



THE CITY OF NEW YORK BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

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Honorable Ruben Diaz, Jr., Bronx Borough President
Honorable Joel Rivera, City Councilman, 15th Council District

MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ
Board Chairperson

MS. IVINE GALARZA
District Manager

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Community Board #6 section of the Bronx is an area that is continuing to undergo positive changes and a total rebirth. 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 very near future.

The few remaining vacant parcels of city-owned land in our district are all earmarked for development, such as the properties on both the north and south sides of East 176th Street at Third Avenue. One is slated to be developed as a new public school for young men (The Eagle Academy) and this other is being developed by the Lantern Group as affordable housing for young adults who are aging out of foster care.

Elsewhere in the district, private property owners such as the owner of 4269 Park Avenue (Block 3028, Lot 48) are expressing interest in developing their underutilized properties for the public good, such as for housing, schools and commercial storefronts.

Our community is improving economically, as well, thanks, in part, to established institutions such as the New Fordham Road Business Improvement District, St. Barnabas Hospital – our community's largest employer – and new emerging business development groups such as the Belmont Business Improvement District and the Tremont Business and Community Organization.

Our community is the proud host to 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 and to several nationally renowned institution, namely the Wildlife Conservation Society (The Bronx Zoo), the new York Botanical Garden and the Rosehill campus of Fordham University.

We eagerly await the results of the 2010 United States census count. Although the current census states that our community's population is approximately 157,000, we know that it is much larger than that. An accurate census count is needed to ensure that our district receives its fair share of federal dollars and services.

Like all inner-city communities our district has its share of social ills (incidents of gang violence, robberies and illegal drugs, etc.) but they are far outweighed by the community's many

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positive attributes that include many 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 corridor (the Little Italy of the Bronx), and a strong and committed network of social service providers that work to raise the quality of life for those in our district who are less fortunate.

In order to sustain these positive attributes we ask that the city and its agencies pay close attention to the needs that we have identified below:

NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bronx Community Board #6's support of its local police precinct (the 48th) is second to none. We want our police officers to be well equipped, well trained and totally prepared for the challenges and risks of the 21st century and beyond.

Bronx Community Board #6 also asks that district's allocation of police officers be increased in order that we may continue to enjoy and maintain the significant reduction in crime that we have experienced in recent months. With a district population of over 157,000 residents, the current allocation of approximately 200 police officers needs to be substantially increased.

Similarly, the community board asks that our district's allocation of school crossing guards be increase to kept pace with the growing number of school age children coming to our community as a result of our rapid and welcomed influx of new affordable housing projects and private homeownership developments.

In order to further improve and enhance police and community relations, we ask that that Police Department mandate that local precinct commanders once again convene Precinct Management Team (PMT) meetings with their respective community board's district manager and the president of their precinct's community council. These monthly meetings provide for the useful exchange of important information that assists both the precinct commanders and the community board to better serve their mutual constituencies.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bronx Community Board #6 looks forward to the Department of Environmental Protection beginning the federally mandated project to install several underground devices in the West Farms section of our community that will reduce the amount of "floatables" that are found in the Bronx River.

HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

We Bronx community board is fortunate that most of its vacant city owned land is now undergoing development for housing or other worthwhile development project and that we have no vacant city-owned land that is not already in the pipeline for development. Nonetheless, we urge the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to encourage all housing developers to, as much as possible, incorporate "green roofs" into their future project designs.

Furthermore, in order to ensure that the community board six area receives the ultimate

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benefits from new housing projects developed within its district, we have adopted a policy of requesting letters of assurances from all housing developers appearing before the board for support. The assurances state that the developers will attempt to hire locally, purchase equipment and services from local vendors and promote our district's economy as much as feasibly possible.

We also urge Housing Preservation and Development to hire additional inspectors so that it may more frequently inspect those apartment buildings that it has turned over to third party management companies. These companies should be more thoroughly vetted by the department to insure that their other properties are totally free of housing and building violations and that the properties are properly managed.

