



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 709, Bronx, NY 10457
Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: brxcb6@optonline.net
Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President
Honorable Joel Rivera, New York City Council, 15th Council District**

MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ
Board Chairperson

MS. IVINE GALARZA
District Manager

**DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013**

At last Community Boards have somewhat of a budget, although we can always use more.

Thanks are once again in order to the City Council in particular to council member, Gail Brewer, the Bronx Delegation and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who staunchly supported this budget issue.



Although some of the projects proposed for 2011 have been delayed i.e., The Fordham Plaza Project, Med-Alliance, the re-construction of the Southern-Boulevard/Bronx River Parkway, others are expected to proceed as planned, i.e., BRAC (the Bronx River Art Center) which will be host to a four-story State of the Arts Facility providing arts/culture to Bronxites and Phipps Houses affordable Housing Project with 66 apartment units and commercial ground space. St. Barnabas Hospital's parking lot is scheduled to open August 2012 with 600 parking spaces and the renovation of the 180th Street elevated train station by the MTA is currently underway.

Now that the East/Tremont/Third Avenue re-zoning is in place we anticipate developers to come knocking. Already there are projects that have been approved by the board, i.e., Urban Signature will develop ten residential buildings in the Crotona Park East/West Farms communities; this project is shared

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6

District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2013

with Community Board #3. The portion for Community Board #6 are two residential buildings with approximately 392 apartment units, 99 parking spaces and 3,925 square feet of retail floor area.

NYCHA will renovate all of the apartments in the West Farms Square Housing Complex which consist of six buildings.

The Department of Transportation is proposing a pilot parking technology project in the Arthur Avenue/Belmont area. Sensors will be embedded in pavement and will detect available parking.

However, 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, a regional trauma center located at St. Barnabas Hospital, 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.

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.

1. Having said that, we urge the department to redouble its efforts to ensure that the 48th Police Precinct is equipped with all of the tools – bulletproof vests, computers, telephones, etc., - that it needs to protect, and communicate with, the citizens of our district.
2. In a similar vein, we ask that the department pay greater attention to the 48th Police Precinct's vehicles. The vehicles, particularly the squad cars, appear to require a more frequently maintenance schedule, including repairs.
3. Bronx Community Board #6 also asks that our 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.
4. Similarly, the community board asks that our district's allocation of school crossing guards be increased in order that we may continue to enjoy and maintain the significant reduction in crime that we have experienced in recent months.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6

District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2013

Lastly, there are three policy, non-budgetary, issues that we urge the Police Department to implement in fiscal year 2011.

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 further ask that Bronx Community Board #6 be kept informed of any illegal activities (i.e., public drinking, gambling, etc.) that occur at fairs, block parties and other street events that are held in its district. This information, which is not normally provided to the board unless specifically asked, would prove extremely helpful to us as we decide which activities should continue to receive our support and recommendations for approval. The Community Board has implemented a policy of no events on; Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Halloween as well as not hosting more than three events in one day.
3. It is also necessary to closely continue monitoring all bars and nightclubs therefore insuring that they are up to code i.e., all required licenses, no selling to minors and no nuisance to residents.

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: 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 care centers, four (4) public and/or private elementary and intermediate schools, and several youth after-school 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 are subject to stiffer criminal penalties. As well as honing in on the prostitution that exists surrounding the aforementioned schools.

HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Bronx Community Board #6 is fortunate that most of its vacant city owned land is now undergoing development for housing or other worthwhile development projects 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.

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #6 **District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2013**

Furthermore, in order to ensure that Community Board #6 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. Due to a number of fires at illegally converted apartments, we insist that HPD keep us updated of all mayor's SRO Task Force findings.

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 plays 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, prostitution and drug activity at Vidalia Park and River Park (where two youths drowned July 2010); as well as insure that all parks close at dusk further safeguarding our neighborhoods and advise the Community Board of all park activities, i.e., baseball, basketball, soccer games etc.

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 serves 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.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation recently installed cameras. As well as improved traffic signals at the intersection of Fordham Road/Webster Avenue and Third Avenue.

The Community Board will monitor these locations to insure no other measures are needed.