



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

Honorable Joel Rivera, New York City Council, 15<sup>th</sup> Council District

**MS. WENDY RODRIGUEZ**  
Board Chairperson

**MS. IVINE GALARZA**  
District Manager

**DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014**

**OVERVIEW**

Once again the community board's budget has been reinstated. We thank the City Council, the council's Bronx Delegation, Council Member Gail Brewer and of course Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

The following projects are scheduled for completion in the near future:

- 1) The St. Barnabas Parking lot with 605 parking spaces is on schedule to open this August.
- 2) The reconstruction of the 180<sup>th</sup> Street elevated subway station is slated for completion this fall.
- 3) Phipps Houses will break ground this August on 3 buildings – 8 to 10 stories each totaling with 141 housing units.
- 4) NYCHA has almost completed renovation on all six buildings in the West Farms.

Other projects will begin construction in late 2012 or 2013; i.e., Urban

**Signature will build 2 residential buildings with a total of 392 units, 99 parking spaces and commercial space.**

**The Bronx River Art Center will be host to a four-story state of the arts facility providing arts/culture to Bronxites. The project will start renovations in the winter of 2012.**

**Other projects on tap include the reconstruction of East 177<sup>th</sup> Street, Devoe Avenue, Bronx Park and East Tremont avenues. This area of West Farms abuts the entrance to the Sheridan Expressway. The project includes reconstruction of roadway, water mains, traffic signal, street lighting and central median planters. Construction on this project is targeted for the fall of 2013. This is a Department of Design and Construction project.**

**The reconstruction of East Fordham Road from the Southern Boulevard bridge to the Bronx River Parkway exist/entrance ramps includes new sewers, reconstruction of roadway, granite curbs and raised 20" concrete medians.**

**The completion of the Third Avenue reconstruction project will convert Third Avenue between East 189<sup>th</sup> Street to Fordham Road into a "bus only" route; this is set to commence this year.**

**DOT – Franchise/Concession will once again go into contact with ABC Concessions Inc. to provide for the operation and maintenance of the food court and outdoor public square known as Fordham Plaza and boarded by East Fordham Road, Park Avenue, East 189<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue. The contact is for one year with a 3 month renewal option.**

**The rezoning of Fordham Road from Southern Boulevard to Bathgate Avenue is also on the calendar for 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 48<sup>th</sup>) 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond.

1. Having said that, we urge the department to redouble its efforts to ensure that the 48<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct is equipped with all of the tools – bulletproof vests, computers, telephones, etc., -- that it needs in order 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 180<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 finding by the mayor’s SRO Task Force.

#### **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 48<sup>th</sup> 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 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.