



The Special Committee on Racial Equity of Bronx Community Board 8



Images of Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY Community Board 8, part of [The Enslaved People Project](#) with [NYC Parks and the Van Cortlandt Alliance](#)

Top image: [Hester & Piero's Mill Pond](#), Bottom image: [Van Cortlandt House Museum](#)

June 2026

Executive Summary: The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity

June 2026

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

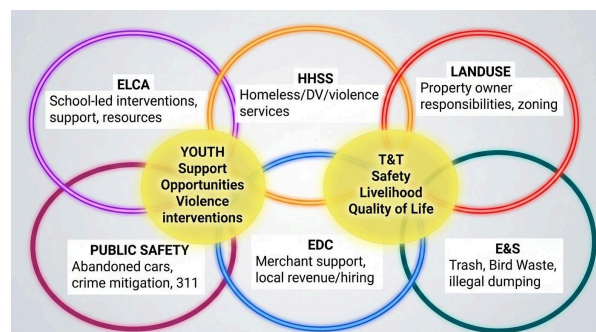
Commemorating our 6th year, the Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) submits its seventh report at an inflection point of American life, culture and liberty. Key protections stripped from voters by an explosion of gerrymandering across the U.S. Dissent, Rule of Law, and journalism are under attack. Long-standing, most of which are in good standing, U.S. residents are being profiled by their skin color, language and culture, detained, and often removed without Habeas Corpus. In 2025, Hate Crimes against Jews, Latinos and Sikhs hit an all time high.

In addition, long before affordability concerns expressed broadly across the electorate, Community Board 8 (CB8) residents have been paying 55% of the income towards rent - 20% higher than recommended for household stability; commuting more than 45 minutes each way - deteriorating mental health and child care options; and demanding clean, safe streets.

SCRE's mission remains unmet, but not elusive: *The members of Bronx CB8 are volunteers appointed by the Borough President to represent the interests of the district's residents, institutions, organizations, and businesses... acknowledged the promise of representation and genuinely question what it means to serve in these multiracial and multilingual communities...As the nation finally begins to acknowledge and confront our persistent, centuries-long structural racism and inequality that has denied equal access to justice, fair housing, education and economic opportunity for all people, CB8 also strives to acknowledge and eradicate disparities when possible that exist within our district and create opportunities for more places to engage with all members of the community.*

Throughout 2025, CB8 Committees - Economic Development, Traffic & Transportation, Environment & Sanitation, SCRE and Public Safety - came together over and over to demand more care, attention and action along the **Broadway Corridor**. Safety, sanitation, transportation, human service concerns spanned from Marble Hill/225th Street to Kingsbridge/238th Street while New York State Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) conducts work under the rail line. This stretch serves as a vital commercial and residential artery for our community. It is the stretch that blends the socio-economic, linguistic and cultural diversity of our district. CB8 took the following actions:

- Met with more than 70 businesses which revealed serious, compounding challenges that are undermining the safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in this corridor.



- Pursued appropriate NYC/NYS agencies to take swift, responsible actions to address community concerns. Called on elected officials to hold agencies accountable.

In 2026, we were also pleased to see NYC Council Members - Eric Dinowitz and Pierina Ana Sanchez - representing CB8 take on hate as a formal Committee assignment and legislation to prescribe action steps and accountabilities. In 2024, CB8 initiated [Combating Hate Resource Guide](#): to help neighbors navigate identifying and reporting hate crimes, connect victims and potential perpetrators with mental health and supportive services, take action and hold [accountability](#). CB8 also created a call to action: *Hate On Every Committee's Agenda*, in which 2025 CB8 Standing Committees took on 'hate' and advanced equity, and identified and created solutions specific to their area of expertise. See updated activities here.

SCRE called on community members to help bring attention to local issues, urging neighbors to utilize the 311 system, attend meetings to share experience, questions and solutions.

Our Community Needs You!

From transit to sanitation accessibility and quality of life issues, NYC agencies need to be efficient, effective and accountable. Report issues you see and make sure NYC gets it done!

Still not fixed?
Notify your Community Board and Elected Officials
Provide 3-1-1 Reference # and pictures, if possible!

**Trash?
Abandoned Cars?
Inaccessible sidewalks, transit?
Street Light Out?
Potholes?**

Call 3-1-1!

¡Nuestra Comunidad te necesita!

Desde el transporte público hasta el acceso al saneamiento y los problemas de calidad de vida, las agencias de NYC deben ser eficientes, eficaces y responsables. ¡Informa sobre los problemas que veas y asegúrate de que NYC los resuelva!

¿Aún no se ha solucionado?
Notifíques a tu Junta Comunitaria y a tus Funcionarios Electos.
Proporciona el número de referencia del 3-1-1 y fotos, si es posible.

**¿Basura?
¿Autos abandonados?
¿Aceras o transporte público inaccesibles?
¿Farola fundida?
¿Baches?**

¡Llame al 3-1-1!

Looking Forward

Youth-led Community Building. Recently, CB8 heartbreakingly suffered multiple losses due to violence. We lost young people and family members, endured random acts of violence, and guns continue to wreak havoc across the entire Borough. Some call for greater law enforcement, others for recreation and jobs. We need youth to lead solutions for effectiveness and all of us to come together to take action. Everyone has a role - vibrant community, holding City services accountable, and ensuring the public knows about resources available to them. In the year ahead, SCRE proposes cross-collaboration across Standing Committees - Youth, Parks & Recreation, Education, and Public Safety, at a minimum. No one Committee will solve what we are confronting - it takes all of us. We must reach beyond our District to work with

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partners, neighbors, Borough-wide safety and community building measures to mitigate adverse outcomes within our purview.

In May 2026, after [reports were mandated by voter referendums](#) in 2022, new Mayor Mamdani's administration released New York City's first Preliminary [Citywide Racial Equity Plan](#) and [True Cost of Living Measure](#). The Administration stated that these two reports "make clear that New York City's affordability crisis is deeply tied to its history of racial inequity" and align 45 NYC agencies to tackle this collective impact. CB8 must de-silo its work to leverage these reports and reach ever closer to its mission.

Engage with all members of the community. Despite its efforts, CB8 struggles to reach a broader spectrum of community members for diverse perspectives on decisions impacting the district's quality of life. SCRE recommends a call to action for every CB8 Standing Committee to focus on broad, data-driven community outreach: 1. Goals and action steps for all Standing Committees, Board Members and staff; 2. Social Media/ Flyer campaigns; 3. FY27 mid-year report, with adjustments for greater impact, and final report on overall performance.

A heartfelt thank you to Bronx Community Board 8 staff and Board Members for their work to advance equity in the District. Thank you to this year's Special Committee on Racial Equity team: Margaret Della, Chairperson, Althea Eboh, Vice Chairperson, Daniel Nunez, Member, as well as the earlier efforts of Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappily, Robert Fanuzzi, Cesar Tobar-Acosta, Adiana Rivera, Daris Jackson, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes, Rosalind Zavras, Julia Gomez, Julie Reyes, Camelia Tepelus, and Ramdat Singh.

Respectfully submitted,

Special Committee on Racial Equity
[Learn more about SCRE](#)

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Executive Summary: The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity

June 2025

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

Commemorating our 5th year, the Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) submits its sixth report during a backlash against a push to ensure more voices, faces, cultures, opinions - diverse representation - have a seat at the table. Celebrating what makes us different is the Bronx sauce - and it takes all of us to stand together to protect and preserve this value.

In 2020, we began with the following framing:

The members of Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) are volunteers appointed by the Borough President to represent the interests of the district's residents, institutions, organizations, and businesses... The Members of CB8 acknowledged the promise of representation and genuinely question what it means to serve in these multiracial and multilingual communities...As the nation finally begins to acknowledge and confront our persistent, centuries-long structural racism and inequality that has denied equal access to justice, fair housing, education and economic opportunity for all people, CB8 also strives to acknowledge and eradicate disparities when possible that exist within our district and create opportunities for more places to engage with all members of the community.

In 2025, we are a community in crisis. Hate crimes continue to increase year over year. Specifically, in March 2025, New York City recorded 57 confirmed hate crime incidents, 31 of which were antisemitic. Since October 7, 2023, there have been 1,045 hate crimes in the city, with 584 being antisemitic. In New York and across the globe, there is a concerning trend of increasing hate crimes, particularly against Jewish individuals. Historically, increases in antisemitic crimes indicate a trend of increasing hate and violence against other groups. As such, there is also an alarming increase in threats targeting Muslims and other faiths, LGBTQ+ communities, news reporters and students, according to the Department of Justice and press reports. Moreover, in NYC, hate crimes have increased, yet other types of crime, including transit crime, have seen a decrease in the first quarter of 2025, as reported by NY1.

SCRE has also taken notice of recent escalations in attacks on freedom of speech and First Amendment rights across the United States. Attacks on freedom of speech can undermine equity efforts by creating conflicts and confusion between free speech and true equity and inclusion. Yet, misusing the Freedom of Speech to divide or disparage people or communities engenders hate. SCRE, in collaboration with other CB8 committees, will work to address attempts to suppress free speech, combat hate, and advance equity, ensuring all communities a place in our district.

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It Starts with Us

[Combating Hate Resource Guide](#): This guide - available in multiple languages - helps neighbors navigate identifying and reporting hate crimes, connect victims and potential perpetrators with mental health and supportive services, take action and hold accountability.

Hate On Every Committee's Agenda: From Housing to Education to Economic Development, CB8 is proud of each Standing Committee who took on 'hate' and advanced equity, and identified and created solutions specific to their area of expertise. See updated activities here.

Know Your Rights

SCRE welcomed Deputy Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights. CB8 held an [information session](#) for neighbors who emigrated to the U.S. to be informed of their rights. [Additional resources](#) were posted to the website.

Looking Forward

Civil Discourse and Breaking Bread. Our community is responsible for coming together in a civil way, working for the community, holding City services accountable, and ensuring the public knows about resources available to them. In the year ahead, SCRE proposes pre-meeting options for board members to share a meal together and bond before the September Full Board Meeting to be effective in the work ahead. This is an important tool to strengthen community ties, allow people to see each other as neighbors, and build continuity from seasoned to newer board members.

A heartfelt thank you to Bronx Community Board 8 for its work to advance equity, better services and care for residents and businesses in the community, and the opportunity to make the most of coexisting in the District. Thank you to CB8 staff who facilitate these efforts and endlessly pursue answers and solutions from the City on our priorities. Thank you to this year's Special Committee on Racial Equity team: Margaret Della, Chairperson and Members Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappily, Cesar Tobar-Acosta and Adiana Rivera as well as the earlier efforts of Robert Fanuzzi, Daris Jackson, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes, Rosalind Zavras, Julia Gomez, Julie Reyes, Camelia Tepelus, and Ramdat Singh.

Respectfully submitted,

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGHT HATE AND DISCRIMINATION!

¡JUNTO NO ESTÁ SOLO!
¡JUNTOS PODEMOS COMBATIR EL ODIO Y LA DISCRIMINACIÓN!

你并不孤单!
我们可以共同对抗仇恨和歧视!

	What is hate? How do I know if what I experienced was a hate crime? Why should I report a hate crime?
	If I am the victim of or witnessed a hate crime, what do I do? If you believe that you have been the victim of a hate crime or hate incident, ask for help, report it, and help reduce future victims.
	What if I feel hate towards myself or others? NYC 988 is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365.
	Resources for the entire Community Recursos para toda la comunidad 面向整个社区的资源
	Locally, stopping hate starts with us. Our community is responsible for combating hate and hate crimes. Coming together is the way we protect ourselves, our loved ones and our neighborhood. Join Bronx Community Board 8: https://cbbrooklyn.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/

June 2026

Special Committee on Racial Equity

Executive Summary:
The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity
June 2024

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

In our fifth report, the Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) of Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) presents some of our most pressing concerns for the well-being and connectedness of our culturally diverse district.

Hate crimes reached record levels in 2023 and 2024 seems to be on a path to break the previous year's record. According to USA Today, an increase of hate crimes nearly 13% from 2022 driven in part by upticks in anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. A larger analysis of 25 American cities found hate crimes increased an average of 17% from 2022, according to the study. The increase caused Jewish people to surpass African Americans as the most-targeted group in America's largest 10 cities. Black and gay Americans were the other most-targeted groups. Smaller towns track larger cities. Hate crimes are also historically underreported. Where goes New York, so follows the country.

In 2023, our community, tethered to the horrific human catastrophes unraveling in Israel and Gaza, Haiti, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Ukraine, Darfur, Syria, endures locally in anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic crimes, violence, hatred, anger and disgust. Protests on college campuses taking sides in horrific war, further polarizes neighbors.

Disinformation feeds suspicion, competing over resources, viewing others as an enemy rather than a disagreement, rising costs, inequity and general political exhaustion exacerbate mental health, social connections and relationships, and further distract us from accomplishing important objectives towards our present and future environment, education, infrastructure, opportunities for advancement, quality of life, etc.

While this is the human condition, we, too, find ourselves exasperated with the further erosion of our communities.

Cost of Hate

In the last year, SCRE questioned the cost, the toll of hate on individuals and multiplying that impact across an entire community. What does a neighborhood feel like when it's residents fear for their lives; harbor feelings of blame, victimization, shame when innocent people are attacked for their appearance, religion, identity, abilities; grade school children report the highest number of hate crimes. What contribution can we make to improve our neighborhood in duress? What energy is left for creativity and innovation when worthlessness, grief, fear, and skepticism

***Hate Is a Danger to
Everyone and So
Fighting It Must Be a
Job for Everyone***

***Secretary-General Security Council on
Human Fraternity, June 2023***

occupy our minds? What toll does this weighty fight or flight condition take on our bodies, our mental health, our focus, our hope for the future?

Hope in Action: September 2023 - June 2024:

1. *Name it, say it:* We called out any discrimination and oppression by and of any community. The oppression of one group indicates that there will be an increase in discrimination, threat of and violence itself against other marginalized groups. In doing so, we connect the oppression of one group in their hour of need to our collective responsibility to each other.
2. *Hate me, hate yourself:* SCRE reflected on the foundation of hate, what it does to those hated, or perceived to be hated, and explored consequences to those who hate, all of which corrodes the very fabric of our community.
3. *Combating Hate Resource Guide:* This guide navigates neighbors through identifying and reporting hate crimes, connect mental health and supportive services to victims and potential perpetrators, and where to take action and hold accountability.[LINK]
4. *Put Hate On Every Committee's Agenda:* As we felt all the ways in which hatred in its forms (bias, discrimination, prejudice and violence) rippled through our daily lives, we asked each Standing Committee to take on 'hate' as a monthly topic to identify and create solutions specific to their area of expertise.
5. *Keep going:* In September 2024, SCRE with Health, Hospitals and the Social Services Committee plan on holding a virtual community conversation to describe what is happening, give people resources and a way out.
6. *It starts with us.* Our community is responsible for combating hate and hate crimes. This underscores our collective responsibility and coming together is the way we protect the value of ourselves, our loved ones and our neighborhood.

Looking Forward

When we've done and continue to do the work, when our community is engaged, when we are turning back dark forces of violence, trauma, hatred, anger, skepticism, and disgust, where do we go with ourselves, our emotions, our heavy hearts? In the year ahead, SCRE intends to focus on art and expression as a critical piece of our communities' shared coping strategies, telling stories of survival and resilience, and rebuilding.

A heartfelt thank you to Bronx Community Board 8 for its work to advance equity, better services and care for residents and businesses in the community, and the opportunity to make the most of coexisting in the District. Thank you to CB8 staff who facilitate these efforts and endlessly pursue answers and solutions from the City on our priorities. Thank you to this year's Special Committee on Racial Equity team: Margaret Della, Chairperson and Members Bob Bender, Kelli Buford, Sebastian Chittilappily, as well as the earlier efforts of Robert Fanuzzi, Daris Jackson, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes, Rosalind Zavras, Julia Gomez, Julie Reyes, Camelia Tepelus, and Ramdat Singh.

Respectfully submitted,
Special Committee on Racial Equity

“...there is this continual struggle within the very structure of every individual life.....That within the best of us, there is some evil, and within the worst of us, there is some good. When we come to see this, we take a different attitude toward individuals. The person who hates you most has some good in him; even the nation that hates you most has some good in it; even the race that hates you most has some good in it. And when you come to the point that you look in the face of every man and see deep down within him what religion calls “the image of God,” you begin to love him in spite of. No matter what he does, you see God’s image there. There is an element of goodness that he can never slough off. Discover the element of good in your enemy. And as you seek to hate him, find the center of goodness and place your attention there and you will take a new attitude...

We usually think of what hate does for the individual hated or the individuals hated or the groups hated. But it is even more tragic, it is even more ruinous and injurious to the individual who hates...For the person who hates, the beautiful becomes ugly and the ugly becomes beautiful. For the person who hates, the good becomes bad and the bad becomes good. For the person who hates, the true becomes false and the false becomes true. That’s what hate does. You can’t see right. The symbol of objectivity is lost. Hate destroys the very structure of the personality of the hater.

And our civilization must discover that. Individuals must discover that as they deal with other individuals. There is a little tree planted on a little hill and on that tree hangs the most influential character that ever came in this world. But never feel that that tree is a meaningless drama that took place on the stages of history. Oh no, it is a telescope through which we look out into the long vista of eternity, and see the love of God breaking forth into time. It is an eternal reminder to a power-drunk generation that love is the only way. It is an eternal reminder to a generation depending on nuclear and atomic energy, a generation depending on physical violence, that love is the only creative, redemptive, transforming power in the universe.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1957

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Executive Summary: The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity

Bronx Community Board 8

June 2023

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) of Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) presents its annual reflection on some of our most pressing concerns for the safety, evolution and vibrancy of our culturally diverse district. As such, SCRE makes an effort on behalf of the community to highlight the work of each Standing Committee to bring about greater change, accountability and responsiveness for the people who live in CB8.

“Fear of modernization- the modernization of society was regarded as a crisis and evoked fears and resentment. The opponents of modernization rejected the cultural diversity of an open society... Instead, they strove for a “national community” of cultural conformity achieved through authoritarian means. These ideas were interspersed with racist and, more often, antisemitic prejudices.”¹

These are words from the public memorial in Dachau, Germany where the Nazi concentration camp network began in 1933. This camp would be the first of 130 camps throughout the Third Reich’s regime and served as the blueprint for systematic dehumanization of millions and the Holocaust. Almost one hundred years later, it gives this Committee pause on alarming concerns about contemporary efforts at dehumanization of communities, especially political opponents and persons of color, identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning persons (LGBTQ), those with disabilities, and religious minorities including Jews and Muslims; human rights atrocities without repercussions; intimidation and violence in support of authoritarian movements; and withholding and/or restricting education, expression of speech, and access to health care and services.

