



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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## STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS

### INTRODUCTION

Community District 9 encompasses one of New York's first humanly inhabited areas. The area was once the home of the Mareckkawicks, a branch of the Canarsie tribal community, which occupied Kings County and parts of Jamaica. The area was colonized by Dutch farmers from the Netherlands (Holland) in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Lefferts Homestead, relocated to Prospect Park from its original location on Midwood Street and Flatbush Avenue, is a living reminder of this agricultural community which flourished in our district until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Community Board 9 strongly believes that this remnant of roadway, which "... possesses integrity ..." played an important role in the Battle of Brooklyn on August 27, 1776. The Phase 1B archaeological survey was undertaken in March 2011. This archaeological survey did not result in "... the identification of any intact features or potentially significant deposits ..." An array of "... domestic refuse items ... largely bottles and dish fragments ..."

The Phase 1A Documentary study of Clove Road found that "... is eligible for National Register (of Historic Places) under Criterion A based upon its association with the establishment of Kings County's 19<sup>th</sup> 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." The Board will continue to work with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for this site to be awarded historic designation.

Present day Community District 9 includes a portion of the neighborhood known as Crown Heights, northern parts of Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, and the northern portion of Midwood (Wingate). Bordered by Prospect Park, Eastern Parkway and Lincoln Terrace Park, the district includes such prestigious cultural institutions as the Brooklyn Museum, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Public Library and the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Other notable institutions include Kings County Hospital Center (one of the largest hospital complexes in the world), SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. Collectively, these institutions form the southern-most boundary of the district.

Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, seven high schools, four intermediate schools, ten elementary schools, including new small schools and charter schools, make up the District's public educational system. A significant number of private and parochial schools complete the education picture.

Only minutes by car or public transportation from downtown Brooklyn, Community District 9 is home to numerous small and medium-sized businesses and the 104,014 residents (2000 census), who live along our tree lined streets. Our many religious institutions include a number of the largest Catholic churches in the borough, a number of the oldest Protestant churches, and the world headquarters of the Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Movement.

Families and institutions have thrived in Community District 9 for generations. Over the past five decades this largely middle class community has undergone extensive demographic changes. The ethnic make-up of the community has become a unique blend of people of American, Caribbean, European, Asian and Hispanic descent.

This continued growth has brought with it a concomitant escalation in the need for vital municipal services. Community Board 9 has taken a critical look at our community district's needs and has embarked upon a the formulation of a 197-a plan which sets out our vision for a better future for our community, the objectives of which are as follows:

#### **Objectives:**

To improve the quality of life for residents through:

- The promotion of community safety and the reduction of crime;
- Social and cultural development;
- Improved health and social services;
- Support for the preservation, expansion and physical integration of the public parks system and educational institutions;
- Promotion of employment and business opportunities through
  - the strengthening and expansion of existing retail commercial areas;
  - the improvement of local businesses and economic development;
  - a local hospital jobs program.
- The promotion of new low-density/contextual residential development to provide both a humanly scaled built form and increased opportunity for neighborly social interaction;
- The guiding of future physical and human development programs to enhance the lives of the residents;

- Neighborhood beautification and development of new open space resources.

We submit this "Statement of Community District Needs" to document the Board's advocacy for the provision of acceptable levels of City services for the continued improvement in the quality of life for the people of this district. The restoration of services; the renovation and upgrading of school buildings and other public facilities; expanded economic/business opportunities, the acquisition of land for the creation and expansion of open space; and the implementation of a Traffic Calming plan; are all vital to our overall goal for the restoration of our neighborhoods.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

### **Relocation of Community District 9's Sanitation Garage**

It is widely known that the current location of District 9's Sanitation Garage at 356 Winthrop Street is not suitable one, situated as it is in close proximity to Kings County Hospital Center, SUNY Downstate University Medical Center and SUNY Downstate Biotechnology Incubator Project. This unsuitability is further compounded by the fact that the space is too small and cannot house all of the Dept of Sanitation's equipment. Therefore garbage filled trucks usually line the street giving off the putrid smell of garbage. In addition, there is no adequate on-site facility for cleaning the equipment, as well as substandard conditions for employees of the Department who service our district.