We also ask that HPD increase funding for anti-drugs and narcotics abatement officers to combat the sale and use of illegal drugs in and around housing developments that are either managed, supervised, or subsidized by the City.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES

Relations between local communities and the Department of Homeless Services would be greatly improved if the department were to notify the affected community well in advance whenever it plans to open a new homeless shelter. We note that on several occasions Bronx Community Board #6 was only informed of the existence of a new shelter was after the facility was open and clients had been moved inside. As a matter of policy, Bronx Community Board #6 should be notified before any new homeless are opened in its district and should be made an integral part of the site selection process.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Bronx Community Board Six continues to support the Economic Development Corporation in its plans for the redesign of the Fordham Plaza Mall. We are encouraged by the preliminary designs and concepts that have been presented to us and with how they are projected to greatly improve vehicular traffic and pedestrian safety in the Fordham Plaza area. The community boards trusts that the city will fully fund the subsequent phases of this project that promises to provide our community with a sorely needed economic boost.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Bronx Community Board #6's foremost concern for the Department of Parks and Recreation is for the safety of our constituents as they visit and utilize our district's numerous parks and play areas. Therefore, we encourage the hiring and deployment of additional Parks Enforcement personnel to patrol and monitor conditions in all of our parks. We also ask that the department work closely with the 48th Police Precinct in order to reduce criminal activities in and around our parks, such as, but not limited to, gang activity at Vydalia Park, vandalism at Cicerone Playground, and prostitution in and around Bronx Park.

Students enrolled in Public School/Middle School #3's afterschool program administered by the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation are actively seeking to adopt the Quarry Road Recreation Field, which is located directly across the street from their school.

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They cite the recreation field's deteriorated condition and its need for vast improvements. Bronx Community Board #6 supports the students in this matter and urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to earmark additional resources to the field. Specifically, a total renovation of the field is needed to increase its usefulness and accessibility. Among other things, the field is in immediate need of new bleachers, resodding, additional trees, upgrade and repairs to its comfort station, and the creation of an on-site play area for younger children.

Lastly, we ask that the department support our requests that the following equipment and personnel be allocated to our district:

- i) A tractor (\$55,000)**
- ii) A mini-packer (\$85,000)**
- iii) A pick-up truck with plow (\$30,000)**
- iv) One City Park Worker (\$26,977)**
- v) One Assistant Gardener (\$38,792)**
- vi) One Parks Enforcement Patrol worker (\$30,378)**

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

We encourage the City to continue to fund the library system so that it may continue to provide, at minimum, 6-day a week service. Our district's three libraries (Tremont, West Farms and Belmont) are so much more than just book lending institutions; they also provide such things as job preparedness training, cultural enrichment activities and skills development services, to name but a few examples. They need and deserve additional funding even in this period of fiscal constraints.

NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bronx Community Board #6 requests that the Fire Department continue to provide funds for the repair and upgrade of our district's three firehouses.

We also ask that the Fire Department enhance and expand its well received community outreach and education activities, including the distribution of free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to the public. These devices save lives and are well worth the expense. We recommend 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.

DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Bronx Community Board 6 asks that the Department of Citywide Administrative Services support our request to move from our current location on the seventh floor of the City-owned Bergen Building (rooms 709 and 712) to larger space on the building's third floor.

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The community board has literally outgrown its current offices. We have no room to conduct on-site meetings of the full board and we have to borrow space from another agency when hold on-site committee meetings. There is insufficient space to store our growing number of files, books and historical documents. We would be much better served if we could consolidate our operations in one large office containing ample space for meetings, files and equipment storage, and future expansion.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The work and responsibilities of New York City's 59 community boards have increased dramatically while the community boards' base budget – outside of funding for mandated union salary increases -- has remained relatively static. Rising costs of such necessities as telephone service, supplies, duplication service and travel makes it impossible for community boards to absorb proposed budgetary reductions. Moreover, in order that they may more fully meet their City Charter mandated duties, additional funding over and above their current funding allocation is warranted. The additional funds will be used to meet rising OPTS expenses and allow for the hiring of Planners and other professional personnel to assist in planning, service delivery and, in some cases, the preparation of 197-a plans. To that end, Bronx Community Board #6 urges the Office of Management and Budget to support increasing each community board's budget to a minimum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)

MISCELLANEOUS

Other projects, programs and services that Bronx Community Board #6 needs and continues to support include:

- Increased funding to the Department of Buildings so that it may more vigorously monitor instances of illegal conversions and enforce those rules and regulation that prohibit this practice.

- Increased city funding to the Department of Youth and Community Development for the Summer Youth Employment Program in order to supplement funds that are provided for this program by the Federal government.

- Increased funding to the Department for the Aging for senior citizen programs, including congregate meals, recreation, and employment services.

- Increased funding to the Department of Education for programs and services to students in special education classes.