Some Alarming national and global trends:

- In 2021, 24 U.S. legislatures introduced 54 separate bills intended to restrict teaching and training in K-12 schools, higher education, and state agencies and institutions. The majority of these bills target discussions of race, racism, gender, and American history.²
- PEN America’s [Index of School Book Bans](#) lists 2,532 instances of individual books being banned...The majority of content targeted explicitly address LGBTQ+, persons of color, and/or religious minorities including Judaism and Muslim themes³
- Of the people surveyed by the Anti-Defamation League, 26%, harbor antisemitic attitudes - an estimated 1 billion adults globally. Two out of every 3 people surveyed never heard of the Holocaust or do not believe the historical accounts to be accurate.⁴

¹ Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site <https://www.kz-gedenkstaette-dachau.de/en/contact/>

² PEN America <https://pen.org/issue/educational-censorship/>

³ PEN America <https://pen.org/report/banned-usa-growing-movement-to-censor-books-in-schools/>

⁴ Anti-Defamation League <https://global100.adl.org/did-you-know>

- A United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report outlines how children are discriminated against in health, access to government resources, and education due to their ethnicity, language, and religion.⁵
- The World Health Organization reports that health systems fail women during pregnancy and childbirth due to poor quality of care, including disrespect, mistreatment and abuse; social determinants, including income, access to education, race and ethnicity; and gender norms and/or inequalities that result in a low prioritization of the rights of women and girls.⁶
- The United States (U.S.) Department of Justice recently announced that reported hate crime incidents increased 11.6% — from 8,210 in 2020 to 9,065 in 2021. This data reflects the reports of 14,859 law enforcement agencies representing 91.1% of the U.S. population.⁷
- LGBTQ people as well as people with disabilities are nearly four times more likely than other people to be victims of violent crime.⁸

Through CB8 Standing Committees and SCRE, board members and the community brought awareness and accountability to the following areas throughout Fiscal Year (FY23):⁹

- In a study of people living in the US aged 50+ regarding ageism and health: 93% experience ageism, and, at least, 20% experience ageism in healthcare settings. Racism and ageism have a compounding negative impact in health care.
- Discussed that caregivers are largely women, people of color and immigrants and that their efforts are undervalued. Efforts for pay equity to increase caregiver wage recently passed with most funding from the State, but still not a true living wage. Governor Kathy Hochul issued an executive order to create a 10-year master plan for aging including how NY will address aging and caregiving issues.
- The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-based Violence [presented on Racial/Gender Disparities in reported Domestic Violence \(DV\) and Intimate Partner Violence \(IPV\)](#) victimization data across New York City, in all 5 boroughs and nearly all 59 community districts, Black women experienced higher IPV victimization rates than any other population of residents. In CB8 specifically, Black and Hispanic women are disproportionately victimized.
- Considering only 9% of Bronx businesses received support during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a predominantly Black and Latino Borough, [the Bronx Empowerment Zone](#) is an aspect of the Empire State Developments Empowerment Zone Initiative that will utilize public funds to catalyze opportunities in low-income Bronx neighborhoods that have been underinvested.
- [The Bronx Health Link](#) (TBHL) was created by the Bronx Borough president in response to Bronx health outcomes, especially among Black and Brown women who are 10x more

⁵ UNESCO <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/racism-and-discrimination-against-children-rife-countries-worldwide>

⁶ WHO <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

⁷ U.S. DOJ <https://www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/2021-hate-crime-statistics>

⁸ UCLA <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-lgbt-violence-press-release/>; Bureau of Justice <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/crime-against-persons-disabilities-2009-2019-statistical-tables>

⁹ See updated link of CB8 Committee Activities to advance racial equity in the district: <https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/10/CB8-Committee-Work-on-Equity-4.pdf>

likely to die from childbirth than other women. Other presenters shared how Black and brown community members neglected medical treatments because of past experiences including being mistreated, blamed and not heard when seeking medical care. Some even commit survival crimes to get access to basic health care and services or just utilize Emergency Rooms (ERs) to access services.

- CB8 continues to push for safe, public access to the Jerome Park Reservoir, a community green space
- CB8 requested that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) relocate its transportation waste transfer/storage from its Marble Hill tracks to improve the neighborhood health and quality of life as well as permit Tibbetts Brook to resume its historic flow directly into the Harlem River, eliminating New York City's largest Combined Sewer Outflow at that site..
- Changing the definition of Area Median Income (AMI) to a more localized definition that will better serve communities in need of affordable housing.
- Discussing New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Preservation Trust Program, which is a 10 year program allowing NYCHA residents to use the housing developments as collateral to take out loans for renovations of their properties and the need for effective oversight.
- Discussion had on the high volume of rent regulations, lack of legal assistance for renters, and the need for increasing legal aid funding.
- Affordable Housing discussion suggesting a change in the definition of affordable housing to ensure greater accessibility to those who need it most with effective oversight.
- Attended informational sessions on hate crimes in New York City and facilitated conversations on how our district can change and improve safety for disproportionately impacted groups as well as the wider community.
- Raise issues of quality of life concerns with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) for residents as well as the increasing hate crimes against houses of worship.
- Advocated for Kingsbridge Heights Community Center as an important provider of community services and is located in a Parks Department owned building that is in need of substantial repairs as well as for community engagement in the input phase of redesigning the Kingsbridge Armory located in adjacent Bronx Community Board 7 on its border with CB8.
- Discussed the November 2022 ballot initiatives that the public voted in favor of all three:
 - Define the City's core values and acknowledge our history through a guiding statement; Establish a plan, an Office of Racial Equity, and a Commission on Racial Equity to hold city government accountable for racial equity; Measure the true cost of living to recognize that New Yorkers need a standard of dignity to thrive
 - The [Mayor's Office of Equity](#) now includes the Racial Justice Commission, the Commission on Gender Equity, the Pay Equity Cabinet, the Unity Project, the Young Men's Initiative and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity.

Moreover, CB8 is improving its outreach in the community - expanding language services and materials, engaging in more voices to share their input and concerns, and improving how

June 2026

meetings are being conducted. CB8 intends to welcome more voices in a respectful environment where everyone may share their viewpoints, disagreements are heard and constructive, and the advocacy and work of the Community Board may be accomplished.

A heartfelt thank you to Bronx Community Board 8 for its work to advance equity, better services and care for residents and businesses in the community, and the opportunity to make the most of coexisting in the District. Thank you to CB8 staff who facilitate these efforts and endlessly pursue answers and solutions from the City on our priorities. Thank you to this year's Special Committee on Racial Equity team: Margaret Della, Chairperson and Members Bob Bender, Robert Fanuzzi, Julie Reyes, and Camelia Tepelus, as well as the earlier efforts of Daris Jackson, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes, Rosalind Zavras, Julia Gomez, and Ramdat Singh.

Respectfully submitted,
Special Committee on Racial Equity

Executive Summary: The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity

Bronx Community Board 8

June 30, 2022

There's so much joblessness and homelessness and health care that some of us can get and others can't. Education. If we could just get the people to put the facts in the books where the young people can learn and be sure that this doesn't happen again. And it could happen again...So freedom really means vigilance to me. I want everybody to be aware that none of us are free until we are all free.

Opal Lee, 'Grandmother' of Juneteenth

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) of Community Board 8 (CB8) annually reflects on the preceding year SCRE's efforts on behalf of the community during that time

At the risk of inadequately capturing their weightiness and historical import with only brief mention, we wish to highlight several recent developments in our country, to provide some context for SCRE's work:

- Establishment of Juneteenth as a Federal, New York State, and New York City holiday, commemorating June 19, 1865, when enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation, issued two-and-a-half years earlier and freeing the enslaved persons in the secessionist states of the Confederacy, finally reached Texas, with the announcement of Union General Gordon Granger's General Order No. 3.
- Obstruction of human, health, civil and voting rights to a degree not seen in the decades since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s¹⁰
- Comprehensive, intentional efforts by certain elected officials to undermine the nation's democratic electoral processes, in contravention of the Constitution and the rule of law.¹¹
- Proliferation of the practice of gerrymandering by both dominant U.S. political parties, diminishing the equality of votes and manipulating the competitiveness and outcomes of elections.
- Increased radicalism, polarization, hate crimes and the use of violence as a political deterrent from White Supremacists¹²
- Efforts to force school boards and libraries to censor or ban books that discuss historical evidence documenting the Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ American experiences

As a parallel, SCRE looked to not only identify areas of concern, underinvestment, inequity in CB8, SCRE also advocated transparency, dialogue on inequity as a part of our decision-making process and laid out tools for community accountability and action steps to improve the quality of life for CB8 residents.

¹⁰HRC World Report <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/united-states>

¹¹ U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol <https://january6th.house.gov/>

¹² Pushed to Extremes: Domestic Terrorism amid Polarization and Protest <https://www.csis.org/analysis/pushed-extremes-domestic-terrorism-amid-polarization-and-protest>

In 2021-2022, SCRE focused on the following action areas:

- Support CB8 to identify and engage issues of racial equity within standing committees where discussions have real life implications under housing, health, education, public safety and all other standing committee directives. Utilize SCRE to receive community feedback, assess actions taken in the District and advocate for next steps toward achieving greater equity..
- Map FY16-23 CB8 capital budget requests to help the board make decisions about how and where it spends its time, effort and access to resources and influence. This mapping also provides a tool to demonstrate where areas of the District fail to have completed projects despite highest need and priority. This data must be leveraged with City agencies and elected officials for a timely response and resolution.
- In reviewing the distribution of resources, SCRE discovered that the most under-resourced sections in our community have the fewest completed capital projects. SCRE layered its aforementioned mapping and discovered that areas where we have requested the most resources through (incomplete) capital budget requests, and exactly align with Environmental Justice areas - greatest poverty, most environmental damage, and most urgent needs for housing and other services. This information alone is a huge call to action for CB8 to use its influence to benefit the community, specifically Environmental Justice areas of CB8.
- Create and maintain an annual review of how CB8 advances racial equity. SCRE documented CB8 standing committee work which has actively worked to advance racial equity.¹³
- Document and engage District grassroots organizations for a wider community dialogue within CB8 standing committees. Robust connection with community organizations gives a fuller landscape of the District's needs and priorities.
- Support public engagement and community access as an active part of CB8 information gathering and dialogue. Advocate for bilingual notices, documents and other related information provided by CB8; and for standing committee chairs to facilitate straightforward language under committee work to help the community understand topics and discussions, and reduce barriers to broader community participation
- Revise community statement to be more inclusive: Bronx Community Board 8 proudly represents the diverse communities of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Village, who reside or work here, inclusive of all races and ethnicities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, age, religion, disability, national origin, and citizenship.

Thank you to CB8 for its work on racial equity, thoughtful review of these efforts and their impact, and for using its expertise to advance the most pressing and unjust areas and conditions in the District. Thank you to the staff who facilitate these efforts and endlessly pursue answers and solutions from the City on our priorities. Thank you to this year's SCRE team: Bob Bender, Robert Fanuzzi, Julia Gomez, Julie Reyes, Ramdat Singh, Camelia Tepelus and the earlier efforts of Daris Jackson, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes, and Rosalind Zavras.

Margaret Della
Chair, Special Committee on Racial Equity

¹³<https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/committees/special-committee-on-racial-equity/>

Executive Summary: The Interim Report of the Special Committee on Racial Equity

Bronx Community Board 8

April 7, 2021

Dear Members of Community Board 8,

When the Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) was created by a resolution, dated July 9, 2020, that resolution identified the need for a framework to research, consider and identify issues of inequity that affect our diverse communities within the purview of Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees, to propose solutions for addressing such issues and resolved that the SCRE be established to examine and consider systemic racism and inequity, engage members of the Community Board and the community in undertaking this work and issue a report with recommendations for actions that can be implement by Community Board 8.

With that mandate, SCRE presented the first interim report to the Executive Committee at its September 2020 meeting, with copies circulated in advance to Board members inviting them to comment. The Special Committee incorporated the comments of the Executive Committee and Community Board members in its revised draft report, dated December 3, 2020, that was communicated to the full board and the public on January 5, 2021.¹⁴

SCRE experienced a few setbacks during its organizational stage as the original chair resigned from the Board in October, 2020 and the successor to the original chair resigned from the Board in January, 2021. With the selection of a new Chair, SCRE has regrouped and is focusing on four areas:

- Reexamining the framework and the exploring its future goals and opportunities;
- Standing committee and public engagement, including a forum in late April or early May, 2021;
- Ensuring community access; and
- Creating an ongoing assessment tool to present to the Board by May, 2021.

In our most recent evaluation of the framework and engagement of the standing committees that will implement the recommended initiatives, we were pleased to find that a substantial number of committees have already engaged. We were also informed that the Community Board resources would permit us to provide greater access to the Spanish-speaking component of our community.

SCRE is presenting this revised report to facilitate that translation and our ongoing efforts to provide community access and encourage engagement. We have made every effort to simplify the language of the initial report and present a more concise and user-friendly appendix. In

¹⁴ [Initial report](#)

June 2026

addition, SCRE will present a final report with any additional progress to the Community Board in late May 2021.

SCRE recognizes that time may not permit the reading of every document that has been created or gathered to support our work. I would highly recommend that, as time permits, you review this shortened interim report, the statement of Police Commissioner Dermot Shea¹⁵ along with the executive summaries of reports of the New York City Commission on Human Rights on Anti-Black Racism (beginning at page viii)¹⁶ and the Report from the Special Advisor on Equal Justice in the New York State Courts.¹⁷

SCRE continues to be inspired by numerous civil rights leaders, exemplified by the words of the late Representative John Lewis:

“Emmett Till was my George Floyd...He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me...I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio...He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice...He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself. Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble...and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide”¹⁸

I salute the willingness of the Community Board to welcome an examination and to be open to the recommendations of this Special Committee on Racial Equity at this moment in time. I am eternally grateful to our staff who have assisted in countless ways. Finally, none of this ongoing work would have been possible without the hard work of the SCRE team: Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Robert Fanuzzi, Julie Reyes, Ramdat Singh, Georgia Santiago and the earlier efforts of Daris Jackson and Rosalind Zavras.

Jyll D. Townes
Chair, Special Committee on Racial Equity
Bronx Community Board 8

¹⁵ https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/policereform/downloads/Police_Reform_Part_2_Final.pdf

¹⁶ https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/cchr/downloads/pdf/publications/AntiBlackRacism_Report.pdf

¹⁷ <http://www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/pdf/SpecialAdvisorEqualJusticeReport.pdf>

¹⁸ The full text of the last essay of former United States Representative John Lewis <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

Bronx Community Board No. 8
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY (“SCRE”)

Initial Report

Initial Draft: Preparation for Public Distribution

December 3, 2020

The members of Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) are volunteers appointed by the Borough President to represent the interests of the district's residents, institutions, organizations, and businesses. These members represent the seven communities of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil and Van Cortlandt Village. The Members of Community Board 8 acknowledged the promise of representation and genuinely question what it means to serve in these multiracial and multilingual communities.

As the nation finally begins to acknowledge and confront our persistent, centuries-long structural racism and inequality that has denied equal access to justice, fair housing, education and economic opportunity for all people, CB8 also strives to acknowledge and eradicate disparities when possible that exist within our district and create opportunities for more places to engage with all members of the community.

Throughout the years, CB8 has taken numerous initiatives to ensure fair housing, equal representation, and access to basic resources in its neighborhoods. Some of the major issues CB8 has addressed in recent years include: the creation of a comprehensive vision for the community through a 197-A Growth & Development Plan; supporting the development of a public education curriculum honoring the enslaved people of the Van Cortlandt plantation; and the support of economic development projects of the central business district of the West 231th Street and Broadway retail corridor.

Some of the other initiatives that Community Board 8 has addressed in recent years include: the 3-year effort to gain approval to move the CB8 office to a central location; the growth of bilingual support such as translating the Housing and Aging resources guides into Spanish and ensuring bilingual office capabilities; the inclusion of hate crimes in monthly precinct crime statistic reports; the support of the start of meals at Ft. Independence seniors program; tabling in every community that the board represents with board volunteers; the emphasis on conducting Board and committee meetings throughout the entire district to provide for the opportunity for the underrepresented communities to engage with local issues affecting the CB8 area; and the expansion of outreach to small business owners within our area. These efforts should be applauded, while also acknowledging the need to do more work and create “good trouble¹⁹” that reverberates throughout the Borough and New York City.

¹⁹ Representative John Lewis first used the phrase, “good trouble” in a 2016 commencement address to Bates College graduates
<https://www.bates.edu/news/2016/05/29/civil-rights-hero-john-lewis-to-class-of-16-get-in-trouble-good-trouble/>

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The creation of a Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) is the most recent example of CB8 working to serve the community. It is one of the first of its kind in the New York City Community Board system.²⁰ It is an acknowledgement that words alone are not enough. The committee, through a series of reports and meetings, will help CB8 to build a practice of racial equity into our work. The committee aims to develop a framework to research, consider and identify issues of inequity that affect our diverse communities within the purview of Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees. This initial report reviews the background of this historical moment, the overall role of the board, the committee's initial framework of engagement and finally initial recommendations on how to build a practice of equity for CB8. This report will be a part of others to document, analyze and suggest solutions to the disparities that exist within our district and build strategies to address them.

However, these reports alone are not enough. The board and the community must work together to take this first step down a long road to truly build that beloved community²¹.

Please feel free to contact the Community Board office at bx08@cb.nyc.gov or 718-884-3959 with your name and address if you would like to participate or give comments to the committee. Any comments or information will not be made available to the public.

²⁰ See, for example Manhattan Community Boards 2 (Community Board 2 Equity Working Group https://www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb2/html/committees/committees_taskforces.shtml, recently publicized in the Village Sun <https://thevillagesun.com/board-2-forms-equity-working-group-to-promote-racial-justice>; Manhattan Community Board 8 has issued a Statement which can be accessed here: [CB8 Statement regarding the memorial to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others in Carl Schurz Park - New York, Manhattan, and Roosevelt Island](#).

²¹ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. mentioned 'beloved community' in many speeches and essays. As an example, see King, M.L., Jr.(1948). Pilgrimage to Nonviolence. In *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* (pp.90 - 107). New York, NY: Harper & Row, Publishers. Retrieved from <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ows/seminars/aahistory/Pilgrimage.pdf>.

Background and Initial Steps

Statement of intent

The Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) was formed by a vote at a special meeting of Community Board 8 to "initiate and continue consideration of addressing systemic racism and inequality in a thoughtful, transparent and inclusive manner" within Bronx Community Board 8 District and "to develop a framework in order to research, consider and identify issues of inequity that affect our diverse communities within the purview of Bronx Community Board 8 and its committees²²."

With the international, national and citywide movement to address structural racial inequality, the mission of the Special Committee on Racial Equity of Community Board 8 (CB8), in cooperation with fellow board members and committees, local residents, organizations, business and community groups, elected officials, and government agencies, and any other stakeholders, is to collectively advance racial equity, hold public meetings, examine the practices and perceptions of CB8 and report to the Board its findings and recommendations.

For Fiscal Year 2021, SCRE will examine and consider any elements of systemic racism and inequity and issue a report with recommendations to CB8.