The SUNY Downstate Biotechnology Incubator Project is a multimillion dollar facility with significant benefits for the borough of Brooklyn. This facility places Brooklyn in a position to compete with Long Island and New Jersey in the Biotechnology market. This medical research facility is slated for expansion to provide additional laboratories and offices to companies conducting research to find cures for diseases and state of the art medical equipment. This expanded Biotechnology Park will bring with it additional jobs to Brooklyn, helping to revitalize the economy and our neighborhoods. Addressing the problems caused by the sanitation garage will go a long way to boost this industry.

Community Board 9 has identified two locations as possible sites for District 9's Sanitation Garage: 723-771 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, Block 4827 Lot 24; and, 229-251 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, Block 5057 Lot 76. These properties are currently in use by SUNY Downstate Medical Center as parking lots for motor vehicles. The Board thinks that the development of either of these sites will not only accommodate a state of the art sanitation garage but a parking facility for SUNY Downstate as well. This would solve the problem affecting SUNY's Biotech Project, as well as the Dialysis Clinic and will be a win-win for both Community District 9 and SUNY Downstate. Not only that, but there is also the possibility of utilizing the current sanitation garage site for the further expansion of the Incubator Project.

It is to everyone's advantage that the necessary funding be allocated so that we may move swiftly to accomplish this goal. Community Board 9 would like to meet with representatives of SUNY Downstate, the Department of Sanitation Real Estate Division, the

Borough President's office, and our City Council representatives to begin discussions on the matter.

### **Illegal Dumping/Lot Cleaning**

Illegal dumping is a matter that continues to require enforcement. An increase in the number of Sanitation Police personnel coupled with strict enforcement is needed to curb this blatant disregard for sanitation and environmental codes.

### **Litter Baskets/ Illegal Postings**

An additional basket truck is needed to effectively service the litter baskets in the district, especially on busy commercial strips. Additional baskets are needed in several locations to decrease the instances of littering. The agency must enforce against those individuals using the litter baskets to dump household garbage and other debris.

There appears to be an increase in the proliferation of illegal postings on light poles, street trees and traffic signals in the district. The agency must be more aggressive in enforcing against this abuse that creates blight in our community.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Facilities for Garaging Police Vehicles**

Community Board 9 again emphasizes the dire need for a facility to garage police vehicles and vouched cars. The current practice by agency personnel to overtake the streets around the local precinct with police cars, trucks and other equipment, including vehicles vouched by the precinct is unacceptable.

Double parked cars and sidewalk parking around the precinct force pedestrians including seniors, school children, and mothers with baby carriages, to navigate around these conditions, sometimes by walking into the street and into the danger of oncoming vehicles.

The Board has done a search of the area around the 71 Precinct and has identified property suitable for garage facilities for the precinct's vehicles. Acquisition of these premises, whether by lease or purchase, will effectively eliminate the current congestion being experienced at Empire Boulevard and New York Avenue. We urge the agency to work with the Board on this matter, since it concerns the safety and well being of the people we both serve.

### **Facilities/Equipment/Technology**

The Board believes that the Police Department has an obligation to bring all its precincts into the twenty-first century by upgrading facilities, equipment and technology. The 71 Precinct's physical plant continues to deteriorate. There is a definite need for an upgrade of the structure as well as the interior facilities. We will continue to advocate for the complete renovation of this building.

## **Police Visibility**

Visibility of police officers in reassuring numbers is lacking in a large segment of the district. The Board continues to recommend the employment of civilian staff to carry out those clerical and related duties that would release police officers to do the job for which they have been trained. The combination of improved facilities, technology and increased civilian clerical support would allow more presence on neighborhood streets.

Shootings, murders, drugs, criminal street gang activity, are all on the rise in Community District 9. The community is terrified and feels besieged by these unlawful acts. Community Board 9 continues to receive numerous complaints from residents regarding the sale of drugs on street corners, bodegas, and in apartments in their buildings. The Board feels that there should be more police presence at problem locations, especially on Flatbush Avenue; and investigative work to close down known locations that are dealing drugs.

