



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6

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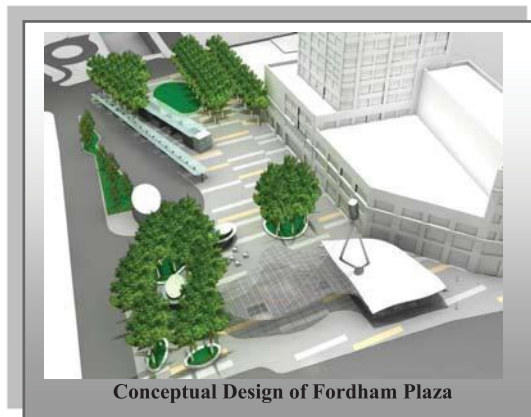
MS. IVINE GALARZA
District Manager

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

INTRODUCTION

Fiscal Year 2010 was a very challenging year for the city's 59 Community Boards. Our budget was saved at the last minute after many meetings and press conferences. Thanks are in order to the many people, who made it possible for us to continue our work in our communities i.e., The Bronx Delegation of the City Council, the Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., Tom Lucania, Board Members, residents, organizations, etc. Let's not forget Randy Panetta.

Planning Board 6 is still undergoing positive changes, affordable housing is being built, or is in the very few parcels that exists are development. The of Fordham Plaza is expected to improve



Conceptual Design of Fordham Plaza

the process of, and of city-owned land earmarked for conceptual redesign well underway. It is traffic, expand open

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space, and bring new realtors. According to a recent press release, “Third Avenue will be designated to ‘buses only.’” Over 80,000 pedestrians travel the corridor between Jerome and Webster Avenue daily. “The Plaza redesign,” as per the press release, “is intended to draw those visitors to the east.” Fordham Plaza is home to the old Sears Building which now has tenants such as Best Buy, Walgreens, the Jonas Bronck Academy and the 24 Hour Fitness Club. North of the plaza is the Metro North Railroad station. Metro North recently acquired land from Fordham University in order to widen the station’s outbound platform. Over 6,000 people board trains going to Westchester at this station. The popular chain restaurant, Applebee’s, has opened a location at the site of One Fordham Plaza.



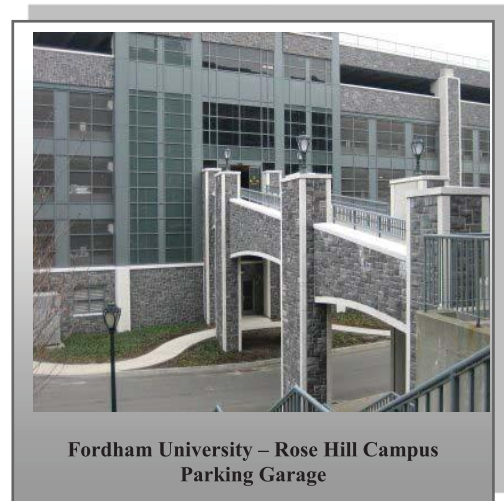
Rendering of Med Alliance Building

In the fall we will begin the re-zoning process for East Fordham Road, from Bathgate to Cambreleng avenues, with the intention of revitalizing the strip so as to keep current businesses as well as attracting and creating new ones. Recent rezoning has allowed for the expansion of the Med-Alliance clinic and the proposed development of a ten-story building for

affordable housing on East Fordham Road.

The newly formed Belmont Business Improvement District is busy identifying the needs of the businesses as well as the community in order to preserve the historic – ever popular – “Little Italy” of the Bronx status. Businesses are thriving, drawing visitors from upstate through tri-state.

Our community is the proud host of four major institutions such as the Rose Hill Campus of Fordham University with 6,685 students (3,172 of which live on campus housing that is co-owned or leased by the university, 600 live outside campus in the Belmont area and still a



Fordham University – Rose Hill Campus
Parking Garage

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new dorm for 450 students is set to open in the fall of 2010). Fordham University boasts a parking garage for 1,546 vehicles open to the public.