The objectives of the report, as well as subsequent chapters, are as follows:

- Evaluate the structure and framework of the SCRE and the work of the Board regarding racial equity long-term.
- Recommend a process and tools for decision-making within the Executive Committee as well as the entire Board to advance racial equity within the Board and the Community.
- Create guidelines for what the entire Board can do in response to racial injustices in our community.
- Research and summarize current processes and structures that already exist within all levels of New York City government to address racial inequity and injustice.
- Assess CB8 policies and practices and how each addresses inequity within the Board district
- Coordinate with each CB8 committee to identify unintended inequities in its area of responsibility.

Why now?

On March 8, 2008 Barack Obama's "A More Perfect Union" speech²³ addressed the subjects of racial tensions, white privilege, and racial inequality in the United States, discussing black

²² See, Community Board 8 Resolution of July 9, 2020.

²³ This speech was delivered on March 18, 2008 by then Senator Barack Obama (Dem., IL) in Philadelphia, at the National Constitution Center, during the contest for the 2008 Democratic Party presidential nomination. A full transcript of the speech may be accessed at https://constitutioncenter.org/amoreperfectunion/docs/Race_Speech_Transcript.pdf

"anger," white "resentment," and other issues. His speech closed with a plea to move beyond America's "racial stalemate" and address shared social problems:

"...anger is not always productive ... it keeps us from squarely facing our own complicity in our condition and prevents the African-American community from forging the alliances it needs to bring about real change. But the anger is real; it is powerful; and to simply wish it away, to condemn it without understanding its roots, only serves to widen the chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races."

Some theorize that it was the very election of an African-American President for the first time in the history of the United States that precipitated and incited an undercurrent of anger, racial backlash and heightened racial conflict throughout the country²⁴.

The most immediate reason for the formation of SCRE was the series of events following the viral observations of a videotape of yet another black man whose life was violently taken at the hands of the state or a vigilante. On May 31, 2020, an onlooker videotaped the death of George Floyd, a black man, with the knee of a white police officer on his neck as he pleaded for his life lying on a street in Minneapolis. In the aftermath, there were massive national and international protests, organized around the global "#Black Lives Matter" movement. It was in the midst of these protests, a continuing pandemic resulting in stay-at-home orders that shut down all activities - worship, business, academic, governmental, and recreational - and an impending economic collapse that left many unable to return to work, unemployed and/or idle, while desperately seeking answers, that inspired individual and collective action by those who hoped to be part of solutions.

Sensing a collective urgency to respond to and condemn the implications of this heinous act, CB8 adopted a resolution on June 9 calling for CB8 to "actively seek and continue to work towards...reform and equality."²⁵ After the initial formation of a Working Group on June 23, 2020, CB8 created the Special Committee on Racial Equity at a special meeting on July 9, 2020. The Special Committee must be renewed after one year (June 2021) "either by resolution of the Board or by public declaration of the newly elected chairperson."²⁶

²⁴ See, for example, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/14/us/most-americans-hold-grim-view-of-race-relations-poll-finds.html>; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/obama-legacy/racial-backlash-against-the-president.html>; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38536668>; <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2009/racist-backlash-greets-president-barack-obama>; Wilkerson, Isabel; *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (New York : Random House, [2020]).

²⁵ See, Community Board 8 Resolution of June 9, 2020. https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/bronxcb8/pdf/full_board/minutes_full_board_june_2020_.pdf

²⁶ See, Community Board 8 Resolution of July 9, 2020.

Where we are today

Since July 1, SCRE has made substantial progress even during the July and August months which are often considered the summer recess for community board activities. The SCRE team, composed of Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Robert Fanuzzi, Daris B. Jackson, Julie Reyes, Jyll Townes and Rosalind Zavras (Chair), worked diligently during these months to meet its stated intent. Between its formation and the date of submitting its initial report, SCRE held four (4) open meetings - on July 21²⁷, August 4²⁸, August 18²⁹ and August 25, 2020³⁰ - with CB8 officers, CB8 board members and the general public. The committee and the board have encouraged and supported public input. By September 2020, SCRE provided preliminary, specific, and targeted action steps to the Executive Committee and the full Board. These preliminary recommendations included priorities for the board and potential initiatives for its various committees.

In swiftly passing a resolution, developing a Working Group, having a special meeting to elevate the status of the Working Group to a Special Committee, and working with the community throughout the summer, CB8 has demonstrated its unique ability and willingness to act, even when it is not “in session.” Just as the City of New York Task Force on Racial Inequity had swiftly created a Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation³¹, the Special Committee aspires to create a sustained commitment to confront structural racism³² and inequality within this Community Board district.

Finally, the committee’s work has been inspired by numerous civil rights leaders, exemplified by the words of the late Representative John Lewis:

“Emmett Till was my George Floyd...He was 14 when he was killed, and I was only 15 years old at the time. I will never ever forget the moment when it became so clear that he could easily have been me...I was searching for a way out, or some might say a way in, and then I heard the voice of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on an old radio...He said we are all complicit when we tolerate injustice...He said each of us has a moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out. When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something. Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself. Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble...and let the spirit of peace and the power of everlasting love be your guide”³³

²⁷ https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/bronxcb8/pdf/7_21_20_scre_minutes_final.pdf

²⁸ <https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/committees/special-committee-on-racial-equity/>

²⁹ <https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/committees/special-committee-on-racial-equity/>

³⁰ <https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/committees/special-committee-on-racial-equity/>

³¹ See, [Mayor de Blasio Commemorates Juneteenth with New Racial Justice and Reconciliation Commission](#)

³² A basic definition of structural racism, or at least its difference from systemic racism is that structural racism focuses upon the interactions among institutions that produce racialized outcomes against non-white people. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_racism. See Appendix A for more details.

³³ The full text of the last essay of former United States Representative John Lewis can be accessed at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

Community Board Role and Function

By providing the historical background, core functions and governmental responsibilities of Community Boards, SCRE aims to help CB8 determine racial equity measures and initiatives it can reasonably adopt within its structure. This section is intended to answer the following questions:

- What special roles and responsibilities do Community Boards have under New York City (NYC) city law that are helpful for this project?
- What history is relevant to our efforts now?
- What provisions of NYC law and policy can CB8 adopt to pursue the goals of racial equity?

For a longer overview of the role of community boards, See *Appendix C: NYC Charter & Other Legal Authorities*. In order to fully understand the accountability of city government to communities, CB8 members are advised to read the chapters pertinent to the committees on which they serve and city agencies with which they liaison in the Rules of the City of New York and the Administrative Code.

Why Do We Have Community Boards?

Community boards, or some version of them, were created by the same act that annexed The Bronx into the City of New York. The 1898 Charter of the City of New York created “local improvement boards”, reporting to the Borough President, with oversight over streets, sidewalks, complaints and nuisances, and special responsibility for the “condition of the poor within the district.” Twelve (12) Community Planning Councils (CPC) were established in Manhattan in 1951, under then Manhattan Borough President Robert Wagner, augmenting the responsibility of the Borough President in the Board of Estimate for budget and planning³⁴. After initially existing in Manhattan, the CPCs were expanded to the other boroughs. Under the city charter revision of 1963, the CPCs became “Community Planning Boards” and merged the familiar Land Use role and the responsibilities of the local improvement boards into one district-based entity. Community Board internal operations and governmental functions were formalized and expanded in the 1975 and 1990 Charter revisions to include city service and agency oversight as well as master planning responsibility.

What Can a Community Board Do?³⁵

According to the New York City Charter, a Community Board shall:

- Consider the needs of the district which it serves;

³⁴See, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/bronxcb11/about/historical-perspective-of-community-boards.page>; <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/brooklyn2/about/history.page>

³⁵ For information and opportunities specific to each Community Board committee, consult the “titles” of [The Rules of the City of New York](#) and the [Administrative Code](#) that are pertinent to the city agency and committee liaison.

- Cooperate with, consult, assist and advise any public officer, agency, local administrators of agencies, legislative body, or the borough president with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the district and its residents;
- Hold public hearings or investigations with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the district and its residents, but the board shall take action only at a meeting open to the public;
- Assist city departments and agencies in communicating with and transmitting information to the people of the district³⁶
- Conduct substantial public outreach, including identifying the organizations active in the community district, maintaining a list of the names and mailing addresses of such community organizations, and making such names and, with the consent of the organization, mailing addresses available to the public upon request.

The City Charter also gives Community Boards specific roles in the following citywide governmental actions undertaken by the Office of the Mayor, city agencies and commissions:

- Uniform Land Use and Review Process (NYCC 8.197-c)
- Environmental Impact Statements (NYCC 8.197-c)
- Zoning Resolutions, Zoning Changes, and Special Permits (NYCC 8.200-201)
- Land Use Actions before the Borough of Standard and Appeals (Rules.62.2.2-03)
- Department of City Planning Comprehensive Waterfront Plan (NYCC 8.205)
- Mayor’s Office Citywide Statement of Needs and New City Facilities (NYCC.8.204)
- City Agency Capital Budgets (NYCC 10.212-215)
- Mayor’s Office Preliminary Budget (NYCC 10.236-245)
- Mayor’s Office Executive Budget (NYCC 10.253)

Under a critical revision to the New York City Charter in 1990, the Community Board “plans for the development, growth, and improvement of the city and of its boroughs and community districts’--creates “197-a plans”--according to a provision of the New York City Charter known as 1 (NYCC.8.197.a)

Community Board 8 has a special role in city government because of New York City Charter provisions for “coterminality” -- management and oversight of citywide services within a specific Community District (NYCC 69.2700-2702). This principle dates to the original 1898 Charter for the City of Greater New York. Because of this provision, every city agency issues reports on its performance within each community district to the relevant community board. In addition, Community Board 8 District Manager is a member of the District Service Cabinet, which is comprised of representatives of all district level city agencies and services as well as each Board’s district manager. The purpose of the District Service Cabinet is to “plan and recommend joint programs to meet the needs and priorities of community districts and their residents” and “Consult with residents of the community district and their representatives about local service problems and activities³⁷”.

The Mayor, with approval of the City Council, may elect to modify the boundaries of a community district to reflect changes in population affecting the efficiency of coterminality. When changes are proposed, “borough presidents, city planning commission, community

³⁶ [See. NYCC 70.2800\(d\)](#)

³⁷ [See. NYCC 69.2705.b](#)

boards and other civic, community and neighborhood groups and associations shall be consulted and their recommendations considered in the preparation of the preliminary revision of the community district map.

The Community Board and the Office of the Mayor

The Community Board has several important relationships with the Office of the Mayor:

- The Community Board issues to the Office of the Mayor a District Needs Statement, which constitutes “the board’s assessment of its current and probable future needs, and its recommendations for programs, projects, or activities to meet those needs.”
- The Street Activity Permit Office is housed in the Office of the Mayor
- The New York City Economic Development Corporation, directed by Mayoral appointees, places parcels of city-owned land up for sale and solicits requests for proposals from developers. Community Board members may review any and all proposals for the use of land within the boundaries of the district. (NYCC 70.2800.d.17)
- The Community Board receives the Mayor’s preliminary management report, which reviews agency performance by community district (NYCC 1.12)
- Community Board members may serve on a Mayoral Task force that reviews the effectiveness of the agency service district system (NYCC 69.2702.f.)
- The Mayor’s Report on Social Indicators and Equity to Community Boards each year, which “shall present and analyze data on the social, economic and environmental conditions, and gender, racial, and income disparities, and, disparities relating to sexual orientation, as available, as well as other disparities as may be identified by the mayor within such conditions, which may include, national origin, citizenship status, age, and disability status.” It includes “a narrative discussion of the differences and the disparities in such conditions by gender, racial group and income group, and sexual orientation, as available, and among the subdivisions of the city and of the changes over time in such conditions; and the mayor’s short and long term plans, organized by agency or by issue, for responding to the significant problems and disparities evidenced by the data presented in the report” (NYCC 1.16)
- A Data Analytics liaison to guide in the “training of agency staff, community boards and members of the public on the use of the web portal required by section 23-502 of the administrative code, and develop and implement an open data public education strategy.” (NYCC.1.20.f).

Community Board and the Office of the Borough President

Community Board have several important relationships with the Office of the Borough President:

- Consult[s] with Community Boards on a quadrennial strategic policy statement that summarizes the most significant long-term issues faced by the borough; (i) policy goals related to such issues; and (ii) proposed strategies for meeting such goals³⁸
- Diversifies the membership of the Community Board: Within the limitations of the new Term Limits provision of the City Charter, the borough president shall assure adequate

³⁸ See, [NYCC 4.82](#)

representation from the different geographic sections and neighborhoods within the community district. In making such appointments, the borough president shall consider whether the aggregate of appointments fairly represents all segments of the community. The borough president shall seek out persons of diverse backgrounds, including with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, language, and other characteristics the borough president deems relevant to promoting diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups and communities within community boards, to apply for appointment³⁹

- Publicizes applications for Community Board membership, keeps records of members, methods of outreach for applications, and documents “the particular methods used to seek out candidates for membership from diverse backgrounds, including with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, language, geographic residence, and other characteristics the borough president deems relevant to promoting diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups and communities within community boards⁴⁰.” A borough planning office “provid[es] *technical assistance to the community boards within the borough*;
- Convenes and chairs the Borough Board, which shall “Cooperate with community boards and city agencies with respect to matters relating to the welfare of the borough and its residents⁴¹,” and include Community Board Chairs.

Summary

Thus, community boards are recognized as liaisons between community district residents and City government, charged with advocating for their districts’ unique priorities in collaboration with the various city agencies. For example, participate in the approval of land use and zoning, participate in the city budget process as it relates to the community board, and address service delivery in their district. Now that the City Charter also allows boards to submit their own plans for the development, growth, and improvement of their communities, community boards create opportunities for active, albeit advisory, participation in the political process and provision of services as community needs evolve and they reflect New York City’s neighborhood demographics and diversity.

With the responsibilities given to Community Board by the City Charter, the goal of SCRE is foster equity within the district. It is the goal of the committee to help connect the members of the district with those resources that can facilitate the achievement of CB8’s priorities and SCRE’s recommended improvements within this community district.

Community Board 8 District Demographics

“No one wants to be left out of a group snapshot---even if...the absence of many individuals is due at least as much to their own choices as to the shortcomings of the Census Bureau. This desire not to be left out is all the stronger...given the Constitution’s original provision that slaves would be counted as three-fifths of a person. It is

³⁹ See, NYCC 70.2800

⁴⁰ See, NYCC 4.82

⁴¹ See, NYCC 4.85

*impossible to overemphasize the importance of that single historical datum in this controversy.*⁴²

In order to understand the true scope of racial equity work within the district of CB8, the Special Committee seeks to understand and analyze the relevant demographic, economic and social characteristics of the district. This is an ongoing process, and this section is an initial summary of data from the Departments of Health and City Planning regarding the district of Community Board 8⁴³. Unless otherwise noted, all figures below represent the specific area of Community Board 8.

After remaining static from 2000 to 2010, the population has grown nearly 10% since 2010. This additional population strains city resources, such as transportation and education, among others. The importance of the U.S. Census cannot be underscored enough to alleviate some of these challenges. An accurate count of the population of the district is necessary to ensure that the district receives sufficient funding and proper planning for all its residents.

The racial composition of the CB8 district is changing significantly with this growth. The population has grown more Hispanic⁴⁴, slightly more African American, and significantly less white during the past decade. Median income has been declining since 2000. In other words, the person at the 50th percentile in income today is considerably poorer than he or she was twenty years ago. This is an ominous development, although it is consistent with national trends. Most income growth in the past twenty years has been at the top 10%. As people become poorer, the strain on city resources increases.

To further highlight this trend, a significant percentage of the population is rent burdened. This condition also exists in the Bronx as a whole and throughout New York City. Clearly there is a great need for affordable housing as well as access to economic and educational opportunities. In terms of educational attainment, a key indicator of economic mobility, 40% of residents of CB 8 age 25 or older have a bachelor's degree or higher, which is similar to the rate for the city as a whole (37%) but substantially higher than for the Bronx as a whole (19%)⁴⁵.

Working towards equity also necessitates understanding mental and physical health disparities. Childhood obesity rates are significant, although this is true throughout NYC. Childhood obesity predicts obesity later in life, and obesity has significant implications for health. As the community continues to see during the Covid-19 pandemic, obesity increases mortality from respiratory and other infections. The disabled population is increasing. It is unclear whether this increase is occurring naturally or is a result of an increase in the nursing home population. The district has a significant elderly population, higher than that in the city as a whole. Again, it is not clear

⁴² Skerry Peter, "Counting on the Census," p. 5, *The Brookings Institute (2000)*

⁴³ Additional Data from the Department of Health and the Department of City Planning in Appendix B: Data.

⁴⁴ Community Boards are a part of the New York city agency structure, and as such this report utilizes the demographic language that the City of New York uses in its reports and publications. This report uses the term "Hispanic" this report to refer to people who self-identify as being of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, and Spanish descent.

⁴⁵ NYC City Planning Community District Profiles <https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/bronx/8#indicators>

whether this is a natural event or a result of an increase in the nursing-home population. Regardless, accessibility becomes an increasingly important challenge for CB8 to address.

Methods and Framework of Special Committee

SCRE operates in accordance with the Bronx Community Board 8 resolution of July 9, 2020, which enjoins it to “engage members of the Community Board and the community in undertaking its work and . . . [to] be inclusive of their expertise, resources and experience.” To this end, the Special Committee makes its methods of work, research, and engagement transparent, recognizing that the process of creating an assessment framework for racial equity is as important as the product. The following section is a recommendation to CB8 of practices and policies for the Special Committee to follow in its first year.

The Special Committee and the Community Board

It will take time for SCRE to engage with all of the standing committees, and as such the standing committees are encouraged to be proactive and identify and begin to implement initiatives that address racial equity with or without the input of SCRE. The Special Committee anticipates meeting monthly, with announcement of meetings in accordance with the Bylaws of Bronx Community Board 8 and New York State Open Meetings Law. Community Board public meetings must be held at a convenient place of public assembly chosen by the board and located within its community district and/or be virtually accessible to the community according to public health guidelines. All SCRE meetings will be open to the public for access and participation. The public may attend all meetings of a community board or its committees during which an action is to be considered or acted upon in a preliminary or final manner.

Subcommittees of SCRE may be formed to undertake research and writing tasks that are necessary to fulfill its charge and may circulate drafts among members in advance of its scheduled meeting.

The Special Committee made its first interim report to the Executive Committee of CB8 at its September 2020 meeting, with copies circulated in advance to Board members. SCRE anticipates making subsequent interim reports before the final report is submitted in May 2021.

The Special Committee’s findings or recommendations may be adopted by CB8 before the submission of its final report in May 2021.

SCRE aims to work collaboratively with CB8 members to incorporate racial equity into the agendas and work of each committee. Members of the Special Committee will seek feedback and information from CB8 members in the course of their work and recommend formally attending at least one meeting of a standing committee to share research and gather information relating to racial equity and racial equity assessment. In advance of this meeting, SCRE recommends that standing committees place the name of the Special Committee on its agenda for that meeting and seek to hold its meeting in a location that is accessible to minority or underrepresented groups within the CB8 district.

Members of the Special Committee are also able to provide members of standing committees with racial equity research and policies pertaining to their committee.

