

NYC COMMUNITY BOARD 9, BROOKLYN

COMMENTS ON

THE AGENCIES' RESPONSES

TO THE

COMMUNITY BOARD'S CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

IN THE

FY 2014 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Below are Community Board 9's comments on the responses to our Capital and Expense Budget requests for the FY 2014 Preliminary Budget. These comments reflect the community's testimony at the Board's public hearing held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

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 45 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.

Community Board 9 is grateful for the restoration of the threatened FY 2013 budget cut to its and the other 58 Community Boards' budgets. However, the threat of a \$15,658 cut still looms in fiscal year 2014, a few short months away. A budget cut in this amount will have a devastating impact on all 59 community boards, which would mean a reduction in already small staffing levels with a concomitant reduction in the services that the Boards will be able to provide to its constituency.

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. The boards' ability to conduct its business will be seriously curtailed.

Community Board 9 continues to use technology to conduct the business of the board. The Board's web address is: www.communitybrd9bklyn.org. Use of technology of any kind 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 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. Budget constraints have made it more difficult to successfully tackle the work necessary to complete a comprehensive long-range plan for the 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

Community Board 9, the Department of Sanitation; the medical campuses in the vicinity of the current sanitation garage, as well as community residents, all agree: the present location of the district's sanitation garage is definitely not a suitable one. It is unfortunate that after a 15-year search for a suitable site for the relocation of this garage, when there finally appeared to be a light at the end of the tunnel, the identification of a viable location, the funding for this facility no longer exists.

While we understand the current fiscal constraints, the justification for this long time community need remains the same: it is inappropriate/unhealthy and a blight on the community to have this facility so close to two major hospital campuses; as well as in such close proximity to family residences, when the facility is not adequate enough to fully house the trucks and other equipment. It is blight on the community to have to endure the stench of garbage-filled trucks parked overnight on the streets.

While funding for site acquisition and construction of a new sanitation garage is not possible for FY 2014, Community Board 9 looks forward to continuing the dialogue with the Department of Sanitation, our elected officials, and appropriate representatives from New York State, to work together to fund the acquisition of this critically needed facility, in order to bring relief to the community.

Sanitation Police/Sanitation Enforcement

Community Board 9 along with the residents and homeowners feel very strongly about the outward appearance of this district. The cleanliness, or lack thereof, is every bit an indication of how we feel about ourselves. It is vital to us therefore, that an adequate number of sanitation enforcement agents, as well as sanitation police personnel are available to ensure enforcement of sanitation codes and the apprehension of violators who illegally dump in our district.

We hope that the agency will work with us on enforcement issues. We want to eliminate, no, totally eradicate, the instances of non-compliant merchants (who have no carting companies) and residents who dump their garbage in the trash baskets on the corner. We ask for enforcement agents to address improper garbage disposal, littering, failure to clean the sidewalk, illegal dumping, and other sanitation code violations that impact negatively on our community.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Clove Road/Malbone Street - Contract No HWKP166 The “Bedford Pass” of the American Revolution

An Archaeological Document Study of Clove Road, commissioned by the Department of Transportation (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, events 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 ...” Community Board 9 intends to pursue the inclusion of Clove Road on the City’s, State’s and the National Register of Historic Places.

Reconstruct Clove Road (and Malbone Street)

Community Board 9 has worked very hard with the agency to come up with a scope of work that will address the historic nature of Clove Road, as well as the opportunity to create additional passive open space in the district. We will continue to work with the Department, as well as our elected officials, at all levels, to fully fund the restoration of this historic roadway to preserve our history; provide both historical and environmental information to residents and visitors; as well as provide a passive, secure landscaped public plaza/promenade for all to enjoy.

Reconstruct 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, 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 enable 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, and recommended that the project be brought to the attention of our elected officials, i.e., Borough President, City Council member, Assembly member/State Senator. We

continue to seek the cooperation of our local elected officials to allocate the necessary funding to enable this project to move forward.

Reconstruct Ocean Avenue Empire Boulevard to Parkside Avenue

For years Community Board 9 has been appealing to the Department of Environmental Protection to properly restore this street following sewer reconstruction project. While there was some attention paid to our request, by patching the various deeply sunken pits in the roadway (which always re-occurred) we are now forced to request the reconstruction of this entire stretch of roadway to eliminate the constant deterioration of the street. We will work with the agency and our elected officials for the provision of funds for this project in the future.