We encourage an expansion of the F-TAP program, in cooperation with the owners, to include all apartment buildings in the district. We also encourage increased communication between CPOP officers and the segments of the community they serve. We encourage the community to become involved with the Precinct's Auxiliary Police, Block Watch and other programs designed for the community and police to work together to improve safety in the community.

The Board recognizes that more needs to be done and stands ready to assist with these efforts. We encourage all our residents, homeowners, property owners to work with the local precinct to improve safety and security in our neighborhoods.

Police enforcement is needed at Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue. The large numbers of passenger vans and gypsy cabs – legal and illegal – competing for passengers exiting the Utica Avenue subway station creates a bottle neck at this location that is hazardous to all road users. These vans and cars, park in the bus stops and double park on the service road, forcing the buses that lay over at this location to park on the main roadway, creating additional congestion and hazard for vehicles going east on the Parkway. Added to this is the proliferation of unlicensed vendors, plying their goods on the south side Eastern Parkway Mall. This all adds up to utter chaos all day long, increasing tremendously during the morning and evening rush hours.

Numerous improvements have been made by the Department of Transportation at this location, yet the chaos continues. There must be continuous enforcement by the Police Department. Occasional enforcement forays at this location will not suffice. Action must be taken on a sustained, continuous basis that will send a message that these activities are inappropriate for this landmarked street and are unwanted at this location.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Land Acquisition for Open Space**

There is a dire need for dedicated to open space in the district. Community Board 9, through its 197-a Planning Committee, has identified several possible locations for the expansion of open space. In addition to identifying available land on the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center for a park, the Board has also identified property adjacent to Wingate Park for the expansion of this heavily utilized park. We have also identified other potential locations within the district for open space use – areas for greening, sitting, and the like.

The Board is encouraged by Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s PlaNYC 2030 with its emphasis on open space. We especially like that the goal is to “... ensure that all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a park.” Upgrading all of our school yards and playgrounds are underway; now more creative thinking is needed to come up with possibilities for open space including the implementation of public plazas.

**Recreation Center**

This community, with its large youth population, is in dire need of a Recreation Center, along with programming to address community youth needs, including health and physical fitness, youth development and delinquency prevention. We look forward to working with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Youth and Community Development, along with our elected officials, to make this a reality.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Park Reconstruction Projects**

**Hamilton Metz Park**

The Board is pleased that our City Council representative has allocated the funds necessary to complete the redesign and reconstruction of the unfinished portion of Hamilton Metz Park. We also urge our representative to provide the promised funds to include the work-out/exercise area requested by constituents. The inclusion of this feature will be welcomed by all and will complete the renovation of this park for the continued use by all those who use this park on a regular basis.

**Mount Prospect Park**

With the exception of a playground and new paths and stairs, funded by the late Councilmember Mary Pinkett, this park is an open canvass waiting to be developed. Currently, on rainy days, torrents of rainwater rush down the park’s Eastern Parkway steps, flooding the sidewalk and the street, forcing pedestrians onto the street thus placing them in danger of

oncoming traffic on Eastern Parkway. Overgrown vegetation obscures the park from view and makes it foreboding and unsafe.

For more than ten years Community Board 9 has been requesting funding for a preliminary design investigation for the upgrade and reconstruction of Mount Prospect Park. We have not been successful with this request. However, being a resilient Board, we were able to obtain, pro bono from faculty and graduate students at the University of Virginia, a wonderfully interesting and innovative design for this park. This proposed design has been shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation, elected officials, community residents, and other stakeholders. The response to the design has been overwhelmingly positive. We took this bold step to be proactive in helping ourselves and the people of our community begin the process for the complete reconstruction of this park. We plan to use the proposed design as a catalyst to spark ideas for the design of the park from the community and the Department of Parks.