The Special Committee and the City of New York

One of the central goals of SCRE is to perform research to support the work of CB8. As it relates to the City of New York, SCRE aims to help consolidate the vast resources and policies adopted by the City of New York and the Borough of the Bronx to achieve racial equity. It will seek to incorporate these resources and policies into its final report to CB8 and to share them in scheduled meetings of the standing committees and in the committee's interim reports.

The Special Committee will also draw upon research and policies that are presented at meetings of the Borough Board, especially as they relate to economic, housing, environmental, educational, public health, and criminal justice disparities and with the help of the Board Office, may correspond with members of other Community Boards within NYC, especially those impacted by these disparities, for further information. Some of the recommended resources to review include, but are not limited to: Mayor's Report on Social Indicators & Equity, Bronx Community Board Demographics Report.

Through the Chair of Bronx Community Board 8, the Special Committee will liaise with numerous Mayoral Offices and Initiatives, to include but not be limited to: the Mayoral Office of Community Affairs, New York Police Department Community Affairs, Civilian Complaint Review Board, New York City Law Department, City Commission on Human Rights, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New Center For Faith and Community Partnerships, and the Office of the Bronx Borough President's Office for consultation and direction, especially as it relates to citywide Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) law and other legislation, rules, and best administrative practices.

The Special Committee and the Community

The Special Committee will draw upon the historical experiences, current needs, and expertise of members of all communities of Bronx Community Board 8, engaging closely with neighborhood associations, non-profit institutions and community-based organizations, and activist groups.

SCRE recommends that through this work, it will be able to identify and compile a list of equity-focused, community-oriented, and faith-based organizations that are interested in engaging in this work. This list would be available for the board and the community which would include relevant contact information for further collaboration as appropriate and per the Community Board's publishing practices and policies. The Special Committee purposefully engages Committee Chairs as it works with community organizations.

It will also seek out and engage community members to attend SCRE scheduled meetings and those of the standing committees.

In addition to its regular monthly open meetings, the Special Committee will hold a public forum late April/early May 2021 to present a rough draft of its findings to the community, seeking changes and additions before final submission to the Executive Committee in June 2021.

Special Committee Research Methods and Resources

The Special Committee will use these methods and resources to undertake its work, including for the preparation of interim reports and submission of the final report:

- Special Committee meetings and minutes
- Outreach to community members and community groups
- CB8 Meetings and Minutes
- Executive Committee meetings and minutes
- Standing Committee meetings and minutes
- Federal, state, and city anti-discrimination laws
- Citywide and borough-wide policy initiatives
- City agency racial equity and assessment initiatives
- Data and reports, and performance reviews issued by the City of New York pursuant to the City Charter
- Published racial equity and racial equity assessment projects undertaken by the public, non-profit and private sector
- Peer-reviewed scholarship and policy papers

Recommendations

Based on the information in the previous section, SCRE recommends that CB8 implement these specific priorities to the best of its ability within the next year. SCRE acknowledges that many of these initiatives could be managed by a dedicated committee, such as SCRE, in conjunction with the other committee chairs

- Encourage standing committees to integrate considerations of racial equity into their activities and meetings, including selection of topics and projects, rotation of meeting locations throughout the various areas of the community district and selection of Community Committee Members
- Encourage each standing committee, early in the Board Year, to propose at least one race-conscious recommendation to address the effective and economic delivery of services that have an impact on the welfare of the district and its residents in their respective areas, to implement at least one recommendation, and measure its success.
- Consider enshrining this process in the by-laws and ethical guidance manual of the community board.
- Consider holding an annual board-sponsored forum to keep the committees and the Board informed and accountable to its priorities and accessible to its community; explicitly incorporate the diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups within community using the agencies and resources identified previously to support

- Lead training and ongoing discussion with Board members and staff on (un)conscious bias, structural racism, and techniques to remove these outcomes alongside EEO policy training and in coordination with the new requirements of the Borough President's Office.
- Find ways to support Borough President's diversity initiatives and mandates
 - Work with the Borough President's Office to find solutions to address the borough president's compliance on recruitment and appointment
- Draw on board members' skills and strengths to undertake board initiatives, strengths, and and district-specific neighborhood engagement
 - Identify and propose solutions to the Community Board of any gaps identified as a part of its district and/or community needs annual report(s) to the mayor, borough president and council members responsible for appointing future members
 - Reach out to community members, as detailed in earlier sections, to consider applying to the community board to make the community board representative of the community⁴⁶
 - Support existing board members and committees in planning to engage with unrepresented communities/neighborhoods
 - Map district-active, relevant community, civic, and other community groups that reach every corner of CB8⁴⁷
 - Share this outreach resource with members and make available on CB8 website
 - Intentionally collaborate and bring respective constituencies together by hosting meetings at partner hosted or referred locations and
 - Invite their attendance engagement into monthly standing and full committee meetings
 - Collaborate with other community boards and similar initiatives to share resources and ideas
 - Embrace city and borough policies that address underlying racial and gender inequality in community issues
 - Use as models such board initiatives as housing forums that address lack of affordable housing, health committee hearings regarding obesity and asthma, and the link between domestic violence and homelessness.
- Evaluate and consider creating a (Racial) Equity Standing Committee to continue the work of the Special Committee and support the practice of racial equity within CB8

From reviewing the needs of the community and the role of CB8, SCRE has developed a draft list of potential initiatives for committees to evaluate and possibly incorporate. This draft list is intended as the beginning of a conversation and it is not intended to be exhaustive. As stated in Section 4: Methods and Framework of Engagement, the Special Committee will develop the final list in concert with each committee and with the community. This list only serves to plant seeds for further conversation and discussion.

⁴⁶ [New York City Charter Chapter 70, Section 2800](#)

⁴⁷ [New York City Charter Chapter 70, Section 2800, D, 21](#)

- Show sensitivity to the impact of board members' experience on new board members, to the historical experience of board members who have not been represented or heard, and take extra effort to make sure that they are.
- Evaluate ways to improve new CB8 Board Member retention (Executive Committee and full board), some sample ideas to consider in conjunction with the Borough President's Office
 - Improve onboarding processes for new members to accelerate their acclimation to their responsibilities and CB8 culture
 - Consider supportive processes for members throughout tenure (buddy system, mentorship, working groups for new members)
 - Encourage chairs to engage new members in projects, ask 2nd-3rd year members to draft minutes and/or appoint as committee vice chair; encourage new members to participate fully and "Be Part of It";
 - Conduct exit interviews with departing Board Members on their experience serving on CB8 and recommendations for improvement
- Identify aging and health disparities across people of color within the district and find ways to increase access to resources for those populations (Aging)
- Assess how district dollars are applied to most pressing needs and review how the budget process addresses racial, economic, and health disparities within the district (Budget)
- Recommend access to resources around capital, regulation and concerns and treatment of minority business owners (Economic Development);
- Partner with cultural and educational exhibits and programs at institutions such as Wave Hill, New York Public Library and Van Cortlandt Park to expand CB8 and district racial context in our local history and decision-making (Educational, Libraries and Cultural Affairs and Parks);
- Explore history of racial inequity in the public education system (Education)
- Research race and trust in health care and COVID-19 Vaccine (Health, Hospitals and Social Services)
- Review affordable housing and pathways to stabilize New Yorkers in their homes(including encouraging dedication of additional city resources to NYCHA housing) (Housing and Land Use);
- Connect with the community policing efforts of the NYPD's 50th Precinct to include supporting initiatives to review perceptions of racial injustice across police institutions (Public Safety).
- Purposefully direct CB8 resources to "hard to reach populations" to the best of its ability and within the city's resources.⁴⁸
 - Broadcast meetings on BronxNet and/or continue virtual access
 - Consider translating key meetings into other languages and translating all CB8 resources into Spanish and other frequently used languages
 - Review the ability to create resources in braille and adding sign language resources to key meetings

⁴⁸ For additional ways to reach community members despite barriers, more information and ideas can be found here: <http://www.nwcp.org/docs/perrcolate/erc/section3/populations.html>

Appendix A: Historical Context

Origins of the current racial injustice to equity movement

A history of racial violence against people of color, especially Black Americans, presumption of guilt, and structural racial injustices is a part of the fabric of the United States. As White Americans failed to reconcile brutal centuries of slavery, many led a backlash, often violent, against Black Americans following Reconstruction, Civil Rights legislation and protections, and Black Wall Street and countless other examples in which Black Americans advanced. As it is said, Slavery did not end; it just evolved⁴⁹.

For the purposes of this report, “systemic racism” is defined as “ a form of [racism](#) that is embedded as normal practice within [society](#) or an organization. It can lead to such issues as discrimination in [criminal justice](#), [employment](#), [housing](#), [health care](#), [political power](#), and [education](#), among other issues.^[1] The term *institutional racism* was first coined in 1967 by [Stokely Carmichael](#) and [Charles V. Hamilton](#) in [Black Power: The Politics of Liberation](#).^[2] Carmichael and Hamilton wrote that while individual racism is often identifiable because of its overt nature, institutional racism is less perceptible because of its “less overt, far more subtle” nature. Institutional racism “originates in the operation of established and respected forces in the society, and thus receives far less public condemnation than [individual racism]”.^[3] The concept of institutional racism re-emerged in political discourse in the late and mid 1990s, but has remained a contested concept.^[6] Institutional racism is where race causes a different level of access to the goods, services, and opportunities of society.^[7] Some [sociological](#)^[12] investigators distinguish between institutional racism and “structural racism” (sometimes called structured [racialization](#)).^[13] The former focuses upon the norms and practices within an institution, the latter upon the *interactions* among institutions, interactions that produce [racialized](#) outcomes against non-white people.^[14] An important feature of structural racism is that it cannot be reduced to individual [prejudice](#) or to the single function of an institution”. “Institutional Racism.” (n.d.) In Wikipedia. Retrieved October 11, 2020 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_racism.

The Special Committee acknowledges that there are bodies of work on racial inequities, history and additional context for Board Members and Staff, community members, elected officials and all other stakeholders to explore deeply on these issues that our efforts could fail to capture. The committee suggests the following and will continue to build a compendium of resources with the community’s feedback.

National Resources

[Timeline of Black Lives Matter](#)

[Smithsonian: Antiracist and Structural Racism](#)

[Library of Congress: African American Studies Online Catalog](#) (E-Resources)

[Library of Congress: Black History Online Catalog](#) (E-Resources)

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[1619 Project](#)

[Smithsonian: Transatlantic Slave Trade \(exhibition\)](#)

[Reconstruction in America](#)

[Antiracist Reading List](#)

[Systematic Inequality in America](#)

[SSRC Report on Housing and Wealth Gap](#)

[Mass Incarceration](#)

[Income inequality exacerbates racial inequity](#)

[Origins of Stop and Frisk](#)

[The Economic Impact of Closing the Racial Gap](#)

Local Resources

[Equity NYC: Explore the economic, social, environmental, and physical health of New York City across race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, location, and income](#)

[Bronx Community District 8 Health Outcomes: Fieldston and Riverdale](#)

[Stark Disparities in Employment and Wages for Black New Yorkers](#)

[CB8 Indicators](#)

[Challenge of Finding Affordable Housing in CB8](#)

[Stop and Frisk Arrests in NYC](#)

[NYPD Civilian Complaint Review Board](#)

[Community Board Members and Demographics Report](#)

Historical and Social Factors

It is not the behavior of poor communities, but it is the structure around poor communities that promotes negative outcomes. Many of the information and policies listed below have created disparities within communities of color. This list is not exhaustive but is intended to give some context to help focus the work of the community board in its various initiatives. One crucial section that is missing and can be explored in future reports are the social determinants of health outcomes.

HOUSING

Red-lining done 100 years ago (1920s-1938) parallels poor health outcomes for Black, Indigenous, People of Color today.⁵⁰

- These policies allowed state-sponsored racial segregation and asset blocking⁵¹
- National Housing Act facilitated terms that made purchasing a home in the suburbs less costly than renting in city⁵²

⁵⁰ For more definitions and an overview, see: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redlining>

⁵¹ See NPR article:

<https://www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america>, also see <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

⁵² See Boston Fair Housing: <https://www.bostonfairhousing.org/timeline/1934-1968-FHA-Redlining.html>

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- Federal Housing Authority refused to provide mortgages to Black people arguing integration would decrease property value⁵³

Banks refused to subsidize or finance construction loans for affordable housing: multi-generational, multi-family housing, significantly reducing supply accessible to low income families

- NYC Landlords notoriously systematically refused to rent to Black, Indigenous, People of Color in more affluent areas⁵⁴
- GI Bill (June 22, 1944) offered low cost mortgages for returning servicemen, except Black servicemen were denied mortgages in the suburbs, and blacks generally had a hard time accessing benefits⁵⁵
- Homeowner Loan Corporation of 1938 adopted ways to appraise homes, discourage people of color from accessing affordable areas in suburbs, and locked them into undesirable homes⁵⁶
- Rezoning in NYC frequently displaces long-term tenants and disrupts asset generation as they struggle to find affordable housing⁵⁷
- Concentrated poverty rather than dispersing into diverse neighborhoods severely restricting access to lower taxes, better schools, greater municipal services, health care access, jobs, and cleaner environment⁵⁸

ORIGINS OF STOP AND FRISK

Beginning in the 1930s, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) pioneered the use of stop-and-search policing whereby officers flooded an area after a reported crime to question persons found on the street. The actions were discriminatory, racist, and the reality for urban, black communities after World War II.

In the 1950's many other police departments throughout various other cities expanded the stop-and-search methods initiated by the LAPD, adopting the practice as a preventative theory of crime fighting.

The police officers began to prioritize the street stop or field interrogation to conduct surveillance of suspicious people and habitual offenders, elevating an old tactic of stopping and searching people into an official strategy. This tactic was done in abundance, making it easy for the

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ See

<https://www.brickunderground.com/buy/newsday-investigative-report-undercover-racial-discrimination-nassau-suffolk-counties-long-island-ny> and

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2018/10/24/hispanics-face-racial-discrimination-new-york-citys-rental-housing-market>

⁵⁵ See <https://www.history.com/news/gi-bill-black-wwii-veterans-benefits>

⁵⁶ See https://ncrc.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/02/NCRC-Research-HOLC-10.pdf

⁵⁷ See Churches United for Fair Housing Report, Zoning and Racializing Displacement in NYC

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5dc0429de5717c7ff1caead0/t/5de6c0e683bec649d37ab0cc/1575403753814/Zoning+and+Racialized+Displacement+in+NYC.pdf> and

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2e76463754084e149355251c24158ab4>

⁵⁸ See EPA recommendations Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-01/documents/equitable-development-report-508-011713b.pdf>

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practice to become law in New York State where the country's first law of "Stop and Frisk" was passed in 1964⁵⁹.

As time passed, the stop-and-search policing became more deliberate and systematic, and the presence of the police in minority neighborhoods became intensive and disturbing.

The street-level challenge to stop-and-search policing made its way to the US Supreme Court in June 1968. In *Terry v. Ohio*, the Court upheld the principles underlying stop-and-search policing, and determined that the threshold for a "stop-and-frisk" was an officer's reasonable and articulable suspicion— not probable cause— that a person was involved in crime and was armed⁶⁰.

"In the *Terry* case, a veteran police officer observed three men engaging in conduct that he concluded might be indicative of "casing" a store for the purpose of committing a robbery. When he approached the men to ask them questions, the response from one of them was incoherent. Fearing that the men might be armed, the officer grabbed hold of one of them and "patted" him down. The pat-down revealed that the man was carrying a gun.

The *Terry* decision permits police officers to stop and detain a person based on a "reasonable suspicion" that s/he might be about to commit a crime or is in the process of committing a crime. As such it represents a modification of the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures granted to private individuals in the Bill of Rights. Prior to *Terry*, police officers were required to have a higher level of proof, "probable cause," before interfering with the liberty of private persons. The broader discretion granted to police under *Terry* requires: 1) that the officer be able to articulate specific facts indicating a person's possible involvement in a specific type of crime; 2) that in order to frisk the person, those specific facts must lend themselves to a reasonable belief that the suspect may be armed and dangerous; and 3) that the action of frisking be limited to a pat-down of the suspect's outer clothing, for the purpose of discovering a weapon⁶¹.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM :1970s - 2000s

- New 'tough on crime' and 'war on drugs' national effort dramatically increased incarceration rates - doubled from 1970 to 1980 and thereafter⁶²
- First generation Americans could not afford basic costs without a college degree - transition from low income workers from factory to service industry
- Despite equal drug use across communities, Black and people of color incarcerated SIX times more likely than whites⁶³

⁵⁹ Elkins, A. *The Origins of Stop-and-Frisk*

⁶⁰ Elkins, A. *The Origins of Stop-and-Frisk*

⁶¹ Delores Jones-Brown et al., *Stop, Question and Frisk Practices in New York City: A Primer (Revised)*, Center on Race, Crime and Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (June 2013) (hereinafter "A Primer"); http://stopandfriskinfo.org/content/uploads/2013/07/SQF_Primer_July_2013.pdf

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ National Institutes of Health <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5614457/>

- Despite a sharp decline in crime rates since the early 1990s, the United States is spending more on policing than ever. In 1980, police spending was just around \$47 billion adjusted for inflation, but by 2015, spending skyrocketed to almost \$143 billion, an increase of more than 200%
- In 1999, the Office of Attorney General (OAG) issued an extensive report concerning the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practice. The report demonstrated that, even when controlling for crime rates and the demographics of high-crime neighborhoods where police are more heavily deployed, blacks and Hispanics are stopped at a disproportionate rate. The police data reveal that only about 15% of stops are made on the basis that an individual fits the description of a crime suspect. In this report, stop-and-frisk data confirm that racial disparities documented in stops continue through arrest, disposition, and sentencing.⁶⁴
- NYC began keeping data on Stop and Frisk in 2002
 - 80% of stops are for Blacks and Hispanics
 - Higher policing, higher fines
 - Inability to pay bail; bail used as a mechanism to keep Blacks and Hispanics incarcerated, which also affects employment and housing⁶⁵
 - Tellingly, "stop-and-frisk" did not become a thing, i.e. hyphenated and conjoined, until 1964, the year New York State passed the country's first law under that name⁶⁶.

Some additional website articles on Stop and Frisk:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bratton

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2018/03/the-crime-fighting-program-that-changed-new-york-forever.html>

<https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/nypd/StopandFrisk>

https://static.prisonpolicy.org/scans/PRIMER_electronic_version.pdf

https://ag.ny.gov/pdfs/OAG_REPORT_ON_SQF_PRACTICES_NOV_2013.pdf

⁶⁴ NYS Office of Attorney General (2013) pg 4. REPORT ON ARRESTS ARISING FROM THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S STOP-AND-FRISK PRACTICES;

https://ag.ny.gov/pdfs/OAG_REPORT_ON_SQF_PRACTICES_NOV_2013.pdf

⁶⁵ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/incomejails.html>

⁶⁶ See, <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/05/stop-and-frisk-dragnet-ferguson-baltimore/>

Appendix B: Data

The committee wants to stress to the members of CB8 and others that may cite this initial demographic appendix that certain data were not included in this memorandum for brevity, and because this appendix was narrowly tailored to provide an extremely basic foundation. Some of the pertinent information that needs further exploration includes the following:

1. Mean and Median ages of residents of Bronx Community Board 8, and comparisons with mean and median ages of Bronx residents, and New York City residents.
2. Rent burdens experienced by residents of Bronx Community Board 8, and the relationship between rent burdens and (TBD) systemic inequalities within Bronx Community Board 8.
3. Access to Parks (or the standard of access/burdens to access.)
4. Employment, and mean commutes to work.
5. Educational Attainment.
6. Areas within Bronx Community Board 8 that contribute to the NYC.gov Poverty Measure, and the causes of, or systems that maintain those measurements.