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

Ivine Galarza
Ivine Galarza,
District Manager

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**FORM 3: COMMUNITY BOARD SERVICE PROGRAM PRIORITIES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011**

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PRIORITY				
		A	B	C	D	E
ADMINISTRATIVE SVCS	Vacant Lot Fencing (Formerly DGS)					X
AGING	Services for the Elderly	X				
BUILDINGS	Plan Examination		X			
	Inspections				X	
	Periodic Inspections					X
SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES	NYC Business Solutions				X	
	Division of Economic and Financial Opportunity			X		
	Neighborhood Development			X		
	The New York City Workforce 1 Career Centers		X			
CHILDREN'S SERVICES	Child Protection Services	X				
	Family Support Services				X	
	Family Court Legal Services				X	
	Daycare/Headstart	X				
CONSUMER AFFAIRS	Licensed Home Improvement Contractors		X			
	Underage Tobacco			X		
	Second Hand Auto Dealers			X		
	Sidewalk Cafes				X	
	Internet Gaming Cafes					X
	Weight and Measurements					X
	Electronic Stores					X
	Cultural Activities			X		
ECONOMIC DEV.	Economic Deelopment Initatives		X			
EDUCATION	Administration Staff (Principals, Asst. Principals, Supervisors, etc.)					X
	After School/Summer School & Evening	X				
	Building Services (Custodial, Maintenance, Construction)			X		
	Classroom Instruction (Teachers/Supplies/Materials)		X			
	Counseling/Drug Prevention/Parent Involvement	X				
	Food Services		X			
	Transportation			X		
	School Safety	X				
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Water Delivery				X	
	Air/Noise/Hazmat Enforcement			X		
	Environmental Planning and Assessment				X	
	Sewers/Water Pollution Control				X	
	Environmental Control Board					X
	Office of Community Outreach					X
FIRE	Emergency Medical Services		X			
	Fire Extinguishment		X			
	Fire Investigation					X
	Fire Prevention			X		
	Public Safety Education	X				
HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE	HIV/AIDS Prevention Program	X				
	Tobacco Control Program		X			
	Regulatory and Environmental Health Services (Including Pest Control)	X				
	Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Alcoholism Services	X				

****Due Tuesday October 31, 2006**

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AGENCY	PROGRAM	A	B	C	D	E
HEALTH & HOSPITALS CORPORATION	In-Patient Hospital Care Services	X				
	Preventive/Primary Ambulatory Health Care Services	X				
HOMELESS SERVICES	Services for Homeless Individuals & Families					X
HOUSING AUTHORITY	Housing Management & Maintenance Services & Capital Improvements			X		
HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT	Alternative Management of In Rem Property				X	
	Code Enforcement (Complaints Inspections)			X		
	Demolition/Seal-Up			X		
	Neighborhood Preservation/Community Development				X	
	Property Management			X		
	Rehabilitation			X		
	Relocation/Emergency Housing					X
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION	HIV/AIDS Services		X			
	Domestic Violence and Emergency Intervention Services	X				
	Family Independence Administration					X
	Home Care Services Program (HCSP)				X	
	WeCare					X
	Medical Assistance Programs (MAP)					X
	Adult Protective Services (APS)					X
LIBRARIES	Branch Library Services		X			
PARKS AND RECREATION	Facility Repairs (Skilled Trades)			X		
	Forestry and Horticulture				X	
	Parks Maintenance		X			
	Recreation Programs		X			
	Urban Park Services (Rangers & Park Enforcement Patrol)	X				
POLICE	Communications (911)	X				
	Emergency Services/Special Squads	X				
	Investigations	X				
	Patrol (Includes Housing, Transit & Auxiliary Police)	X				
	Traffic Control/Enforcement			X		
SANITATION	Enforcement			X		
	Recycling				X	
	Refuse Collection				X	
	Street Cleaning	X				
	Vacant Lot Clean-Up		X			
TRANSIT AUTHORITY	Bus Maintenance and Operations				X	
	Rapid Transit Maintenance and Operations					X
TRANSPORTATION	Arterial Highway Safety, Smoothness & Cleaning					X
	Bridges					X
	Traffic Planning Operations				X	
	Sidewalk Repair		X			
	Street Lighting (also Parks)		X			
	Street Maintenance/Smoothness				X	
	Signal Engineering				X	
YOUTH & COMM. DEV.	Youth Services	X				
	Copmmunity Development Services			X		
TOTALS		90	18	18	18	18

CERTIFICATION: Community Board No 6 (Six), Borough of Bronx, adopted on October 14, 2009

Authorized Signature: *Ivine Galarza*

Date: *October 14, 2009*