After ten years the time for action is NOW. We cannot continue to allow this promising park to continue to be used as a dog-walking spot, when families are in dire need of open space in our community. A reconstruction project for this space is long overdue. We are placing an urgent call to our elected officials to provide the funding for the complete reconstruction of this park, beginning with funding for a preliminary design.

### **Wingate Park**

Wingate Park is one of the most heavily utilized parks in the district. It is used by people from all over Central Brooklyn. As a consequence the park has deteriorated tremendously. We urge our elected officials to provide the funding necessary to restore this park for safe use by the community.

### **Prospect Park Projects**

Community Board 9 supports the ongoing efforts to restore the structures and facilities in Prospect Park. Among the many important projects within the park that are in need of restoration are the Picnic House and Litchfield Villa. We urge that these, and other projects in the park, be funded to completion

### **Park Maintenance**

Community Board 9 has long been an advocate for restoration of adequate funding to provide the much needed upkeep of our parks and playgrounds. We continue to advocate for this funding as we strive for the improvement of park facilities within our district. The maintenance of our neighborhood parks, playgrounds and malls has been severely hampered by budget cutbacks. A more sustained, consistent effort at weekly maintenance is needed, especially during the spring, summer and early fall, when more people are outdoors utilizing these facilities.

A very serious situation exists on the south side Eastern Parkway malls. Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux, the landmarked Eastern Parkway is being desecrated

by unlicensed vendors who ply their trade with impunity while this portion of the mall continues its downward spiral into blight and deterioration.

The problems that exist on the south side Eastern Parkway malls: illegal vendors, gypsy cabs, dollar vans (yes, they park on the mall at Utica Avenue) is chronic. It is deplorable and an eyesore; and tremendously hazardous to the community. This matter needs to be addressed by the Parks Department Enforcement teams, Taxi and Limousine Commission, as well as the New York City Police Department, to eliminate this blight in our community.

### **Tree Planting/Pruning Stump Removal**

The greening of our district is an important aspect of our community beautification plan. Beautifying our neighborhood streets with the planting of street trees is a top priority. So is tree pruning. We urge the provision of adequate funds for the pruning of trees; and the removal of dead trees and tree stumps. These are important quality of life issues which must be addressed to avoid possible loss of life and property damage.

### **DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING**

The senior population in Community District 9 continues to be under-served. In the face of this glaring reality, more outreach must be conducted in the community to reach seniors in order to provide them with the services that they need: Meals-on-wheels, home care, transportation and other vital services to seniors must be expanded to address the unmet needs of our growing senior population.

### **DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Increased funding for Out of School Time Programs within the district is needed. Currently, there are not enough sites within the district offering these programs, especially at the high school level. Community Board 9 envisions the establishment of a community youth center, a place where our neighborhood children can go to participate in healthy, clean and safe activities. We call on our City Council representatives to work with the Board to identify a site and to jointly fund the establishment of this facility. In providing constructive activities for our youth we will be doing our part to prepare them for the future.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

In Community District 9, we still face overcrowded classrooms and deteriorating buildings. These negatives hamper our children in their efforts to obtain the benefits of a quality education. Children must be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning. With the exception of M.S. 2 and Middle College High School, which are new schools that were constructed in response to the overwhelming overcrowding in the district, the school buildings in Community District 9 (Community School District 17 – Region 6, Brooklyn), are in serious need of renovation and upgrading, including new windows, air conditioning, public address systems, gymnasiums and more.



Two of these buildings – P.S. 91 and P.S. 92 – are over 100 years old and are in the worst condition. Then there is P.S. 161 – the children in this school have no gymnasium, this is not acceptable. In addition to the physical deficiencies, the ancient plumbing, heating and electrical systems in all of the school buildings in the district, subject the students, faculty and staff to endure inhumane conditions year round. We urge the Department of Education to move swiftly to rehabilitate all of our deteriorated school buildings, with priority being given to P.S. 91, P.S. 92 and P.S. 161.