New York City – A “macro” inspection⁶⁷

- The population of New York City is 8,443,713.
- The median age in New York City is 36.5 years of age⁶⁸
- Population by Race in New York City:
 - White alone: 42.7%
 - Black or African American alone: 24.3%
 - Asian alone: 13.9%
 - Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone: 0.1%
 - Some other race alone: 15.1%⁶⁹
 - Two or more races: 3.5%

Bronx Community Board 8 District Data

Some Observations Based on the Data

The following sections summarize data from the American Community Survey, the NYC DOH Community Health Profile 2018 and the NYC DCP Community Planning Document 2019. These three sources indicate a series of trends about the district of CB8 that should continue to be evaluated and researched. The importance of the U.S. Census in understanding these trends cannot be overstated. Many of the details below are estimates without the most recent data.

⁶⁷ This information is presented as a “5-year estimate” based on the 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

⁶⁸ 79.1% of the New York City population is 18 years of age and older.

⁶⁹ Note that the Hispanic population are not separated out in these statistics

The population of the district of CB8 has increased significantly in recent years – almost 10% and during that time the CB community has become more Hispanic, slightly more African American, significantly less white. Despite an increase in population, the number of housing units in CB8 has increased only slightly. The median income in CB8 is also declining with a significant percentage of CB8 is rent burdened, although this percentage is not higher than the percentage for the city as a whole.

There are some positive statistics to note, such as the fact that residents of CB8's district have easier access to parks than residents of NYC in general. The district also has a higher level of educational attainment than the rest of NYC. Childhood obesity rates are still significant but no higher than the city. Furthermore, the percentage of the CB8 population that lives in public housing is considerably lower than for the city. However, that is due to the fact that the district has fewer public housing units than most neighborhoods. The disabled population is growing but it is also unclear how that correlates to the number of assisted living facilities within the area of CB8.

A “micro” inspection (based on the American Community Survey).

Bronx Community Board 8 encompasses the neighborhoods commonly referred to as: Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights, Marble Hill (MN), North Riverdale, Riverdale, and Spuyten Duyvil.

- Population (numbers):
 - Based on the 2000 Census, the population of CB8 was 101.3k⁷⁰.
 - Based on the 2010 Census, the population of CB8 had an insignificant increase, and was reported at 101.7k⁷¹.
 - Based on the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS), the 2013-2017 population estimate for CB8 was reported at 111.2k⁷².

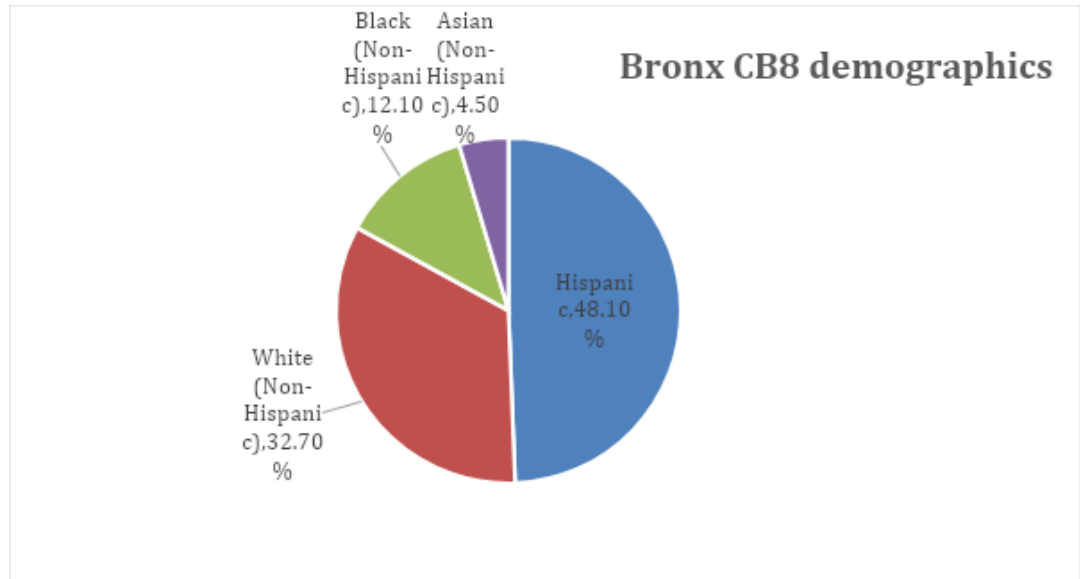
Assuming the 2018 ACS estimate as valid, the CB8 district represents approximately 1.32% of the New York City population.

- Population:
 - Hispanic: 48.1%
 - White (Non-Hispanic): 32.7%
 - Black (Non-Hispanic): 12.1%
 - Asian (Non-Hispanic): 4.5%
 - Other Race (Non-Hispanic): 2.3%
 - Hispanic: 48.1%

⁷⁰ NYC Department of City Planning, Community District Profiles: <https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/bronx/8>

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid. It should also be noted that as per the Department of City Planning: depending on various factors “...data cannot be reliably disaggregated.”



Selective Community Board 8 District Data (from DOH and DCP)

All data in this section come from either the NYC DOH Community Health Profile 2018 (1) or the NYC DCP Community Planning Document 2019 (2) as a comparison to the ACS estimates. When possible, figures that relate to CB8's district are first and NYC is second.

Population: 102,927 (1); 111,182 (2)

(Note: DOH data is 2010, DCP data is an estimate for 2017. There was no increase in population between 2000 and 2010.)

Racial Composition:

- 47% Hispanic, 12% African American (1);
49.8% Hispanic, 15.4% African American, 28.9% white (2)
- New York City: 29% Hispanic (1), 22% African American (1)

(Note: 2010 figures were 42.3% Hispanic, 13.3% African American, 37.7% white)

Age, Income and Poverty

- Age: 18% age 65 or older / New York City: 14% (1)
- Median Income (2018) \$55,520 / New York City: \$64,850 (2) (Note: 2000 median income was \$66,010 [in 2019 dollars] and \$57,790 in 2010 [in 2019 dollars])
- Poverty rate
15% / New York City: 20% (1). 18.8% (2). NYC 17.3% (2)

Housing and Health

- Total Housing Units: 46,190 in 2010, 46,452 in 2018 (2)
- Percentage of Home Ownership: 35.8%. (Note: in 2010 homeownership was 30.1%).
NYC: 32.8% (2)

- Rent Burdened (more than 30% of income goes toward rent):
52% / NYC: 51%. (1)
45% / NYC 45% (2)
- Rental Units Affordable at 80% of Area Median Income: 59% (Note: this figure is 6% lower than in 2010) (2)
- Percentage of Births with Late or No Prenatal Care: 5.8% / NYC: 6.7% (1)
- Preterm Births: 8.9% / NYC: 8.7% (1)
- Childhood Obesity: 21% / NYC: 20% (1)
- Adults without Health Insurance: 8% / NYC: 12% (1)
- Adults without Medical Care: 12% (1) / NYC: 10% (1)
- Life Expectancy: 80.9 years / NYC: 81.2 (1)
- Percent Who Can Walk to a Park: 92% / NYC: 85% (2)
- Percent Who Live in Public Housing: 3.4% / NYC: 8.1% (2)

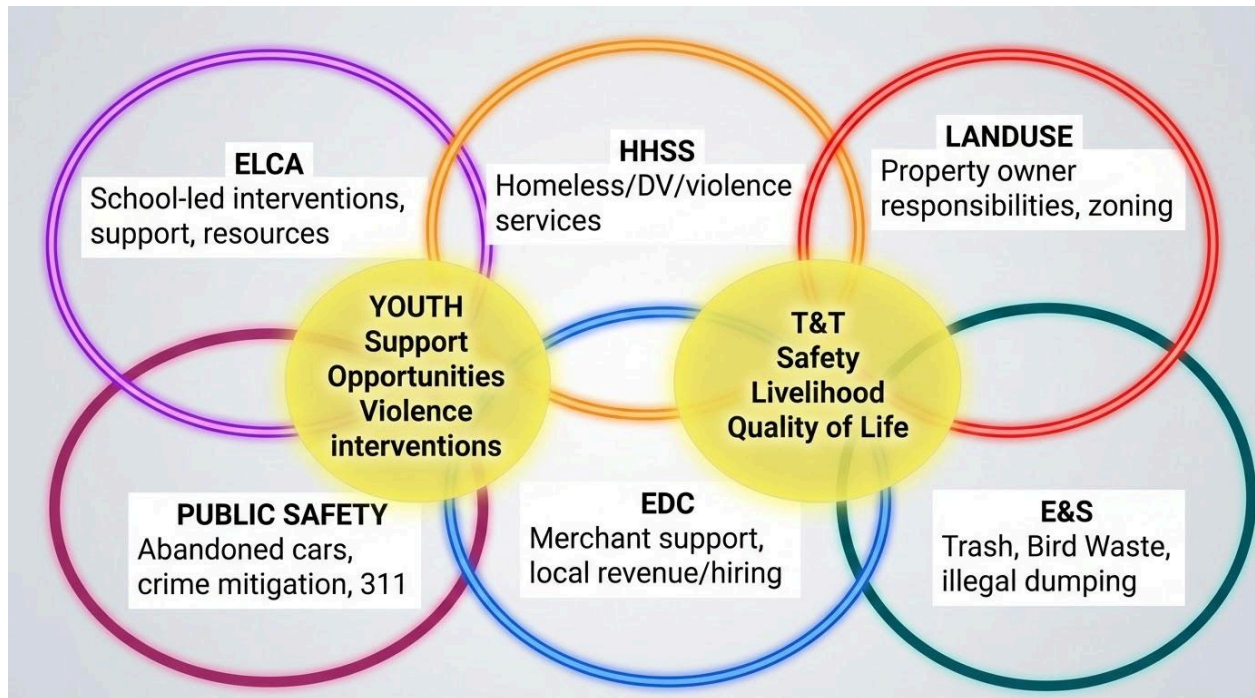
Other demographic information

- Disabled Population: 9.2% (2). (Note: this figure was 7.1% in 2010)
- Foreign-born Population: 29.5% (2). (Note: this figure was 32.6% in 2010)

Unemployment and Education

- Unemployment:
9% CB8, 13% Bronx, 9% NYC (1);
5.6% CB8, 6.9% Bronx, 4.9% NYC (2). [Note: These are pre-Covid figures]
- Educational attainment (age 25 or older with bachelor's degree):
45% CB8, 26% Bronx, 43% NYC (1);
40% CB8, 19% Bronx, 37% NYC (2);
- Educational attainment (age 25 or older with no high school diploma): 18% CB8, 29% Bronx, 19% NYC (1)
- Average commute time: 46 mins. CB8, 44 mins. Bronx, 41 mins. NYC (2)

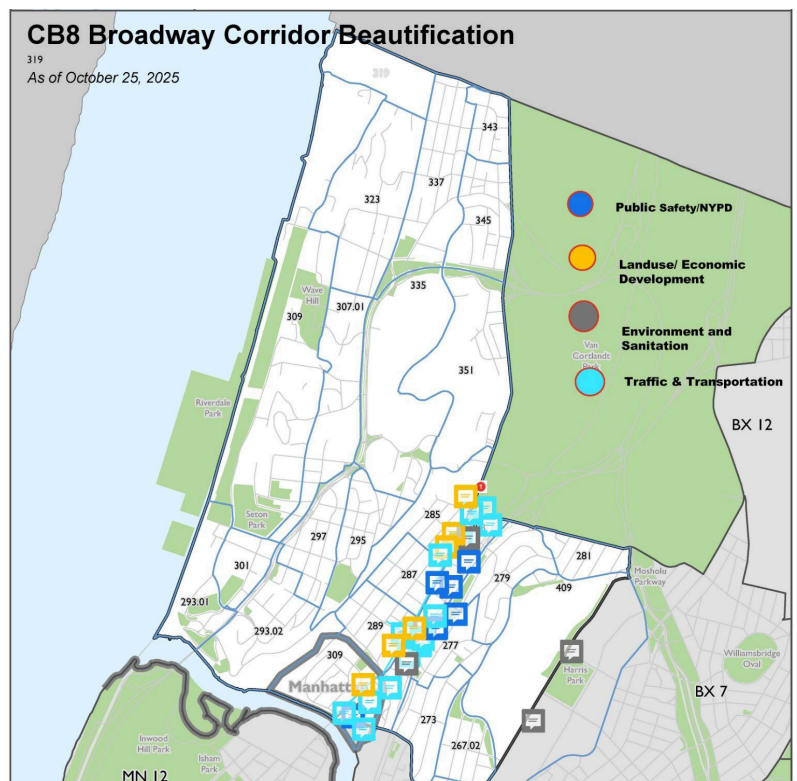
Broadway Corridor Cross-Committee Accountability & Solutions



Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) and its Special Committee on Racial Equity (SCRE) began raising the alarm in August 2025 during Bronx CB8 Committee meetings, requesting cross-sector Committee coordination, NYC/NYS agencies' and elected officials' swift responses to address ongoing conditions along the Broadway Corridor, spanning from Marble Hill/225th Street to Kingsbridge/238th Street. This stretch serves as a vital commercial and residential artery for our community, and the issues documented require coordinated action across multiple City and State agencies.

Timeline/Requests:

- We held a October 2025 walk-thru and called for NYC/NYS action (debrief).
- Another walk thru was held in January 2026 to help small business owners severely impacted by these conditions.

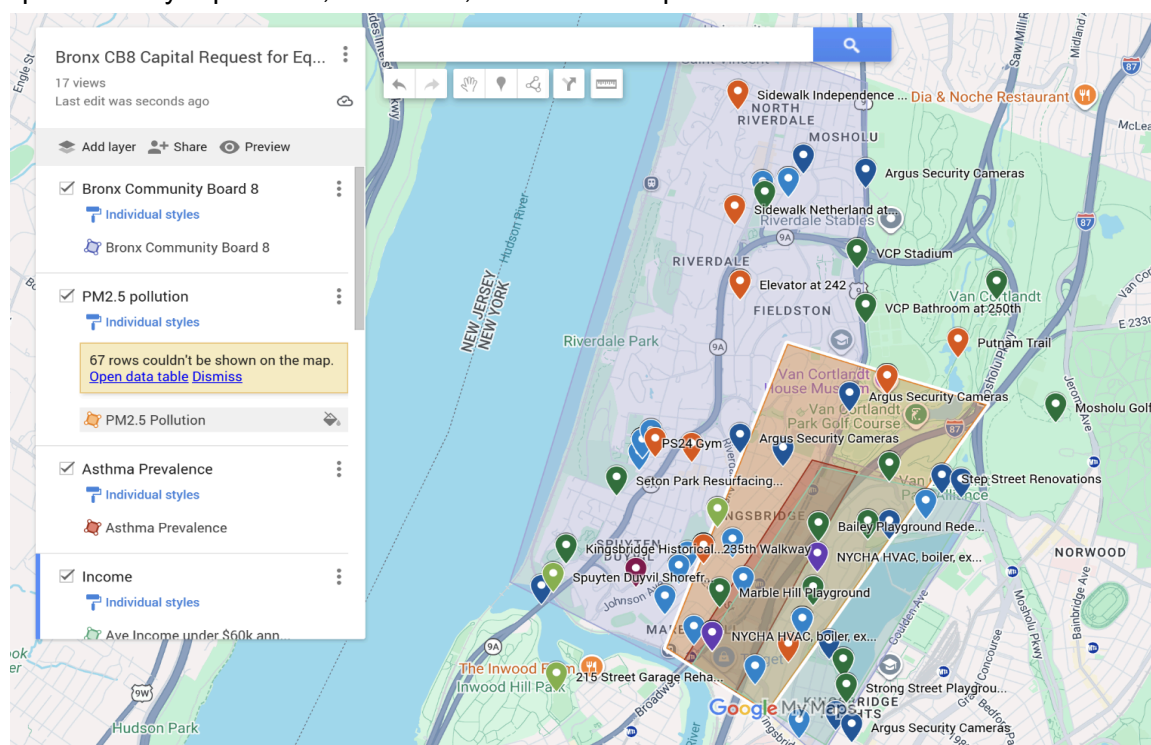


- Without progress, we formally requested the help of our elected officials in March 2026 (letter).
- In June 2026, we met with MTA, DSNY, the district's three Council Members to request solutions to ongoing concerns (agenda).
- Improvements were made since that meeting, yet many concerns remained. CB8 submitted a follow up letter with a response date prior to the final Full Board Meeting. (letter)
- See [Broadway Corridor Recommendations_Status](#) and follow/attend CB8 for updated responses and action items.

[Community Board 8 Mapping of Capital Requests FY 16-28](#)

Beginning in FY 2023, SCRE analyzes annual capital requests submitted by CB8. Some projects are in-progress. They remain CB8 requests until completed. Many remain incomplete and CB8 follows up with NYC agencies and elected officials to push for full funding and results. See status [here](#).

Below represents those requests from FY16 through FY 28 by location, year, committee with options to layer pollution, economic, and health disparities from linked sources in the district:



Top Requested Capital Projects*

- [Parks] Redesign and reconstruction of the Bailey Avenue playground - Unfunded
- [E&S] DEP – Spuyten Duyvil Waterfront CSO Improvements: Mitigate Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outfalls into Spuyten Duyvil Creek adjacent to Spuyten Duyvil and

Marble Hill Metro North Railroad stations with a living shoreline and green infrastructure along DEP easements. - Unfunded, requires study

- [Housing] Replacement of Boilers, HVAC and roof repairs at Marble Hill and Fort Independence Houses (top request FY18-28) - Funded, in-progress. Based on City's response, unclear date of completion.
- [Public Safety] – Argus Security Cameras: Captures continuous (24 hour) high-definition video footage, with range of up to two blocks from camera. Footage can be accessed by any 50th Precinct Police Officer; is often reviewed to identify perpetrators, license plates; Can be deterrent to crime (auto theft, local business security, etc.)- Funded, in-progress
- [Parks] Renovate Van Cortlandt Park bathroom at 250th and Broadway - Funded
- [Parks] Renovate Van Cortlandt Park Stadium at 240th and Broadway - Unfunded
- [Parks] Renovate Old Fort Four/Washington's Walk Playground at Reservoir and Webb Avenues - Unfunded
- [T&T] Renovating key Step Streets in Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights and Van Cortlandt Park South - In-progress. Based on City's response, unclear date of completion.