Traffic Calming

The Board is proud of its pro-active efforts for the implementation of traffic calming in Community District 9, to make our community safer, almost 25 years ago. This was way before anyone, even the City of New York, thought about implementing this tool in the City. While our efforts were not readily accepted and were pushed aside time and time again, much like the study that was done for us; we persevered, and now the concept of traffic calming is widely accepted.

While we appreciate the measures that have been implemented in a few areas in the district; residents in other parts still endure the frightening impact of speeding vehicles, traffic congestion, competing modes of transportation – buses, gypsy cabs, taxis, dollar vans - all of which impact upon the safety of our residents. We are encouraged by the agency's response and will work diligently with them to implement further measures throughout our district – one of them being Lincoln Road/Flatbush Avenue/Washington Avenue – so that our district can become one of the safest in the Borough of Brooklyn.

Increase Asphalt Allocation for CD 9

Wear and tear from snowing and salting; street openings and excavations by utility companies and private contractors, have all led to the deterioration of our neighborhood streets. An increase in the asphalt allocation will improve street maintenance and street resurfacing of badly deteriorated streets in the district. We are extremely pleased that the agency will resurface locations in the district using in-house forces this season.

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 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 has begun a survey of the district to identify problem locations which will be brought to the attention of the agency for evaluation and inclusion in a curb replacement contract.

DEPARTMENT of PARKS and RECREATION

The creation and expansion of parks, playgrounds and open space is a top priority of Community Board 9. 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 strongly that the provision of adequate open space is vital to the overall well-being and development of our community's youth population.

We are pleased to note that 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.

However, 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. This park has been partially renovated; however, an additional commitment of funds is urgently needed to complete the renovation of the entire park. The 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.

We are very pleased that funding has been provided to establish an "exercise area" in this park. We look forward to the installation of the equipment; this amenity will see an abundance of usage.

Mount Prospect Park

While we continue to advocate for additional open space in the district, there is currently park space going to waste in our district because it is not fully developed. Community Board 9 took the initiative to look at possibilities for the design/development of Mount Prospect Park, working with students from the University of Virginia. We have had quite a few meetings and visits to the site, with park and elected officials, who have all agreed that the park needs to be

redesigned and reconstructed. We have been requesting a preliminary design investigation since 1997 yet to date, not a single dime has been forthcoming. This district is in desperate need for additional open space to serve its overwhelmingly large youth population. We need our elected officials to step up to the plate and fund this project for the benefit of the community.

Mount Prospect Park is existing park space, perched strategically between the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. 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 these elected officials to fund a preliminary design investigation that will focus on developing this wide expanse of open space with improved access and amenities that would be enjoyed by the community; and to provide the for the necessary funding for the long awaited reconstruction of the park.

Reconstruction/Expansion of Wingate Park

We are so pleased that funding has been allocated for this project and that the final design contract has been let. Wingate Park is a largely athletically-oriented park. On any given day the Park attracts scores of residents, from all parts of the borough. The demand for this park has outgrown its size and overuse has led to the deterioration of the park's facilities. In addition, Community Board 9 feels that the athletic focus of this park should be complimented with additional recreational opportunities. The acquisition of the property adjacent to the park would provide much needed parkland and the opportunity to provide the type of recreational equipment that is lacking at this park.

We understand that although the Department of Parks and Recreation would welcome additional parkland; the agency, 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 acquire the property adjacent to Wingate Park – 617-633 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn – for park expansion. This is a worthwhile project and will enhance the quality of life of our community.

Prospect Park

Lakeside Project

As we all know Prospect Park is Brooklyn's urban oasis. The Lakeside Project is a project that will transform 26 acres of parkland to address the needs of Brooklyn residents as well as visitors to the borough, while at the same time restoring the "...lake-shore to its original elegance ...". Additional funding is still needed to complete this worthwhile project. We are therefore, reaching out to our elected officials to fund this project to completion.

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 help in the restoration of this valuable community asset.

Acquisition of Property for Creation of Open Space

Property at Flatbush Avenue/Ocean Avenue/Empire Blvd

The site at this intersection, just across from Prospect Park and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, is city-owned property that is currently being used by employees of the NYC Transit Authority to park their private cars. This site does not belong to the Transit Authority, it was supposed to be a temporary location for use during the reconstruction/repairs to the subway station, yet the agency continues to hold onto this lot for the private use of Transit employees. This is an outrage! The City of New York does not provide free parking for city employees' private vehicles, yet, here we are, the total disregard for the taxpayers money. Not only do they utilize the lot for parking private vehicles; the NYCTA employees randomly parked their cars on the sidewalk, do NOT clean the sidewalk; do NOT shovel the snow in the winter – a major disaster that is being allowed to continue with no-one taking action to return this lot back to the community.