Fordham University, the New York Botanical Garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society (aka the Bronx Zoo) and Montefiore Hospital have successfully achieved the re-engineering and reconstruction of the Southern Boulevard/Bronx River Parkway. This includes safety and aesthetic improvements, i.e., the removal of the Jersey barriers, and the addition of a “banked super-elevated roadway” at the curves. The creation of a planted median with trees, planting and granite curbing. Construction is slated to begin September 2010. No doubt travelers entering our district will be pleased with this new entryway. Kudos to the quad.

On the southeast part of Board 6, at East 180th Street and Morris Park, the MTA is in process of renovating the station and adjacent area, when finished the train station will have a state of the art elevator and tree lined streets, new entrance, tracks and platforms. The project will be completed fall of 2012.

Our community also hosts a historical landmark, the West Farms Old Soldier’s Cemetery located at 180th Street and Bryant Avenue, which contains the remains of soldiers from five previous wars, including the American Civil War and the War of 1812.



Elsewhere in the district on East Tremont Avenue between Morris Park and Devoe Avenues (West Farms) is the site of yet another “Phipps” affordable housing project with 66 units and commercial space on the ground floor.

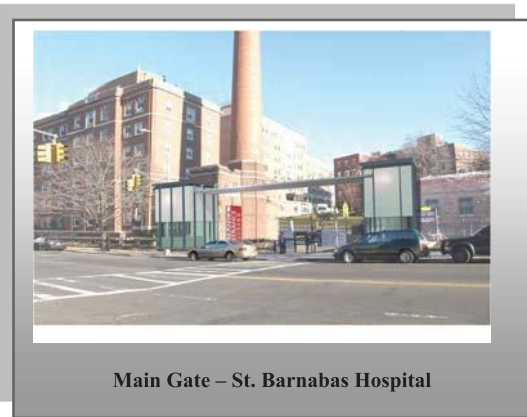
On East Tremont Avenue, one block away from West Farms, is the Bronx River Art Center which is also undergoing a major renovation. When the renovation is complete the Bronx River Art Center will be a four story state of the art building, with a new elevator, that will provide arts and

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culture to a wide range of Bronx youths and adults.

To the immediate south of the art center is the Sheridan Expressway where the State and city departments of Transportation are undertaking a major project that promises to improve the Bruckner Boulevard/Sheridan Expressway interchange and vehicular access to the Hunts Point peninsula.

Traveling west on East Tremont Avenue towards Southern Boulevard, we encounter a very busy business commercial strip that has been in transition for years. Now, with the formation of the East Tremont Business and Community Organization, its collaboration with SoBRO – a very well known organization – and the recent East Tremont Avenue re-zoning we are looking towards a brighter future for this long-forgotten strip. The two organizations are working towards securing tenants, installing munimeters along the strip, hiring cleaning crews, renovating vacant buildings, etc. The rezoning of East Tremont and Third Avenue was a 75 block project making way for housing and commercial space. It covered East Tremont Avenue and the side streets extending to Southern Boulevard, and along Third Avenue from the Cross Bronx Expressway north to Fordham Plaza.



The re-zoning of East Tremont is sure to make an impact on this neighborhood.

To the north is St. Barnabas Hospital, site of a regional trauma center. St. Barnabas has various projects pending, including a new parking lot.



South of East Tremont on 176th Street and 3rd Avenue is the home of The Eagle Academy for Young Men. This new, 50 million dollar structure currently consists of 9th to 12th grades but will grow to a 6th to 12th grade

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school in a few years. This newly constructed school is a masterpiece.



A Rendering of the Tremont Renaissance

At the southeast corner of East Tremont and Webster avenues we are all waiting and excited about The Tremont Renaissance, an 18-story edifice which will include 112 apartments – all of which will be affordable units – and 3 floors of commercial space that will include a bowling alley. The Tremont Renaissance will also provide 100 parking spaces, laundry rooms, a fitness room, a public terrace, a community room and an outdoor recreation space. The Tremont Renaissance is sure to be a basis in the further development of East Tremont Avenue.

Like all inner-city communities in the United States, 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 positive attributes that include many successful schools, strong civic, homeowners and tenant associations, viable commercial strips such as the Arthur Avenue/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.