Ongoing Observations/Questions:

- *Clarity of purpose:* Budget priorities - while all are worthwhile - should be prioritized by most need.
 - Most asks remain around the greatest population centers in the District where most residents impacted by positive/negative outcomes
 - Most urgent, top priority requests are in most needed areas of District. Fewer ad hoc requests recently and greater focus on greatest needs.
- *How to prioritize:* What is most effective/most useful in chasing our goals: short list of what we want done now or long list to capture priorities from all committees? Concentrated Committee requests from Parks, E&S, Housing. IE Only Econ Dev requests are for security cameras and once for benches. Should all committees ask for what each wants - ie tree guards - so the City knows what we want, or should we focus on top unresolved asks?
- *Effective strategy needed:* Concentrated capital requests in high need areas of District are incomplete. How/who/why do other projects get completed in District?
 - Scope/cost large
 - No one person/entity leading request
 - Elected officials need specific asks from CB8
 - CB8 priorities often do not come up through participatory budgeting process - good opportunity for stronger community engagement
 - *Lack of City engagement:* Parks are CB8's most consistent, largest request. NYC underfunds Bronx' parks the most and parks. What is CB8 advocacy in pursuing for parks funding for the greenest borough?
 - What is done with the City's (lack of) response to annual requests?

Community Board 8 Standing Committee Activities to Advance Equity

Rather than restricting the discussion of Equity under one singular special committee, Bronx CB8 SCRE recommended that each standing committees take on advancing equity, combating hate, and strengthen community fabric through its own respective work scope.

Committees' respective, cumulative efforts are documented [here](#).

Community Board 8 Environmental Justice Areas

According to local law, an environmental justice area is a low-income community or a minority community, based on US Census data. Low-income communities are those where the **population below poverty is equal to or greater than 23.59%** of the total population, while minority communities are those where **the minority population is equal to or greater than 51.1% of the total population**.

In December 2021, the Mayor's Office of Climate & Sustainability released a scope of work for the Environmental Justice for All Report. The Environmental Justice for All Report will analyze environmental and climate issues and identify which communities are being disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens, and which may not be seeing the benefits of green investments made by the City. The report will study issues citywide, but also include a focus on how these issues impact the city's EJ areas. An EJ Advisory Board has been formed to develop the report. The legislative basis for the report is a the law passed in April of 2017, when the City enacted historic environmental justice legislation ([Local Law 60](#) and [Local Law 64](#)), requiring city government to conduct a comprehensive study to assess the current state of environmental justice in New York City

More information is available at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sustainability/our-programs/environmental-justice.page>

According to information presented on the NYC Mayors Office of Climate and Environmental Justice at the date of writing of this report (June 2022), the areas below are found to be environmental justice areas by the City of New York. Source:


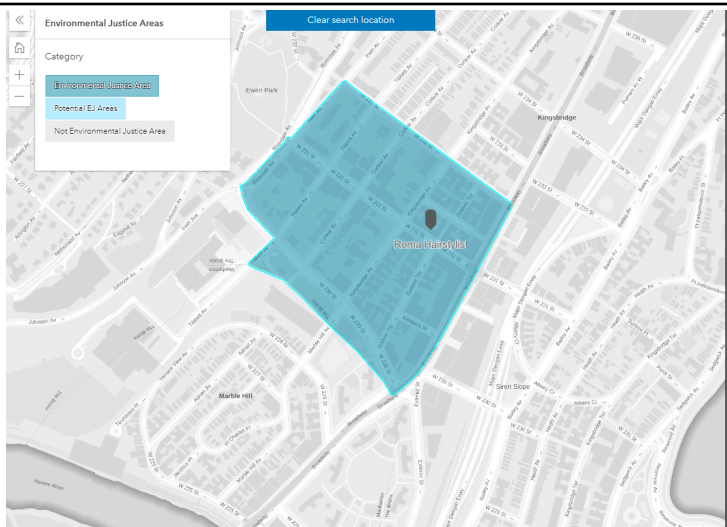
<https://nycdohmh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=fc9a0dc8b7564148b4079d294498a3cf> (last visited June 2, 2022)



Source:

<https://nycdohmh.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=fc9a0dc8b7564148b4079d294498a3cf> visited May 11, 2022

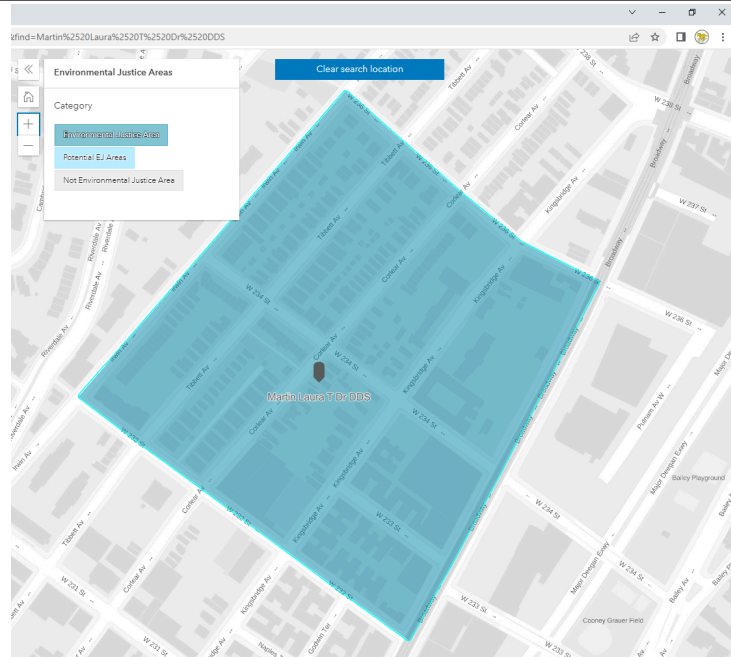
CB8 Environmental Justice Areas

<p>CB8 EJ I. Marble Hill-Inwood, Manhattan</p> <p>Total Population: 10,663 Percentage Minority: 93.1% Percentage Below Poverty: 28.0%</p>	
<p>CB8 EJ II. Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge, Bronx</p> <p>Total Population: 4,773 Percentage Minority: 83.6% Percentage Below Poverty: 17.1%</p>	

CB8 EJ III.

Spuyten Duyvil-Kingsbridge , Bronx

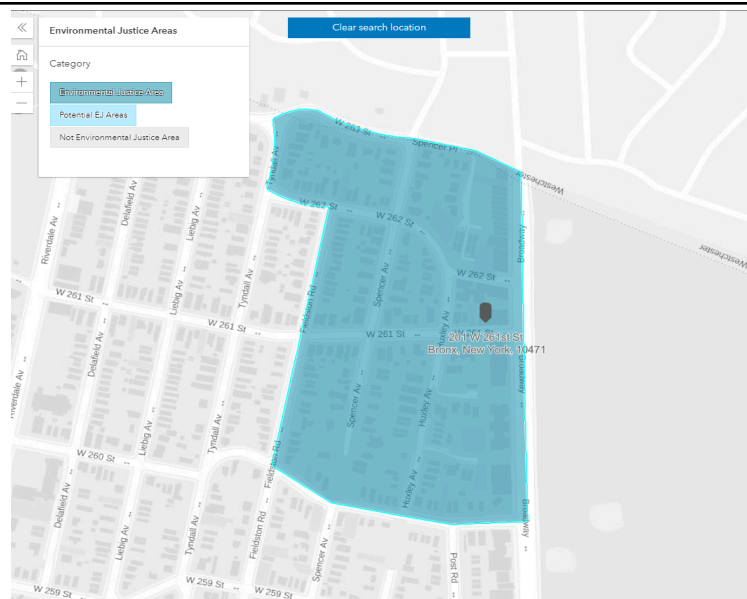
Total Population: **3,000**
Percentage
Minority: **71.7%**
Percentage Below
Poverty: **9.0%**

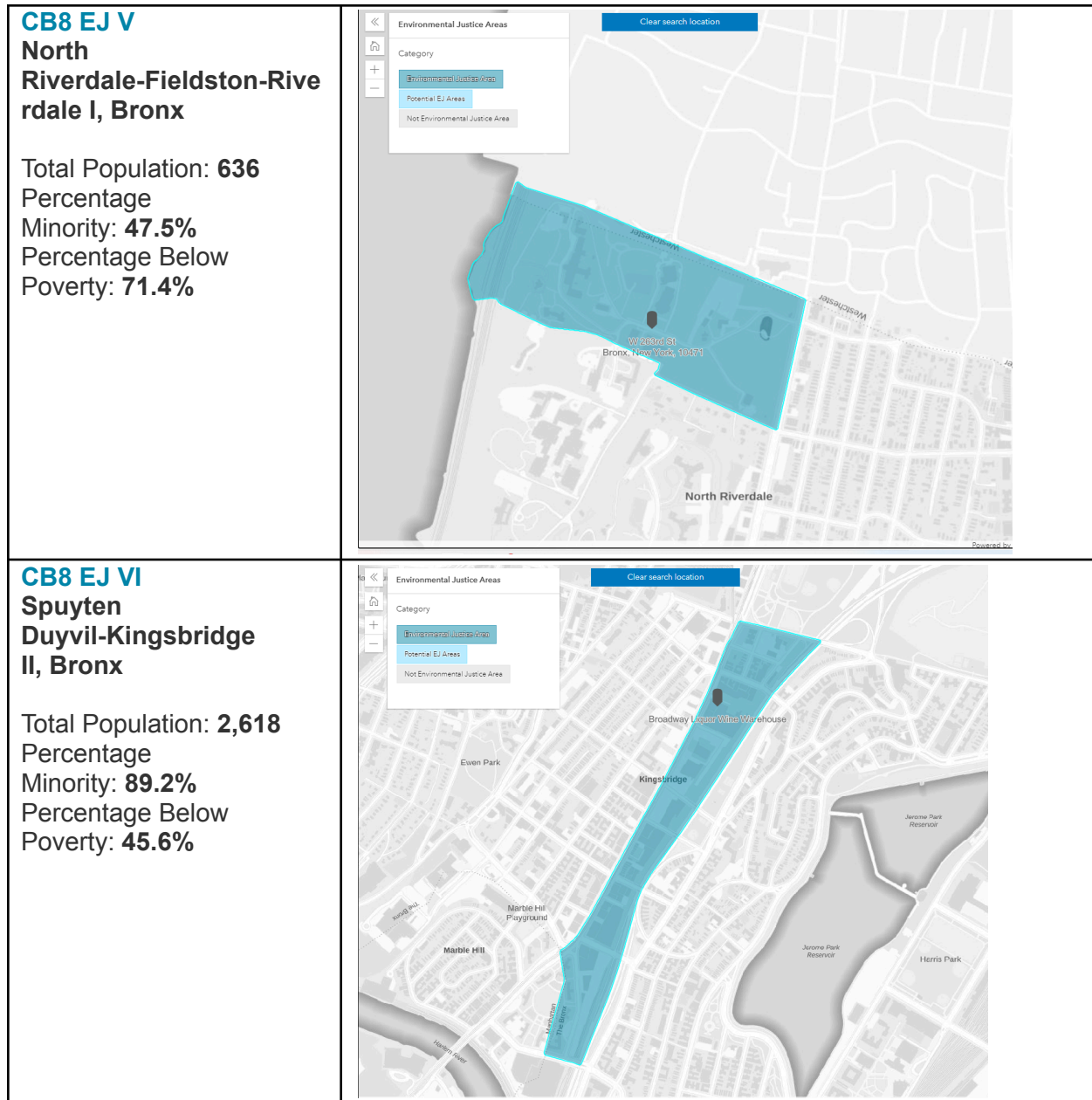


CB8 EJ IV.

North Riverdale-Fieldston-Rive rdale , Bronx

Total Population: **1,680**
Percentage
Minority: **64.2%**
Percentage Below
Poverty: **8.7%**





CB8 EJ VII.

Van Cortlandt Village IV, Bronx

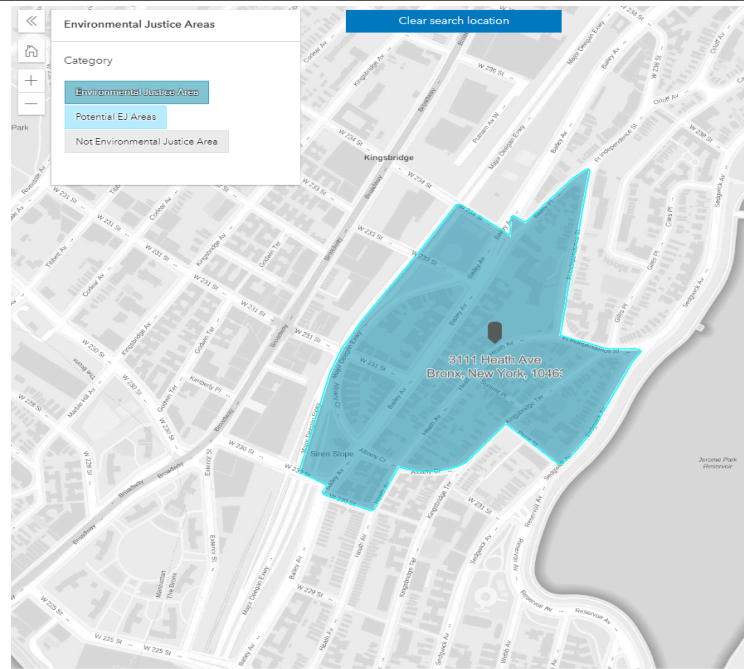
Total Population: **7,895**
Percentage Minority: **97.0%**
Percentage Below Poverty: **28.6%**



Environmental Justice Area CB8 EJ VIII.

Van Cortlandt Village III, Bronx

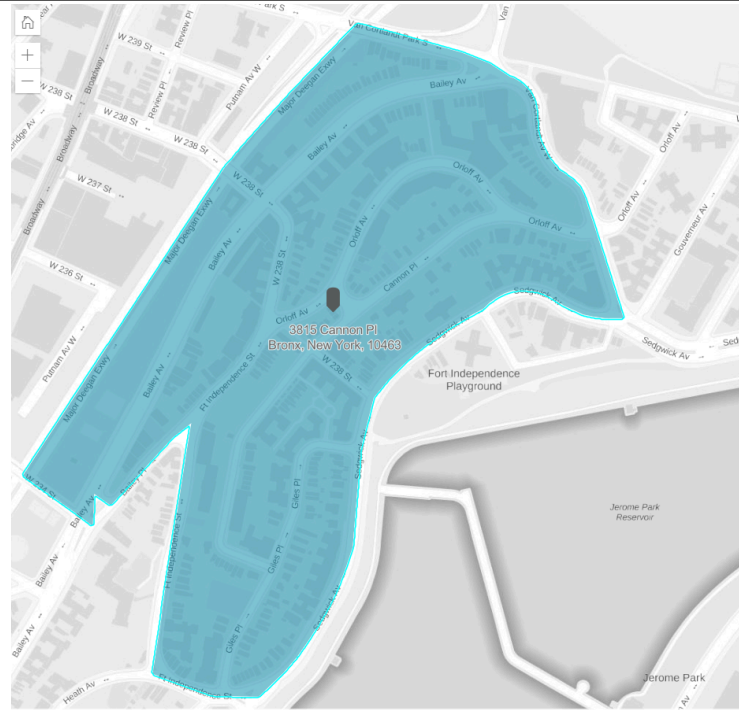
Total Population: **4,883**
Percentage Minority: **90.4%**
Percentage Below Poverty: **32.8%**



CB8 EJ IX.

Van Cortlandt Village I, Bronx

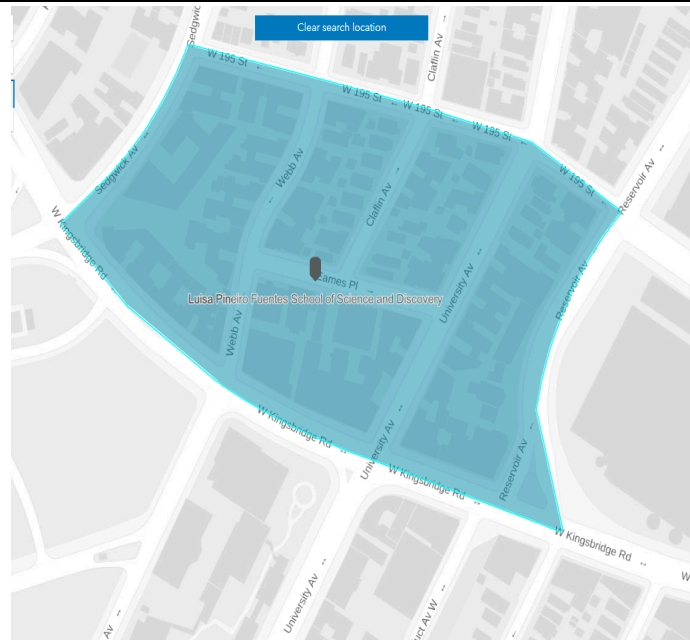
Total Population: **7,035**
Percentage Minority: **84.1%**
Percentage Below Poverty: **12.8%**



CB8 EJ X.

Van Cortlandt Village VI, Bronx

Total Population: **4,237**
Percentage Minority: **98.3%**
Percentage Below Poverty: **22.7%**



CB8 EJ XI.

**Van Cortlandt Village
V, Bronx**

Total Population: **7,221**
Percentage
Minority: **96.9%**
Percentage Below
Poverty: **35.0%**

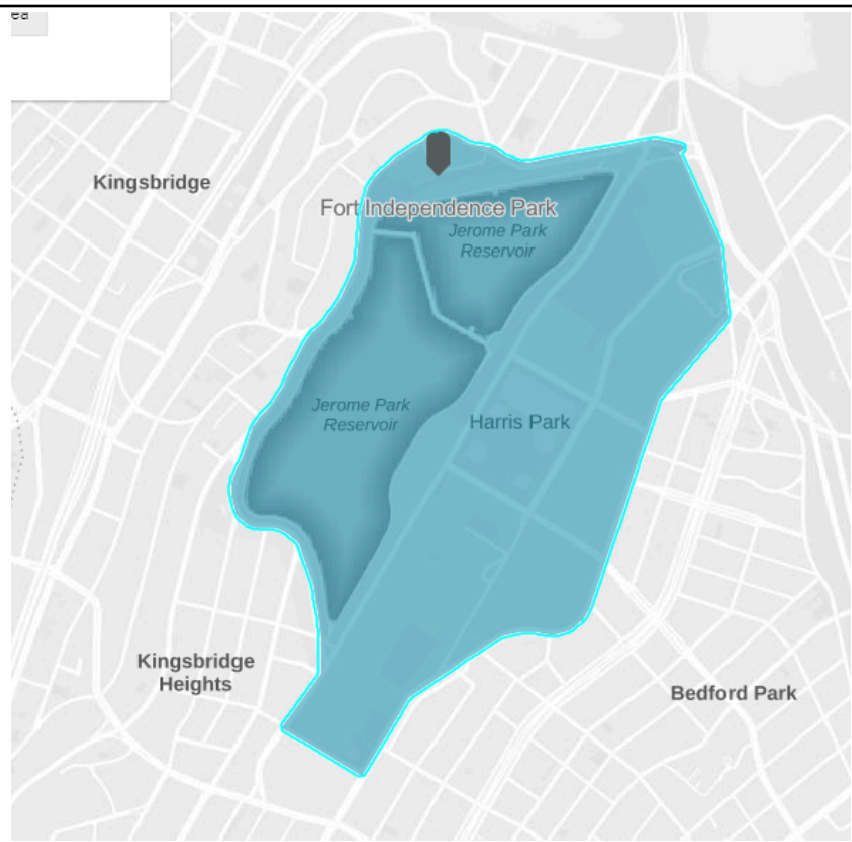


CB8 EJ XII.

