

NYC COMMUNITY BOARD 9, BROOKLYN

COMMENTS ON

THE AGENCIES' RESPONSES

TO THE

COMMUNITY BOARD'S CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

IN THE

FY 2013 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

Below are Community Board 9's comments on the responses to our Capital and Expense Budget requests for the FY 2013 Preliminary Budget. These comments reflect the community's testimony at the Board's public hearing held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

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. The Board is therefore hard pressed to absorb the sizeable cut that is being proposed to its already miniscule budget.

Community Board 9 is grateful for the restoration of the threatened mid-year budget cut to its and the other 58 Community Boards' budgets. However, the threat of a \$12,165 cut still looms in fiscal year 2013, a few short months away. A budget cut in this amount will have a devastating impact on all 59 community boards, leading to a reduction in already small staffing levels as well as a 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 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 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 that the garage's current location is definitely not a suitable one. Although funding for site acquisition and construction of a new sanitation garage is not possible for FY 2013, Community Board 9 looks forward to meeting with the Department of Sanitation, appropriate representatives from SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and elected officials representing the district, to work on finding a viable location and a resolution to the problems and negative impact that the current location of the sanitation garage creates for the district.

Sanitation Police/Sanitation Enforcement

We are pleased that the agency will try to accommodate our request for additional resources to address illegal dumping; improper garbage disposal, littering, and other sanitation code violations in the district. It is vital that an adequate number of sanitation police personnel as well as enforcement agents be available to ensure enforcement of sanitation codes and the apprehension of violators who illegally dump in our district.

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, 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,

and possible integrity of material, which can be confirmed through archaeology.” Community Board 9 intends to pursue the listing of Clove Road on the National Register of Historic Places.

Reconstruct Clove Road (and Malbone Street)

Based upon the archaeology report and the Board’s intent to apply to the National Register of Historic Places, Community Board 9 will continue to work with the Department of Transportation and our elected officials, at all levels, 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 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 of Art, Medgar Evers College and, The Brooklyn Public Library – to name a few. This is an important through-way 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, not with-standing 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 seventeen 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 18 years later with changing demographics, the findings from that time most likely no longer apply. The Board is proud of its pro-active efforts for the implementation of traffic calming in our district way before anyone, even the City of New York, thought about doing so.

While our efforts were not readily accepted, and, like the study, were pushed aside time and time again, we persevered; and, while we appreciate the traffic calming measures that have been implemented in a few areas in the district; residents in other areas still endure the

frightening impact of speeding vehicles, traffic congestion, truck traffic, and the like, all of which impacting upon the safety of our residents. We are encouraged by the agency's response and will work diligently with the agency to implement further measures throughout our district so that we 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.

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 disappointed that the agency's funds are insufficient for this project. Wingate Park is a largely athletically-oriented park attracting users from across the Borough. On any given day the 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's 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 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 is city-owned property that is currently being used by employees of the NYC Transit Authority to park their private cars. Community Board 9 does not feel that it is the taxpayers’ responsibility to provide free parking for employees of the city. The Board has identified this site as a potential 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. Department of Parks and Recreation has indicated that there are insufficient funds for this project 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 property will provide that additional open space that we so desperately need. And, again, we are aware that the “Department of Parks and Recreation does not maintain this facility.” Instead of giving questionable answers to our requests, we ask the Department of Parks and Recreation 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.” 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.

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.

School Playgrounds – PS 241, PS 221, PS 161

Community Board 9 is extremely pleased that after 10 years of submitting these requests, that they are being reviewed for inclusion as an “Open Space Initiative” site under PlaNYC. We are excited and pleased at these developments and look forward to working with the agency on ideas to transform these concrete fields into safe playing areas for our children.

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 police 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 improve 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 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 uniformed and civilian personnel, to conduct the business of the Precinct 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 is obvious. There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that funding should be provided for this purpose. We therefore call on our elected officials to provide the necessary funding for the acquisition of this equipment.

Replace Leaking Roof Engine Company 249/Ladder Company 113

Continually spending resources to patch the roof of this fire house is not cost effective. This roof has deteriorated to the point where it can no longer be salvaged. This fire house serves the entire Community District 9, we are requesting that the council representatives for this district fund the cost of replacing the roof to this building so that the work of saving lives can continue without the constant threat of flooding from the roof.

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 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

In addition, the continued funding of the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide Detector Distribution Programs is critical. These equipments are life savers and the 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

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.

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. 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 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 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.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Board 9 strongly believes that the funding allocated for community share in the past was woefully inadequate. The Board 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 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.

Brooklyn Public Library Services to the Aging

The Brooklyn Public Library is a vital community resource that is needed now more than ever. The Library serves the needs of Brooklyn's diverse senior population by providing a variety of programs to meet their needs including, Book-to-Go (at over 150 sites); Books by Mail which provides service to any homebound Brooklyn resident who have a physical disability that limits their ability to handle standard printed materials. Other services include Words and Memories; Talking Needles and Free Events for Older Adults – lectures, films, and performances.

Brooklyn Public Library/Service to the Aging ensures the preservation and transmission of society's knowledge, history and culture to the people of Brooklyn. These services are needed in Brooklyn now more than ever. We call on the Mayor and our elected officials to ensure that the Brooklyn Public Library be provided with the necessary resources to continue to provide free and open access to information for education, recreation and reference.

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.

Ultra Sound Machines for Kings County Hospital

The Ultra Sound equipment in the Radiology Department at Kings County Hospital Center is old and outdated; this places KCHC at a disadvantage in the quality of care that it must provide to the thousands of patients who seek treatment there every year. The acquisition of two Ultra Sound machines will improve efficiency, safety, and quality of care while reducing risk-management issues. This hospital serves the needs of constituents in all of Central Brooklyn, it would behoove our elected officials to fund the acquisition of these two machines; and not wait, as the response indicates, for the "ten year plan."

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.

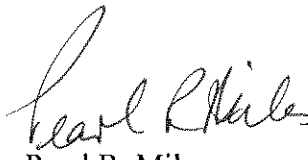
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

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 established.


Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Chairman


Pearl R. Miles
District Manager

February 28, 2012