Examples of the organizations and institutions that are pillars of our community include, but are not limited to, the Aquinas Housing Corporation, VIP Community Service, Phipps Houses, the Mary Mitchell Youth and Family Center, Tanima Productions, Masjid Adam, the La Familia Verde Garden Coalition, the

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Caribe Little League, our numerous religious institutions and our three libraries, Tremont, Belmont and West Farms.

DISTRICT NEEDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Some of our district's more pressing needs (broken down by municipal agency) are:

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. Having said that, we urge the New York City Police Department to undertake the following:

- 1) Ensure that the 48th Police Precinct is equipped with all of the tools – vests, computers, telephones, etc., - that it needs to protect, and communicate with, the citizens of our district.
- 2) Pay greater attention to the 48th Police Precinct's vehicles. The vehicles, particularly the squad cars, appear to require a more frequent schedule of maintenance and repair.
- 3) Increase our district's allocation of police officers in order that we may continue to enjoy and maintain the significant reduction in crime that we have experienced in recent months.
- 4) To increase our district's allocation of school crossing guards.

There are also three policy, non-budgetary, issues that we urge the Police Department to implement in fiscal year 2012:

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- 1) To further improve police and community relations, we ask that the Department mandate the local precinct commanders to once again convene precinct management team meetings (PMT) with their respective community board's district manager and the president of their precinct's community council. These 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.

- 2) Additionally, we ask that Bronx Community Board #6 be kept informed of any illegal activities (i.e., public drinking, gambling, etc.) that occur at carnivals, fairs, block parties and other street events that are held in our district. This information, which is not normally provided to the board unless we specifically ask, would prove extremely helpful to us as we decide which activities should continue to receive our support and recommendation for approval.

- 3) We continue to encourage the Police Department to closely monitor all our local bars and nightclubs in order to insure that they are operating in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, i.e. no sales to minors and no disruptive behavior on the part of their customers.

NYPD SCHOOL SAFETY

We ask that the New York Police Department's School Safety Division designate the central Crotona and West Farms sections of our district as a school drug free zone. The boundaries of the zone would be as follows: Southern Boulevard/Crotona Parkway to the west; East 180th Street/Bronx Park South to the north; Morris Park Avenue to the east, and the Cross Bronx Expressway to the south. At a minimum, the proposed school drug free zone contains three (3) day

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care centers, four (4) public and/or private elementary and intermediate schools, and several after-school youth programs. Youth will be able to travel more freely to and from these facilities as word spreads that persons arrested in the zone for the sale or possession of illegal drugs will be subject to stiffer criminal penalties.

HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Bronx Community Board #6 is fortunate that most of its vacant land is currently being developed – either for much needed housing or for other worthwhile projects – to the point where we have practically no vacant city-owned property that is not already in the pipeline for some improvement project.

We urge the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to encourage all housing developers to, as much as possible, incorporate “green roofs” into their project designs.

In order to ensure that Community Board #6 receives the ultimate benefits from all new housing projects developed within its district, the community board has adopted a policy whereby its requests written assurances from those developers who seek its support, stating that they will attempt to hire locally, purchase equipment and services from local vendors and promote our district’s economy as much as feasibly possible.

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 open space 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. This includes, but is not limited to, gang, prostitution and drug activity at Vidalia Park and at River Park where two youths

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drowned in July 2010. We also ask that the two agencies work together to ensure that all of our parks are closed at dusk, thereby further safeguarding our neighborhoods.

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 office space on the seventh floor of the City-owned Bergen Building (rooms 709 and 712) to the privately owned office building located at One Fordham Plaza.

The Community Board has literally outgrown its current offices. We have no room to conduct 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 once large office containing ample space for meetings, files and equipment storage, and further growth.

Our current location also poses as a danger to Community Board #6's employee safety. We are currently the only tenants on the seventh floor therefore leaving us susceptible to countless safety risks. Lastly, we find that requests for maintenance and repairs take an inordinate amount of time to be answered.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Because of the high number of pedestrians and vehicular traffic on Fordham Road, traffic calming measures are needed at the intersections of Fordham Road and Webster Avenue, Third Avenue and Fordham Road and Southern Boulevard and Fordham Road.

Respectfully submitted:

Ivine Galarza,
District Manager