**Van Cortlandt
Village, Bronx**

(only partially in CB8;
CB8 east border is the
east side of the
Reservoir along
Goulden Ave)

Total Population: **3,164**
Percentage
Minority: **83.8%**
Percentage Below
Poverty: **18.3%**



CB8 EJ XIII.

Van Cortlandt Village, Bronx

Total Population: **4,236**
Percentage Minority: **70.7%**
Percentage Below Poverty: **6.2%**



Community Board 8 Membership Demographics

During 2022, the CB8 SCRE noted there is potential to further improve representation of the district as a part of the Council’s and Borough President’s annually appointed membership. As of the information available in June 2022, the comparison between Bronx CB8 membership and CB8 demographics presents as below.

Demographics	45 Members (2019)	44 Members (2020)	43 Members (2021)	43 Members (2022)	39 Members (2023)	43 Members (2024)	43 Members (2025)	District
16-17	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	Unavail	6%
18-24	0%	0%	2%	2%	5%	6%	Unavail	6%
25-44	18%	20%	23%	23%	32%	20%	Unavail	27%
45-64	36%	32%	33%	33%	7%	39%	Unavail	25%
65+	25%	20%	26%	26%	35%	22%	Unavail	20%
Men	44%	50%	51%	51%	44%	36%	Unavail	46%
Women	42%	39%	42%	42%	49%	50%	Unavail	54%
Other Gender	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	Unavail	0%
LGBTQ	11%	9%	4%	9%	5%	0%	Unavail	UNK
African American/Black (non-Hispanic)	18%	20%	21%	21%	23%	42%	Unavail	11%
Latino(a)/Hispanic	22%	20%	21%	21%	16%	31%	Unavail	49%
South Asian	2%	4%	7%	7%	2%	2%	Unavail	5%
White	56%	45%	47%	47%	44%	13%	Unavail	32%
Other (non-Hispanic) / Prefer not to say	0%	0%	2%	2%	30%	35%	Unavail	3.7%
Disabled	0%	2%	2%	2%	5%	8%	Unavail	7.9% (2010)
Veteran	4%	2%	2%	2%	5%	5%	Unavail	6% (2010)
Public	unpublis	2.5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	Unavail	8.5%

Housing Resident	hed							(2010)
Mitchell Lama Housing	unpublished	2.5%	2%	2%	0%	0%	Unavail	UNK
Apartment in a Private Building	unpublished	39%	40%	40%	0%	0%	Unavail	70% (2010)
Private House	unpublished	43%	49%	49%	0%	0%	Unavail	5% (2010)

Bronx CB8 membership as per [public data published](#) by the Bronx Borough President’s Office. district demographics as per public data from [NYC Community Profiles](#) (or from other links when noted).

Appendix C: NYC Charter & Details

Oversight of Agency Services and Goals

From New York City Charter, Chapter 1, Section 12

For agencies with local service districts or programs within community districts and boroughs, the mayor’s preliminary management report and management report insofar as practicable shall include schedules of agency service goals, performance measures and actual performance relative to goals for each such local service district or program.

Reports on Social Indicators and Equity

NYC Charter, Chapter 1, Section 16

The mayor shall submit an annual report to the council, borough presidents, and community boards analyzing the social, economic and environmental health of the city, including any disparities among populations including gender, racial groups, income groups and, sexual orientation, where relevant data is available, and proposing strategies for addressing the issues raised in such analysis. The report shall present and analyze data on the social, economic and environmental conditions, and gender, racial, and income disparities, and, disparities relating to sexual orientation, as available, as well as other disparities as may be identified by the mayor within such conditions, which may include, national origin, citizenship status, age, and disability status, where relevant data is available, which are significantly related to the jurisdiction of the agencies responsible for the services specified in section [twenty seven hundred four](#), the health and hospitals corporation, and such other agencies as the mayor shall from time to time specify. The report shall include the generally accepted indices of economic security and mobility,

poverty, education, child welfare, housing affordability and quality, homelessness, health, physical environment, transportation, criminal justice and policing, civic participation, public employment and such other indices as the mayor shall require by executive order or the council shall require by local law, including where possible generally accepted data or indices regarding gender, racial, and income-based disparities and disparities relating to sexual orientation, as available, within each indexed category of information, in addition to disparities based upon other population characteristics that may be identified by the mayor. Such report shall be submitted no later than sixty days before the community boards are required to submit budget priorities pursuant to section [two hundred thirty](#) and shall contain:

- (1) the reasonably available statistical data, for the current and previous five years, on such conditions in the city and, where possible, in its subdivisions disaggregated by gender, racial group, and income group, and sexual orientation to the extent that such data is available; and a comparison of this data with such relevant national, regional or other standards or averages as the mayor deems appropriate; (2) a narrative discussion of the differences and the disparities in such conditions by gender, racial group and income group, and sexual orientation, as available, and among the subdivisions of the city and of the changes over time in such conditions; and (3) the mayor's short and long term plans, organized by agency or by issue, for responding to the significant problems and disparities evidenced by the data presented in the report.

Data Analytics Liaison

New York City Charter, Chapter 1, Section 20-f. Office of data analytics.

The mayor shall establish an office of data analytics . . . The director shall have the power and duty to . . . Guide the training of agency staff, community boards and members of the public on the use of the web portal required by section 23-502 of the administrative code, and develop and implement an open data public education strategy.

Borough President Role in Community Boards

New York City Charter Chapter 4 Section 82

Establish and maintain a planning office for the borough to assist the borough president in planning for the growth, improvement and development of the borough . . . providing technical assistance to the community boards within the borough; and performing such other planning functions as are assigned to the borough president by this charter or other law . . .

On or before the first day of September nineteen hundred ninety, and every four years thereafter, prepare a strategic policy statement for the borough and provide copies of such statement to the mayor, council, and community boards in the borough. Such statement shall include: (i) a summary of the most significant long-term issues faced by the borough; (ii) policy goals related to such issues; and (iii) proposed strategies for meeting such goals. In preparing the statement, the borough president shall consult with the community boards in the borough.

17. a. No later than July 1, 2019, and by July 1 of each year thereafter, each borough president shall submit to the mayor and the speaker of the council and shall make available on the borough president's website a report in a format that is searchable and downloadable that shall include the following information for the previous calendar year, or as otherwise specified:

(i) The names of persons serving in community board member positions in the previous calendar year, disaggregated by community district, including the first date of appointment, dates of reappointment, if any, length of service, nominating council member or other nominating party, and community board leadership positions, if any;

(ii) Demographic information about community board members voluntarily disclosed pursuant to clause (v) of subparagraph 1 of paragraph b of this subdivision for each community board in an aggregate form that is anonymized. provided, however, that age shall be reported in 10 year age ranges, and provided further that no information shall be required to be reported pursuant to this subparagraph if such information may be withheld from disclosure pursuant to article 6 of the New York public officers law;

(iii) The number of vacant community board member positions within the borough, disaggregated by community district;

(iv) A description of the borough president's recruitment plan for filling vacant community board member positions, including:

(a) A description of outreach efforts to publicize community board member openings;
and

(b) The particular methods used to seek out candidates for membership from diverse backgrounds, including with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, language, geographic residence, and other characteristics the borough president deems relevant to promoting diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups and communities within community boards :

(v) The number of applicants for open community board member positions received, disaggregated by community district;

(vi) The number of persons interviewed for open community board member positions, disaggregated by community district;

(vii) A general description of the evaluation criteria followed in the selection process;

(viii) Any particular tools employed by such borough president in the selection process, such as the use of a screening panel;

b. 1. Each borough president shall make available on the borough president's website an application for community board member positions, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following information regarding the applicant:

(i) Name and address;

(ii) Residence, business, professional or other significant interest in the community district;

(iii) Past service on a community board, including prior appointment dates and number and length of prior terms served;

(iv) Age, if less than 18 years old, or a certification that the applicant is at least 18 years old;

(v) The option to provide additional demographic information, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability status, languages spoken, or other demographic

information the applicant chooses to disclose, together with a notification that such information will be made public in aggregate and anonymized form as provided in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph a of this subdivision;

- (vi) Work and education history, special skills, and professional licenses;
- (vii) Relevant professional, civic or community involvement experience;
- (viii) Disclosure of city employment as such term is used in subdivision (a) of section [2800](#);

(ix) Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest;

(x) Statement describing the applicant's interest in the community board member position;

(xi) A certification that the applicant meets all requirements for the position of community board member pursuant to subdivision a of section [2800](#) and section [1135](#) and any other applicable law and, if appointed, will abide by all applicable conflicts of interest laws; and

(xii) Any additional information that the borough president determines to be relevant or necessary to the application process.

Role of Borough Board

New York City Charter, Chapter 4, Section 85

There shall be in each borough a board to be known as the borough board which shall consist of the borough president and the district council members from such borough, and the chairperson of each community board in the borough. The borough president shall be the chairperson of such board, which shall hold public hearings at stated intervals in the borough and report to the council, the mayor and the city planning commission on borough programs and proposed borough capital projects. The borough president, the council members from the borough and the chairperson of the community boards in the borough shall be voting members of the borough board but a member from a community board shall vote only on issues that directly affect the community district represented by such member. The borough board shall employ technical and clerical assistance within appropriations for such purposes, and the borough president shall provide necessary additional staff assistance.

b. Each borough board shall:

(1) Cooperate with community boards and city agencies with respect to matters relating to the welfare of the borough and its residents;

Community Board 197-a Plans

New York City Charter, Chapter 8, Section 197-a

Plans for the development, growth, and improvement of the city and of its boroughs and community districts may be proposed by (1) the mayor, (2) the city planning commission, (3) the department of city planning, (4) a borough president with respect to land located within his or her borough, (5) a borough board with respect to land located within its borough, or (6) a

community board with respect to land located within its community district. A community board, borough board or borough president that proposes any such plan shall submit the plan together with a written recommendation to the city planning commission for determinations pursuant to subdivision b of this section. Any such submission may be made by a community board, borough board or borough president only after the board or borough president proposing such a plan has held a public hearing on the plan.

Community Board Role in Uniform Land Use Review and Environmental Impact Statements

New York City Charter, Chapter 8, Section 197-c

a. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, applications by any person or agency for changes, approvals, contracts, consents, permits or authorization thereof, respecting the use, development or improvement of real property subject to city regulation shall be reviewed pursuant to a uniform review procedure in the following categories:

- (1) Changes in the city map pursuant to section [one hundred ninety-eight](#) and section [one hundred ninety-nine](#);
- (2) Maps of subdivisions or platting of land into streets, avenues or public places pursuant to section [two hundred two](#);
- (3) Designations of zoning districts under the zoning resolution, including conversion from one land use to another land use, pursuant to sections [two hundred](#) and [two hundred one](#);
- (4) Special permits within the jurisdiction of the city planning commission under the zoning resolution, pursuant to sections [two hundred](#) and [two hundred one](#);
- (5) Site selection for capital projects pursuant to section [two hundred eighteen](#);
- (6) Revocable consents pursuant to section [three hundred sixty-four](#), requests for proposals and other solicitations for franchises pursuant to section [three hundred sixty-three](#), and major concessions as defined pursuant to section [three hundred seventy-four](#);
- (7) Improvements in real property the costs of which are payable other than by the city pursuant to section [two hundred twenty](#);
- (8) Housing and urban renewal plans and projects pursuant to city, state, and federal housing laws;
- (9) Sanitary or waterfront land-fills pursuant to applicable charter provisions or other provisions of law;
- (10) Sale, lease (other than the lease of office space), exchange, or other disposition of the real property of the city, including the sale or lease of land under water pursuant to section sixteen hundred two, [chapter fifteen](#), and other applicable provisions of law;
- (11) Acquisition by the city of real property (other than the acquisition of office space for office use or a building for office use), including acquisition by purchase, condemnation, exchange or lease and including the acquisition of land under water pursuant to section sixteen hundred two, [chapter fifteen](#), and other applicable provisions of law; and
- (12) Such other matters involving the use, development, or improvement of property as are proposed by the city planning commission and enacted by the council pursuant to local law.

b. The following documents shall be filed with the department of city planning: (1) applications under this section, (2) any amendments thereto that are made prior to approval of such applications pursuant to this chapter, (3) any written information submitted by an applicant for purposes of determining whether an environmental impact statement will be required by law, and (4) documents or records intended to define or substantially redefine the overall scope of issues to be addressed in any draft environmental impact statement required by law. The department of city planning shall forward a copy of any materials it receives pursuant to this subdivision (whether or not such materials have been certified as complete) within five days to each affected borough president, community board or borough board .

d. If a meeting involving a city agency and an applicant is convened to define or substantially redefine the overall scope of issues to be addressed in any draft environmental impact statement required by law for an application subject to review under this section, each affected community board and each affected borough president shall receive advance notice of such meeting, and each shall have the right to send one representative to the meeting.

e. (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph two of this subdivision each affected community board shall, not later than sixty days after receipt of an application that has been certified pursuant to subdivision c of this section,

(a) notify the public of the application in a manner specified by the city planning commission pursuant to subdivision i of this section, and

(b) either (i) conduct a public hearing thereon and prepare and submit a written recommendation directly to the city planning commission and to the affected borough president or (ii) where authorized by this charter, submit a written waiver of the right to conduct a public hearing and to submit such written recommendations to the commission and the affected borough president.

(2) Where an application has been certified during the month of June, the affected community board shall provide notification pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 of this subdivision and conduct a hearing or, where authorized, submit a waiver of the right to conduct a public hearing pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1 of this subdivision not later than ninety days after receipt of such application or, where such application is certified during the period of time from and including July 1 to and including July 15, not later than seventy-five days after receipt of such application.

h. Not later than sixty days after expiration of time allowed for the filing of a recommendation or waiver with the city planning commission by a borough . . . Any action of the city planning commission which modifies or disapproves a written recommendation of the community board, borough president or borough board shall be accompanied by a written explanation of its reason for such action.

j. If a community board , borough president or borough board fails or waives its right to act within the time limits for review pursuant to subdivisions e, f and g of this section, the application shall be referred to the next level of review. If the city planning commission fails to act on an application within the time limit specified in subdivision h of this section, the application shall be deemed to have been denied unless the application (i) is pursuant to paragraph three or four of subdivision a of this section, in which case the application may be forwarded to the council for review pursuant to the provisions of subdivision b of section [two hundred](#), if applicable, or (ii) is

pursuant to paragraph eight of subdivision a of this section, in which case the application shall be referred to the council for review and action as provided by state law.

m. A community or borough board may review an application which is subject to the uniform land use review procedure pursuant to this section but does not involve land so located as to require reference to such board for review, if in the board's judgment the application might significantly affect the welfare of the community district or borough served by such board . In such a case the application and the related materials submitted to the affected board or boards by the city planning department shall be submitted also to such board upon the request of such board , and such board may hold its own public hearing thereon if it so desires and may submit its own written recommendations in regard thereto to the city planning commission for consideration at any time before the city planning commission takes action thereon.

Community Boards and Zoning Resolutions, Zoning Changes, and Special Permits

New York City Charter Chapter 8 Sections 200 and 201

The city planning commission may upon its own initiative at any time or upon application as provided in section [two hundred one](#), adopt a resolution to amend the text of the zoning resolution subject to the limitations provided by law. Before adopting any such resolution, the commission shall notify any community board or borough board affected by the resolution and shall afford persons interested an opportunity to be heard at a time and place to be specified in a notice of hearing to be published in the City Record for the ten days of publication of the City Record immediately prior thereto setting forth in general terms the nature of the proposed resolution and a statement of the place at which the entire resolution may be examined.

Applications for changes in the zoning resolution may be filed by any taxpayer, community board , borough board , borough president, by the mayor or by the land use committee of the council if two-thirds of the members of the committee shall have voted to approve such filing with the city planning commission. All such applications involving changes in the designation of zoning districts under the zoning resolution shall be subject to review and approval pursuant to section [one hundred ninety-seven-c](#), and [one hundred ninety-seven-d](#). For applications involving other changes in zoning resolutions and regulations, the commission prior to taking action upon any such application shall refer it to the affected community boards or borough boards for a public hearing and recommendation.

Community Board Land Use Actions and Borough of Standard and Appeals

Rules of the City of New York, Title 62, Chapter 2 Section 2-03

(1) Except as provided below, within sixty (60) calendar days after a community board's receipt of a complete application referred by the Department of City Planning, the Board of Standards and Appeals or the Commission, the community board shall hold a public hearing and adopt and submit as provided herein a written recommendation concerning such

application. For purposes of this paragraph (1), a community board shall be deemed to have received an application nine (9) calendar days after the date of certification. The Department of City Planning shall transmit a certified application to the community board, making it available to the community board within (8) days from the date of certification.

(c) Notice of hearing. Notice of the time, place and subject of a public hearing to be held by a community board on an application shall be given as follows:

(1) by publication in The City Record for the five (5) days of publication immediately preceding and including the date of the public hearing;

(2) by publication in the Comprehensive City Planning Calendar distributed not less than five (5) calendar days prior to the date of public hearing;

(3) to the applicant ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing (with such notice also forwarded to the Department of City Planning);

(4) for all actions that result in acquisition of property by the City, other than by lease, whether by condemnation or otherwise, the applicant shall notify the owner or owners of the property in question by mail to the last known address of such owner or owners, as shown on the City's tax records, not later than five

(5) days prior to the date of hearing. An affidavit attesting to the mailing and a copy of the notice shall be submitted to the Department of City Planning prior to the Commission's public hearing;

(6) Community boards are also encouraged to publicize hearings by publication in local newspapers, posting notices in prominent locations, and other appropriate means.

(d) Conduct of public hearing.

(1) Location. A community board public hearing shall be held at a convenient place of public assembly chosen by the board and located within its community district. If in the community board's judgment there is no suitable and convenient place within the community district, the hearing shall be held at a centrally located place of public assembly within the borough. This provision is not intended to affect the requirement of Charter § 2800(h) stating a community board's obligation to meet at least monthly (except during July and August) within its district.

(2) General character. Hearings shall be legislative type hearings, without sworn testimony or strict rules of evidence. Only members of a community board and persons expressly authorized by the chairperson may question a speaker. All persons appearing and wishing to speak shall be given the opportunity to speak. A community board hearing shall be conducted in accordance with by-laws adopted by the community board.