Community Board 9 feels strongly that it is not the taxpayers' responsibility to provide free parking for employees of the city. The Board has identified this site as the site for a passive park for the community. Not only will it rid the community of the current eyesore, but it will help in the board's mission for the creation of additional open space for the residents of this district.

The Board has begun the process of reclaiming this corner for our community, with the restoration of the "Flatbush Trees" the dilapidated green sheet metal trees at this intersection. The project will involve middle-schoolers working with an artist to transform these eyesore "trees" into a work of art.

The agency has indicated that there are insufficient funds for this acquisition of this property and has recommended that the Board seek funding from our elected officials. The Board will work diligently to bring this vision to fruition.

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 and the other property that we have identified will provide that additional open space that we so desperately need.

We implore the agency, our city and state elected officials to work with us to develop additional open space, so that we too can say, no matter where we live in this community, "we live no more than 10 minutes from the nearest park." This is our vision, this is the vision touted in PlaNYC, we need to make this plan, this dream, a reality for this corner of Brooklyn.

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 of 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**

All of these school buildings are in various stages of deterioration and disrepair and are in critical need of renovation. Over time, the failure to repair/renovate these schools have resulted in further deterioration of the infrastructure. These conditions have a negative impact upon our students, faculty and staff, and deny them their rights to be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching.

Community Board 9 will request a meeting with the agency to address the critical needs at all of these schools. In addition, we call on our elected officials to provide full for the restoration of these institutions of learning.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Renovation of 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 personnel to work will go a long way towards improving morale and maximizing performance. This Precinct house is in borderline derelict condition, every square foot of the building. These conditions do not lead to maximum performance and diminishes morale.

The conditions that exist in this precinct should not be allowed to continue. We call on all elected officials representing this district to provide the funding necessary to upgrade the precinct to a state of the art facility, working to combat 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.

Community Policing

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 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 for an increase in number of uniformed and civilian personnel assigned to the Precinct; to conduct the business of the people and provide protection for the district.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Generators for Battalion 38

Including Engine Co 249/Ladder 113

Community Board 9 continues to advocate for the provision of a generator for Engine Company 249/Ladder 113, and for all Engine/Ladder companies in the city. There should be no doubt in anyone’s mind that funding should be provided for this purpose. We therefore call on the elected officials representing this district to provide the necessary funding for the acquisition of this vitally needed piece of equipment.

**Replace Leaking Roof
Engine Company 249/Ladder Company 113**

Community Board 9 is extremely pleased that funding has been allocated to replace the roof at Engine 249, as well as the HVAC. We look forward to the start of this improvement.

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 of this program. The Board also wholeheartedly supports the expansion of the Fire Safety House program to provide hands-on fire-safety education for children.

Smoke Alarms/Carbon Monoxide Detectors

This program provides a valuable resource for the community, especially to senior citizens and others on low or fixed incomes. We sincerely hope that funding will be provided to continue the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Detector Distribution Program. Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors are life savers 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. 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.

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Subway Stations Renovation

We request the Transit Authority, along with our elected officials to fund necessary improvements to the following subway stations: President Street; Winthrop Street; Parkside Avenue; and Prospect Park Stations. These stations show signs of serious deterioration and should be renovated and upgraded to meet standards projected for the rest of the subway system.

There is overall decay and neglect at the Parkside Avenue and Prospect Park stations. We appreciate that the station will see renovations to the platforms, canopies and staircases; however, we feel that these will be just temporary fixes and would like to see major renovations to the full interior and exterior of these stations.

Problems at the President Street Station include leaks in the walls and ceilings; the escalator is constantly breaking down creating a hardship for riders, especially senior citizens. Accordingly, the Winthrop Street station is heavily utilized by students, faculty, staff and patients at nearby Kings County Hospital and SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and can benefit from a renovation project. We strongly urge the agency to provide funding for the complete rehabilitation of these subway stations according to the individual station needs.

The community is also requesting the installation of an elevator at the Kingston Avenue Subway Station. The station brings thousands of visitors to the Jewish Children's Museum as well as the World Headquarters of the Lubavitch, both located at Kingston Avenue and Eastern Parkway.

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 the snow melts. One such location is Sterling Street between Brooklyn and New York Avenues. We are encouraged by the agency's response that the project is included in We will contact the agency to further discuss this capital request.

