



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**  
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Honorable Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Bronx Borough President  
Honorable Joel Rivera, City Councilman, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District

**MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ**  
Board Chairperson

**MS. IVINE GALARZA**  
District Manager

**COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FOR**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2008**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Bronx Community Board #6 district is a community that is continuing to undergo positive change and resurgence. Private homeownership is on a dramatic increase and large numbers of new affordable apartments units have either recently been developed or will be constructed in the near future. City-owned vacant land, once an indicator of urban blight, is a thing of the past. The last two (2) vacant city-owned parcels of vacant land were recently put up for bid by Housing Preservation and Development and are to be developed as affordable housing by local private, non-profit developers.

Our community is the proud host of the Bronx Botanical Garden and the world renowned New York Wildlife Conservation Society (The Bronx Zoo). The community also hosts a historical landmark, the West Farms Old Soldiers' Cemetery, which contains the remains of soldiers from five previous wars, including the American Civil War and the War of 1812.

Like all inner-city communities in the United States, our area does have its share of social ills (violence and non-violent crimes, illegal drugs, etc.) but they are outnumbered by the community's many positive attributes which include successful schools; a regional trauma center located at St. Barnabas Hospital; strong civic, homeowners and tenant associations; viable commercial strips such as the Arthur Avenue/East 187th Street (the Little Italy of the Bronx) and East Tremont Avenue strips; and a strong and committed network of social service providers that work to raise the quality-of-life of those in our district who are less fortunate.

**NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Bronx Community Board #6 asks that the Police Department increase the number of uniformed police officers assigned to the 48th Police Precinct by a minimum of twenty (20) officers.

# **BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**

## **District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2008**

The community board also asks that the department purchase and allocate the following equipment specifically for use by the 48th Police Precinct:

- 1) Fifteen (15) Nextel phones for use by supervisors
- 2) Five (5) stand alone computers and printers for data analysis purposes.
- 3) One (1) marked vehicle for Community Affairs division
- 4) Two (2) Lap top computers for power point presentations
- 5) One (1) unmarked van for narcotics enforcement.
- 6) One (1) non-descript unmarked vehicles for special Projects
- 7) Three (3) Alca-Sensors for field DWI testing and enforcement.
- 8) Two (2) tint meters.
- 9) Two (2) sound meters.
- 10) Two (2) bullhorns.

### **HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT & THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

In response to several recent requests for Bronx Community Board Six to support the development of transitional residences within its district, the community board's Housing and Land Use Committees adopted the following position statement and voted to have it included as part of the community board's annual District Needs Statement for fiscal year 2008.

“Our intention is not to offend others in declining the offer of additional transitional residences, but our focus should be to bring developers to the area to build affordable housing.

At this time, we currently have at least two (2) shelters, six (6) transitional housing facilities, and a number of scatter-site apartments for homeless families and individuals within our community.

Our focus should be to assist the working poor who are for the most part one paycheck away from homelessness to live in affordable units without having to worry about the potential of becoming homeless. We need to help those who are working, and continually recycling their earnings within the community, to have the option of affordable housing.

Community Board 6 has been a committed advocate for transitional housing in the past, but we would now like to focus on assisting the working poor obtain permanent affordable housing.”

Furthermore, in order to ensure that community board six receives the ultimate benefits from new housing projects developed within its district, the community board has adopted a policy of requesting letters of assurances from all housing developers who appear before the board requesting its support. We ask that the developers provide written assurances that they will attempt to hire locally, purchase equipment and services from local vendors and promote our district's economy as much as possible.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2008**

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Bronx Community Board #6 asks that City provide funds to continue the restoration and rehabilitation of our district's numerous parks. We particularly urge the City to ensure that funds are available to continue needed repairs to the upper portion of the Belmont Playground; to install night lights at the Mapes Ball Field; to renovate the comfort station at the Webster Playground; and to complete phase two of the Cook Farm in The Bronx project.

Additionally, we ask that the City fund the following equipment and personnel requests for our district:

1)	One (1) tractor:	\$ 40,000
2)	One (1) mini-packer:	\$ 85,000
3)	One pickup truck with plow	\$ 30,000
4)	One City Park Worker:	\$ 24,415
5)	One Assistant Gardener:	\$ 30,529
6)	One Parks Enforcement Patrol worker:	\$ 27,492

**NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bronx Community Board #6 requests that the City provide funds to repair and renovated those turn of the century firehouses that due to their age are in need of major upgrades. It is estimated that the cost to upgrade these facilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

1)	Window replacement:	\$ 250,000
2)	Bathroom upgrade:	\$ 300,000
3)	Roof replacement:	\$ 210,000
4)	Waterproofing:	\$ 230,000
5)	Kitchen renovation	\$ 300,000
6)	Apparatus floor replacement	\$1,000,000

Additionally, we ask that the City fund the purchase of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, which the Fire Department may distribute to the public. We ask that \$100,000 be allocated for the purchase of 10,000 smoke detectors and that \$200,000 be allocated for the purchase of an equal number of carbon monoxide detectors.

Lastly, we support the Fire Department's CPR training services that it provides to the public free of charge. We encourage the continuation of this vital service and, to that end, we ask that the City fund the purchase of 10,000 additional CPR kits.

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6**  
**District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2008**

**DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Bronx Community Board Six asks that the Department of Citywide Administrative Services support our request to relocate from our current offices on the seventh floor of the City-owned Bergen Building to room 203-B on the building's second floor or another lower floor office. Funding, above our current budget allocation, will be needed to finance rewiring the new office for computers, fax machines and photocopiers. Additional funding will also be needed to finance subdividing and reconfiguring the new office so as to create a meeting/conference area to accommodate monthly committee meetings and large gatherings.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members  
and constituents of Bronx Community Board #6 by:

*Ivine Galarza*  
District Manager