency's attention.

Community Board 9 strongly urges DHS to work with the Board to restore order at this facility. In addition, we urge DHS to ensure that the residents at this shelter be required to be participate in alcohol and drug treatment programs as well as training programs so they could be gainfully employed. This is for the short term. For the long term Community Board 9 would like to see the development of housing and a park on the site of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center. We fervently believe that this would be a more productive use of valuable real estate in our community.



Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Chairman



Pearl R. Miles
District Manager

March 22, 2011