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 preschoolers in the community. The agency's response is that these requests depend on sufficient federal/state funds. 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; address the inequity that currently exists; and provide the funds the provision of additional daycare and head start programs in this community. The hardworking families in this district and those who want to work but can't because there is no one to care for their children are depending upon you. This community needs some relief from this ongoing battle for adequate day care/head start services.

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.

Housing Code Enforcement Inspectors

Increasing the number of inspectors will enable faster response to complaints of unscrupulous landlords with apartments that are sub-standard and hazardous, and who fail to provide heat and hot water to their tenants. Inspecting and bringing these code violations to light will hopefully force the improvement in living conditions in those apartment buildings in the district where these conditions exist.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Out of School Time

The response to Community Board 9's request for an increase in funding for additional Out-of-School Time programs in the district was that "...the Community Board area has significant agency-funded programs ..." However, a review of the 2010 Census' American Community Survey data demonstrates that in 2010 Community District 9 had roughly 7,000 residents in each of the three relevant categories of youth: 5-9, 10-14, and 14-19.

DYCD lists ten out-of-school time programs for this district which includes a Beacon Center designed to provide out-of-school time programming for all school aged youth; four programs for elementary school youth; three programs for junior high school youth; and two programs for high school youth. Even if only half of the youth in the district needed out of school time activities, each program would have to serve approximately 1,000 young people. Clearly, none of these programs have this level of capacity.

Given the considerable growth in the youth population since 2010 and the numerous requests for additional programming that the Board receives from parents, we strongly urge the agency to consider providing additional funding, through the RFP's to be able to reach the large number of youth who are underserved in this district.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

The senior citizen population is one of the most vulnerable segments of our community. This population is largely underserved in areas of transportation, meals on wheels and related services. Funding for these services is absolutely vital to addressing the inequities in service delivery to this segment of our population. We join with the agency in urging our elected officials to recognize the exigency of these needs and provide the resources so that our seniors are not penalized any further due to a reduction and/or complete elimination of these vital services.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Board strongly supports the improvement of our historic cultural institutions – The Brooklyn Botanic Garden and The Brooklyn Museum. These institutions represent just two of the many treasures that our Borough shares with visitors and residents alike and which must be preserved and enhanced. We are pleased that funding was approved by the agency for FY 2014.

HEALTH & HOSPITALS CORPORATION

Cardiac Ultra Sound Machines for Kings County Hospital

Kings County Hospital is in need of four (4) Cardiac Ultrasound Systems for the Cardiology Unit to replace the current cardiac ultrasound equipment there that are more than ten (10) years old. This equipment is completely outdated and is no longer supported by the equipment manufacturer. Patients' lives are at risk due to down time on these machines! This hospital serves the needs of constituents from all over Brooklyn. It is absolutely critical that our elected officials, city and state, provide the funding necessary for the acquisition of these four systems – PATIENTS LIVES ARE AT RISK!!

Bariatric Beds for Kings County Hospital

The Board is puzzled by the agency's response to this request: "Request does not meet minimum capital eligibility criteria. Hospital administration is soliciting donations from the community for the purchase of the proposed asset acquisition." We hope the agency can clarify this statement and work with the Community Board and our elected officials to acquire this equipment which are especially needed for obese patients, both adults and children, following a medical procedure.

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

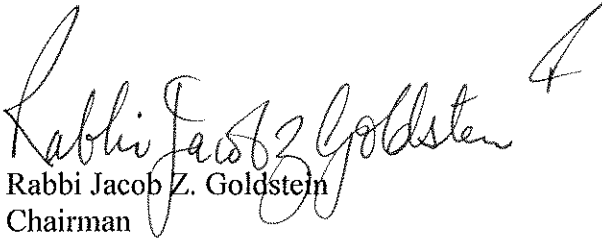
The Landmarks Preservation Commission plays an important role in preserving the city's architectural, historical, and cultural heritage. There are many historical landmarks and buildings in the city in need of preservation. An increase in funding will allow the Commission to provide more landmarks survey teams, expedite the approval process and increase the number of properties and places designated as landmarks. We call on the Mayor and City Council to consider the importance of this agency's work in the City and provide adequate funding.

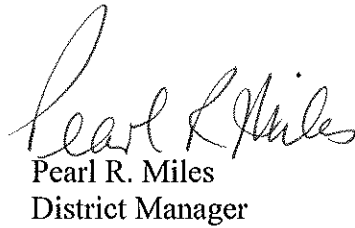
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

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 initially established.


Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Chairman


Pearl R. Miles
District Manager

February 26, 2013