The Wingate High School building is another of our school buildings that is in dire need of renovation. This building now houses four “small schools” (Wingate High School no longer exists.) This building has numerous deficiencies which we urge the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority to address. This will allow the schools to provide an environment more suitable for learning and thus function in the manner they were intended.

### **AGENCY FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES**

With our significantly new and large immigrant population and a probable Census 2010 undercount, the Board strongly believes that the actual need for day care and head start services in Community District 9 is far greater than is currently estimated. There continues to be long waiting lists for placement of children at all of our existing day care centers. The demand continues to rise. An increase in the number of day care slots and vouchers and the establishment of at least one head start center will begin to address this need. Another possible solution to this major shortage of adequate day care would be to allow vouchers to be accepted at private day care centers.

### **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

There is an enormous need for affordable housing in this district that needs to be addressed. The Board continues to recommend that HPD look into the feasibility of constructing affordable housing on a portion of the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, similar to the affordable housing project launched by the Health and Hospitals Corporation for Buildings “J” and “N” on the grounds of Kings County Hospital Center.

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

An on-site nurse should staff each public school, establishing the first line of defense should our children become ill while at school. The health and well-being of our children should not be left to chance.

Again, with our growing immigrant population, the need for outreach within the community is vital. Education is needed so parents would understand the importance of immunization for childhood diseases. Education regarding the importance of prenatal care to reduce the infant death rate, and education for the prevention of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among young people, is also vitally important.

## **Rat Infestation**

Our community is infested with rats. Dirty vacant lots, alleyways, backyards, sewers and subway tracks, all contribute to this scourge. These conditions are extremely prevalent in the warmer months and create serious health problems for the community.

## **HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION**

### **Reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center**

Community Board 9 continues to support the reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center. This institution is the primary health care facility not only for District 9 but for Central Brooklyn as well. We are pleased that low cost, quality health care will continue to be available to the hard working families who rely on this hospital for their health care needs.

## **Affordable Housing**

Community Board 9 also supports and applauds the Health and Hospitals Corporation for its re-use of Buildings J and N to create affordable housing for special needs and moderate and low income families.

### **Dr Susan Smith McKinney Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**

#### **Therapeutic Horticultural Center**

Dr. Susan Smith Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (DSSM) is one of only two skilled nursing facilities in Brooklyn which are Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited. This facility has been providing excellent inpatient rehabilitation for consumers requiring the highest quality of care following surgery, acute health problems, accidents or injury.

The nursing home industry is experiencing a cultural change, moving from a medical mode to a cultural one, creating a more home-like environment for the residents. Renowned programs such as the Eden Alternative are leading the way toward this cultural change. The 2<sup>nd</sup> principle of the Eden Alternative is that Life in a truly human community revolves around close and continuing contact with children, plants and animals. In the garden, healing occurs as a result of a direct connection between the patient and the physical/natural environment.

Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is committed to making a culture change what will benefit residents for years to come. DSSM is seeking to expand the scope of therapies provided by the facility with the establishment of a Therapeutic Horticultural Center. Horticultural Therapy is a process which uses plants, horticultural activities, and the natural world to promote awareness and well-being by improving the body, mind and spirit.

Horticultural Therapy is universal, adaptable, and validated by research. Community Board 9 urges our elected officials to fully fund the establishment of the Therapeutic Horticultural Center at DSSM. The benefits of this therapy to the residents are immense.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Traffic Calming**

It has been over ten years since the Department of Transportation conducted a traffic calming study of our district, at our request. We believe that there have been many changes in statistics since this study was undertaken, therefore this study would perhaps not be truly reflective of today's conditions. The Board is once again requesting a study of the district by DOT to determine what traffic calming principles could be implemented in this largely residential district. Should funding not be available for a study of the entire district, then we encourage and support traffic calming plans for critical areas in the community that can benefit from traffic calming. This study would be helpful for PlaNYC's long term goals of providing safe streets and improving access to open space and encouraging cycling in the boroughs.

### **Street Resurfacing**

There are always numerous potholes in our streets from the aftermath of winter, as well as other depressions from street openings by various parties. Streets all over the district are being excavated by cable and utility companies. The streets are not always restored properly and deteriorate after a harsh winter or some other circumstance. The allocation of adequate funding for a consistent street repair/resurfacing policy will serve to effectively address the pothole repair/street resurfacing needs of the City.

### **Pedestrian Ramps/Curb Restoration**

There are a number of locations within the district where the curb is damaged and/or missing which creates a dangerous condition – one such location is in front of 888 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, between President and Carroll Streets. In addition, there are a number of locations within the district where pedestrian ramps are missing. These locations need to be addressed to allow safe travel by all pedestrians, but especially those in wheelchairs, those with baby carriages, senior citizens and others.

### **Reconstruction of Empire Boulevard**

The Board calls upon the agency to allocate funding for HWK 779 – the Reconstruction of Empire Boulevard from Flatbush to Utica Avenues. In 1990, the agency opted to shelve this project for five years, due to fiscal constraints. Now, over twenty years later the project is still slated for the out years. Empire Boulevard is regarded as the “gateway” to our district. This major roadway leads to key cultural institutions including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, and Prospect Park. Empire Boulevard also has severe flooding and drainage problems which affect traffic, homes and businesses here. We appreciate the traffic

calming treatments that were added to Empire Boulevard. However, these treatments do not eliminate the need for a reconstruction project for this roadway.

**Reconstruction of Clove Road  
(the Bedford Pass of the American Revolution)  
and Malbone Street – HWK166**

The reconstruction of Clove Road and Malbone Street – HWK166 – is one of the most important roadway reconstruction projects in Community District 9

Clove Road has been identified by a NYC Department of Transportation preliminary archaeological study "... to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A based on its association with the establishment of Kings Country's 19<sup>th</sup> century public institutions, the Alms House, Hospital, Asylum, and Penitentiary, an event that significantly contributed to the broad patter of New York's urban history..." . The allocation of adequate funding is extremely important for the reconstruction of this road with the appropriate amenities in keeping with its historic stature.

A proposal for the inclusion of Clove Road on the National Register; as well as to the City's Landmark Preservation Commission and the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation for historic designation. We look forward to working with all agencies and our elected officials for the preservation of Clove Road, a block long colonial road that has been preserved almost as it was in 1776 when it was a route through the Bedford Pass and was garrisoned by Continental soldiers.

**Resurfacing of Nostrand Avenue  
from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue**

Many streets within the community continue to deteriorate; the severe winter of 2010-2011 just made everything worse. These streets remain prime candidates for resurfacing. Nostrand Avenue, a main thoroughfare in the district, is especially horrendous. Travel on this street is heavily congested with city buses, delivery trucks, taxis, cars and other vehicles competing for passage all day long. The street is also in various stages of deterioration from numerous street openings by utility and various other private companies, and individuals.

With Nostrand Avenue, Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue, being one of the main streets in the Select Bus Service Reconstruction Project HWK 1130A (Rogers Avenue is the other street) and given the current deteriorated condition of the roadway, there is no question that resurfacing of the entire roadway should be included in this project.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Community Board 9 has repeatedly brought to the attention of the agency the problems with flooding in the district. We continue to request a catch basin construction project for the district to correct flooding and other drainage problems on Sterling Street between New York and Brooklyn Avenues, within the district.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The importance of an adequately trained and properly equipped Fire Department cannot be over-emphasized. Appropriate training and proper equipment help to provide that safety net that our fire fighters need in their life-saving efforts on our behalf. One lesson learned from the 2003 Blackout that crippled the city, is that firehouses should be equipped with power generators. We strongly urge the agency and our elected officials to fully fund the acquisition of power generators for all firehouses in the city.

The Board sees a strong need for the provision of fire prevention and educational programs to be implemented for Community District 9, including the Child Fire Starter Program. This program, which provides early intervention services and has worked well in other areas, will help to reach those children who are at risk, thus saving valuable life and property. In addition, an increase in fire prevention programs will also help in the education of our citizens, thus reducing the risk of fire.

We strongly encourage the allocation of funding for a Carbon Monoxide Detector distribution program. We continue to support the Fire Detector distribution program.

### **Fire Marshals**

The swift investigation of fires should be a priority. The lack of adequate numbers of Fire Marshals hampers the agency's ability to immediately begin the investigation as to the cause of a fire. Appropriate funding must be made available for the hiring of additional Fire Marshals to address this void. Not only will this lead to the apprehension of suspected arsonist(s), but will also help to curb the number of suspicious fires.

## **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES**

The revitalization of our local commercial strips is one of our main priorities. We urge the agency to continue to work with us for the revitalization of the following commercial strips in Community District 9:

- Nostrand Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue;
- Kingston Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Empire Boulevard;
- Utica Avenue from Empire Boulevard to Eastern Parkway;
- Bedford/Franklin/Rogers Avenues from Eastern Parkway to Parkside Avenue;
- Flatbush Avenue from Empire Boulevard to Clarkson Avenue;
- Empire Boulevard from Utica to Flatbush Avenues

The reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center, the establishment of the Biotechnology Incubator Project, the expansion of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, all open up opportunities to attract viable businesses to the district that can provide an array of consumer products and services, leading to the revitalizing not only the district's economy, but its quality of life as well.

## **NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

### **Subway Station Rehab**

With the exception of the Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway Subway Stations, all the other subway stations in the District are in need of rehabilitation including the Parkside Avenue Station, President Street Station, Franklin Avenue Station, Nostrand Avenue Station, Kingston Avenue, Sterling Street and Winthrop Street subway stations. We are heartened to see an acknowledgement in PlaNYC that these stations are in need of repair. We look forward to discussing with the New York City Transit Authority the plans and time-frame for planned improvements to these stations.

The Board is pleased that the MTA/NYCTA has finally recognized that the Eastern Parkway-Brooklyn Museum Station meets their criteria for stations to be ADA compliant. This subway station serves Community Districts 8 and 9 and the major cultural institutions in our district – the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Public Library.

Thousands of local residents, visitors from the five boroughs and tourists from across the country and the world use this station to visit our neighborhoods and cultural institutions. These are the lucky ones. The disabled and our senior citizens cannot visit these institutions if they do not have access to a personal vehicle. Although, this station is not slated for immediate ADA compliance, we are pleased that the station has been approved for the designation and will work hard with the agency and our elected officials to make it a reality.

### **DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

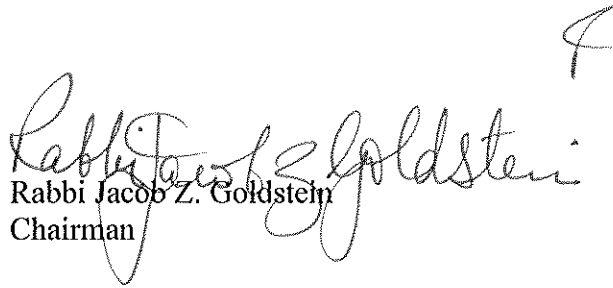
Response to complaints of building and zoning violations in the district by the Department of Buildings is inadequate. Follow-up to ensure compliance is even worse. To compound matters we have seen a rise in the numbers of unsafe buildings – bulging bricks, cracked exteriors, façade collapses, and other unsafe conditions. In addition, non-conformance with a building's Certificate of Occupancy provisions and commercial uses in residential zones are all on the rise in the district. A more effective and efficient code enforcement operation is needed to address the building and zoning violations that seriously hamper the safety and quality of life of our residents.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is Community Board 9's belief that quality of life begins with good health and the nurturing of a built environment, set in aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods and reinforced with educational and economic development.

We believe that there is much to be done to enhance the quality of life for current and future residents. Our goal is to revitalize our neighborhoods to provide a safe and healthful setting, a place of tranquility and respite from the tasks of assimilation and striving to succeed.

In order to accomplish these goals, the Board will continue to work with the City's agencies, elected officials and community to address the needs identified here.

  
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein  
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Pearl R. Miles  
District Manager