(3) Quorum. A public hearing shall require a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the community board, but in no event fewer than seven such members. The minutes of a meeting at which a public hearing was held shall include a record of the individual members present.

(4) Record. The record of a public hearing shall consist of but not be limited to a list of speaker's names and affiliations (if any), a notation of each speaker's own indication, on a form provided for that purpose, of support or opposition to the application, and any exhibits or written statements offered by speakers.

(e) Public attendance at meetings of a community board or its committees. The public may attend all meetings of a community board or its committee at which an application for an action

subject to this Chapter is to be considered or acted upon in a preliminary or final manner. A community board may close a meeting or committee meeting to the public only as provided in the New York State Open Meetings Law (Public Officers Law, §§ 100 – 111).

(f) Recommendations and waivers.

(1) Quorum. The adoption of a community board recommendation, or the waiver of a public hearing and recommendation by a community board, shall require a quorum of a majority of the appointed members of the board. The minutes of a meeting at which a recommendation or waiver was adopted shall record the individual members present.

(2) Vote. The adoption of a community board recommendation or the waiver of a public hearing and recommendation shall be by a public vote which results in approval by a majority of the appointed members present during the presence of a quorum, at a duly called meeting. The vote shall be taken in accordance with the by-laws of the community board.

(3) Content. A community board recommendation shall be in writing via a form provided by the Department of City Planning and shall include a description of the application, the time and place of the public hearing on the application, the time and place of the meeting at which the recommendation was adopted and the vote by which the recommendation was adopted. The community board may include in its submission the reasons for the vote and any conditions attached to its vote. The community board may state that its conditional approval shall be considered a negative recommendation for purposes of Charter § 197-d(b)(2) if conditions that it considers essential to minimize land use or environmental impacts are not adopted by the Commission. The City Planning Commission shall give consideration only to those conditions which are related to land use and environmental aspects of the application.

(4) Submission. A community board shall submit its recommendation or waiver promptly after adoption, to the Commission, to the Borough President, to the applicant and, in the case of an application referred to two or more community boards and a borough board, to such borough board. If a community board fails to act within the time limits for review the application shall be deemed referred to the next level of review at the completion of the community board's time period.

(g) Requests for review of action not in a community district. A community board or borough board may obtain the filed application and supporting documents for any action subject to ULURP which is not located within the district boundaries of such community board or borough board. Such community board or borough board may request review of such applications by writing, either to the Calendar Office of the Commission, or requesting through the Department's website, and it shall state the basis for the board's judgment that the application may significantly affect the welfare of the district or borough served by such board. Thereafter, the community board or borough board may schedule a public hearing on the application, such hearing and notice thereof to be in conformance with 62 RCNY §§ [2-03\(c\)](#), [2-03\(d\)](#), [2-05\(c\)](#) and [2-05\(d\)](#) and may submit a written recommendation to the Commission. The Commission may receive such recommendation at any time prior to its final action on the application; however, it shall have no authority to extend the review period defined in Charter § 197-c, nor shall a review by a second community board pursuant to this subparagraph (g) require that the application be reviewed by the borough board. A Borough President may similarly obtain a filed application and supporting documents for and request review of any action subject to ULURP which is not located within the boundaries of the borough.

Community Boards and Citywide Statement of Needs and New City Facilities

New York City Charter, Chapter 8, Section 204.

a. Each year not later than the fifteenth day of November, the mayor shall submit to the council, borough presidents, borough boards and community boards a citywide statement of needs concerning city facilities prepared in accordance with the criteria established pursuant to section [two hundred three](#). Copies of the statement shall also be made available to the public in the main branch of the public library in each borough. The statement shall identify by agency and program: (1) all new city facilities and all significant expansions of city facilities for which the mayor or an agency intends to make or propose an expenditure or to select or propose a site during the ensuing two fiscal years and (2) all city facilities which the city plans to close or to reduce significantly in size or in capacity for service delivery during the ensuing two fiscal years.

(1) Annually on such date as the mayor shall direct, each agency shall submit to the mayor a statement containing all the information required to be included in the statement of needs for the ensuing two fiscal years pursuant to subdivisions a, b and c of this section that relates to the plans, jurisdiction and responsibility of such agency. Such statements shall be known as the departmental statements of need for city facilities. In preparing such departmental statements of needs, each agency shall review and consider the district needs statements submitted by community boards pursuant to paragraph ten of subdivision d of section [twenty eight hundred](#) and the statements of budget priorities submitted by the community boards pursuant to section [two hundred thirty](#).

f. Upon receipt of the statement of needs pursuant to subdivision a of this section, each community board and borough president shall review the statement of needs. Each community board shall make the statement of needs available to the public and conduct a public hearing on the statement of needs. Each community board and borough president shall have the right to submit comments on the statement of needs to the department of city planning within ninety days of receipt of the statement. Each borough president shall have the right, within ninety days of receipt of the statement of needs, to submit a written statement to the mayor proposing locations for any new city facilities to be located in his or her borough pursuant to the statement of needs. All such locations proposed by a borough president shall be located in his or her borough and shall be certified by the borough president as being consistent with the specific criteria for the location of city facilities contained in the statement of needs and with the criteria established pursuant to section [two hundred three](#). Each city agency shall consider such written statements in taking actions with respect to matters included in the statement of needs.

g. Whenever an application involving a new city facility is submitted to the department of city planning pursuant to paragraph five, ten or eleven of subdivision a of section [one hundred ninety-seven-c](#), the applicant shall include as part of the application a statement of (1) how the proposed action satisfies the criteria for the location of city facilities established pursuant to section [two hundred three](#), (2) whether the proposed action is consistent with the most recent statement of needs, and (3) whether the proposed action is consistent with any written statements or comments submitted by borough presidents and community boards in response

to the statement of needs. If the proposed action is not consistent with the criteria for location of city facilities, the statement of needs, or any such written statements or comments submitted in response to the statement of needs, the agency shall include as part of its application a statement of the reasons for any such inconsistencies. If the proposed new facility is not referred to in the statement of needs, the applicant shall submit to the affected borough president a description of the public purpose to be served by the city facility, its proposed location, the appropriation (if any) that the agency intends to use in connection with the facility, the size and nature of the facility and the specific criteria for the location of the facility. The affected borough president shall have the right, within thirty days of the submission of such description, to propose an alternative location in his or her borough for the proposed city facility, provided that the borough president shall certify that the alternative location satisfies the criteria for location of city facilities under section [two hundred three](#) and the specific criteria for locating the facility in the statement of needs. The application for the proposed site selection, disposition or acquisition shall not be certified and shall not be reviewed pursuant to section [one hundred ninety-seven-c](#) until at least thirty days after the submission of such information to the affected borough president. A borough president may elect to waive the right to such thirty-day review period.

Community Boards and 2020 Comprehensive Waterfront Plan

New York City Charter Chapter 8, Section 205

Not later than the thirty-first day of December, two thousand and ten and not less than every ten years thereafter, the department of city planning shall file with the mayor, the council, the public advocate, the borough presidents, and the community boards , a comprehensive waterfront plan. Such plan shall be drafted in consultation with the appropriate city, state, and federal agencies and regulatory bodies, and with input from the public, and shall include (1) an assessment of waterfront resources for the natural waterfront, the public waterfront, the working waterfront and the developing waterfront, (2) a statement of the planning policy of the department of city planning, which policy shall take into consideration, among other things, the ten year capital strategy, the assessment of waterfront resources included pursuant to (1) above, the four year capital plan, the strategic policy statements provided for in section [seventeen](#) and plans approved pursuant to section [one hundred ninety-seven-a](#) and (3) proposals for implementing the planning policy of the department whether by amendment of the zoning resolution, development of plans or otherwise.

Community Boards and Capital Budgets

New York City Charter Chapter 10, Section 212, 213, 214, and 215

Each agency head, for departmental estimates, and the mayor, for the executive budget, shall submit a written response to each of the capital budget priorities included in the community board's statement of budget priorities submitted in accordance with section [two hundred thirty](#).

Such responses shall include the response of the agency head and the mayor, as appropriate, regarding the disposition of each such priority and meaningful explanations of any disapprovals contained in such estimates or budget.

The preliminary capital budget shall consist of: (1) a financial plan, consistent with section [two hundred fifty-eight](#), covering estimates of capital expenditures for the four ensuing fiscal years, (2) departmental estimates for capital projects as provided in section [two hundred twelve](#) together with the cash flow requirements and proposed sources of funding for each project included in such estimates, (3) a capital program status report which sets forth the appropriations for each project included in the capital budget for the current fiscal year together with the expenditures to date, and (4) a summary description of the purpose of each capital project and the needs it will fulfill, the schedule for beginning and constructing the project, its period of probable usefulness and an appropriate maintenance schedule.

The executive capital budget shall set forth separately each capital project, including the capital projects proposed by the borough presidents in accordance with section [two hundred eleven](#), and shall include:

(1) A brief description and the location of each project; the total estimated cost of the project; the appropriations which have been previously adopted for this project; the amount of appropriations recommended to be adopted for the ensuing fiscal year, the aggregate amount of which shall not exceed the amount in the mayor's certificate; the amount of appropriations required thereafter to complete the project; the sources of funds for the project including state, federal, private and other funds; the period of probable usefulness; the estimated additional annual maintenance and operation costs; any terms and conditions of the project; and the estimated dates of completion of final scope, final design and final construction;

(2) A listing of all pending projects; and any recommendations that any pending projects be modified, rescinded or postponed accompanied by a statement of the budgetary impact of any such action; and

(3) A listing of proposed capital projects by community district and by borough and an identification of those projects which were included in the statement of capital priorities submitted by each community board and borough board.

a. The ten-year capital strategy shall be issued by the mayor pursuant to section [two hundred forty-eight](#) after (i) submission of a preliminary strategy by the department of city planning and the office of management and budget pursuant to section [two hundred twenty-eight](#), and (ii) submission of a report on the preliminary strategy by the city planning commission following a public hearing, pursuant to section [two hundred thirty-four](#).

c. In the preparation of the preliminary ten-year capital strategy, the department of city planning and office of management and budget shall consider (i) the strategic policy statements of the mayor and the borough presidents pursuant to section [seventeen](#), (ii) relevant citywide, borough and community plans adopted pursuant to section [one hundred ninety seven-a](#), and (iii) the reports pursuant to section [two hundred fifty-seven](#) comparing the most recent ten-year capital strategy with the capital budgets and programs adopted for the current and previous fiscal years.

Community Boards and the Preliminary Budget

New York City Charter Chapter 10 Sections 236, 237, 238, 241, and 245

Not later than the sixteenth day of January, the mayor shall submit to the council and publish a preliminary budget for the ensuing fiscal year. Copies of such budget shall be provided to the council, borough presidents, each community board and borough board, the city planning commission, and the department of city planning. A copy of such preliminary budget shall also be provided to the council not later than the sixteenth day of January in both a human-readable format or spreadsheet and in a non-proprietary format or spreadsheet that permits automated processing and renders such data capable of being downloaded in bulk or any other format mutually agreed upon between the mayor and the council.

On or before the first day of February, the director of the independent budget office shall publish a report, for the ensuing fiscal year, with respect to expected levels of revenues and expenditures, taking into account projected economic factors and the proposals contained in the preliminary budget submitted by the mayor for such fiscal year. Such report shall also include a discussion of city budget priorities, including alternative ways of allocating the total amount of appropriations, expenditures and commitments for such fiscal year among major programs or functional categories taking into account how such alternative allocations will meet major city needs and effect balanced growth and development in the city.

Not later than the fifteenth day of February, each community board shall submit to the mayor, the council, director of management and budget, the appropriate borough president and each member of the borough board of the borough in which the community board is located, a statement containing the community board's assessment of the responsiveness of the preliminary budget to its statement of budget priorities submitted pursuant to section [two hundred thirty](#) and any other comments or recommendations which it wishes to make in regard to the preliminary budget.

Not later than the twenty-fifth day of February each borough board shall submit a comprehensive statement on the budget priorities of the borough to the mayor, council, and director of management and budget. Each borough board, in the preparation of this statement, shall, upon adequate public notice, hold one or more public hearings on the preliminary budget, to obtain the views and recommendations of the community boards within the borough, residents of the borough and others with substantial interests in the borough, on the proposals contained in the preliminary budget and on the capital and service needs of the borough. Officers of agencies, when requested by the borough board, shall appear and be heard.

Not later than the tenth day of March, each borough president shall submit to the mayor and council, in such form and containing such information as the mayor shall prescribe, any proposed modifications of the preliminary budget which the borough president recommends in accordance with the provisions of subdivision b of this section.

Each borough president shall propose such modifications to the preliminary budget as the borough president deems to be in the best interest of the borough, taking into consideration community and borough board priorities and testimony received at public hearings held pursuant to section [two hundred forty-one](#). The net effects of any such modifications recommended by the borough president may not result in an increase in the total amount of

appropriations proposed in the preliminary budget. If increases in appropriations within the borough are recommended, offsetting reductions in other appropriations within the borough must also be recommended. Each proposed increase or reduction must be stated separately and distinctly and refer each to a single object or purpose.

Not later than the twenty-fifth day of March, the council, through its committees, shall hold hearings on the program objectives and fiscal implications of the preliminary budget, the statements of budget priorities of the community boards and borough boards, the draft ten-year capital strategy and the report of the city planning commission on such strategy, the borough presidents recommendations submitted pursuant to section [two hundred forty-five](#) to the extent that such recommendations are available at the time of these hearings, and the status of capital projects and expense appropriations previously authorized. The public and representatives of community boards and borough boards may attend and be heard in regard to all such matters. Representatives of the director of management and budget and the director of city planning may attend the hearings and ask questions. Officials of agencies, when requested by the committees of the council, shall appear and be heard.

Findings and recommendations of the council, or its committees, including recommendations for any changes in the unit of appropriation structure which the council deems appropriate, shall be submitted to the mayor and published not later than the twenty-fifth day of March. The net effect of the changes recommended by the council in the preliminary capital budget shall not result in a capital budget which exceeds the maximum amount set forth in the preliminary certificate issued pursuant to section [two hundred thirty-five](#) of this charter.

Community Boards and the Executive Budget

New York City Charter, Chapter 10 Section 253

Between the sixth day of May and the twenty-fifth day of May, the council shall hold public hearings on the budget as presented by the mayor. The council may hold such hearings either as a body or by its finance committee or other committees. Officers of agencies and representatives of community boards and borough boards shall have the right, and it shall be their duty when requested by the council, to appear and be heard in regard to the executive budget and to the capital and service needs of the communities, boroughs and the city.

Community Boards, City Agency Services, and Community District Maps

New York City Charter Chapter 69, Chapter 2700, 2701, and 2702

It is the intent of this chapter to encourage and facilitate coterminous community districts and service districts to be used for the planning of community life within the city, the participation of citizens in city government within their communities, and the efficient and effective organization of agencies that deliver municipal services in local communities and boroughs.

Each community district shall:

(1) Lie within the boundaries of a single borough, except as provided in subdivisions d and e of this section, and coincide with historic, geographic and identifiable communities from which the city has developed;

(2) Be suitable for the efficient and effective delivery of those services of municipal agencies required to be made coterminous with the community districts, pursuant to section [two thousand seven hundred four](#), including particularly the service and districting requirements of the police and sanitation departments; and,

(3) Be compact and contiguous and have a population of not more than two hundred fifty thousand persons.

b. Community districts shall be as nearly equal in population with each other as is possible under the criteria in paragraphs one, two and three of subdivision a of this section.

c. With respect to the city's central business district in the borough of Manhattan from fifty-ninth street south, the council may adopt as part of the community district map, districts which shall reflect its unique character as the city's financial, business and entertainment center. In so doing, the council shall take into consideration the residential, working and other daytime population as well as the hotel and transient or other nighttime populations and adhere as nearly as possible to the provisions of paragraph (3) of subdivision a of this section.

d. The community district map for the borough of Manhattan shall include Roosevelt Island, located in the east river, as part of a community district in the borough of Manhattan, immediately opposite and to the west of Roosevelt Island. However, for the purposes of meeting the requirements of section [twenty-seven hundred four](#) relating to coterminality of local services, section [twenty-seven hundred five](#) relating to district service cabinets and section [twenty-seven hundred seven](#) relating to agency budget and service statements, Roosevelt Island shall be deemed included within a community district of the borough of Queens immediately opposite and to the east of Roosevelt Island. The chairperson of the community board of the Manhattan community district which includes Roosevelt Island, or his or her designee, shall be a member of the district service cabinet of each of the community districts in which Roosevelt Island is included in the respective boroughs.

e. The community district map for the borough of the Bronx shall include that portion of the borough of Manhattan which lies north of the Harlem River.

The map of community districts in effect as of the seventh day of November, nineteen hundred eighty-nine shall be continued until modified pursuant to this section. Not later than the first day of May nineteen hundred ninety-four and every tenth year thereafter, the mayor shall, and at such other times as the mayor deems appropriate, the mayor may, prepare and present to the council a report reviewing the community district map then in force and presenting such recommendations for changes in the map as the mayor deems appropriate. Such review shall consider shifts in population shown in the most recent decennial census that may require adjustments in the community district map to conform to the criteria in section [twenty-seven hundred one](#). Such review shall also consider whether reducing the size of any community district would provide more efficient and effective service delivery within the district or districts involved. If the mayor's recommendations for changes in the map would produce a community district with a population below seventy-five thousand persons, the mayor may consider whether partial suspension of coterminality within the district is likely to provide more efficient or effective service delivery of one or more of the services for which coterminality is required, and may recommend that coterminality for one or more designated services within the community district and any adjacent district be suspended. The mayor's recommendations for changes shall be referred to as the preliminary revision of the community district map.

Community Boards and Coterminality

New York City Charter Chapter 69, Section 2704

a. The head of each agency responsible for one or more of the services listed below shall organize the local service delivery districts of such agency as follows:

(1) To be coterminous with each of the community districts: local parks services; local recreation services; street cleaning and refuse collection services; the patrol services of the police department; and social services, including community services, community development, youth services, child development, and special services for children; and,

(2) To be coterminous with one or more community districts or aggregates of them: housing code enforcement, highway and street maintenance and repair, sewer maintenance and repair, and health services, other than municipal hospitals.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision a, the requirement that patrol services of the police department be coterminous with each of the community districts in any borough shall not apply to any community district where the mayor, after consultation with the police commissioner, shall determine that establishment of such coterminality would be inconsistent with the most effective delivery of such services. The mayor shall promptly notify the council of any such determination, and the council may, by majority vote, disapprove such determination with respect to any community district within sixty days after the first stated meeting of the council following the receipt of such notice. If the council shall disapprove such determination with respect to any community district, the police commissioner shall organize patrol services to be coterminous with such district within ninety days of such disapproval.

c. The council, by resolution subject to the approval of the mayor, or the mayor by executive order, may direct that city services in addition to those specified in subdivision a of this section be made coterminous with one or more community districts or aggregates of them.

d. The head of each agency whose local service delivery districts are not required to be coterminous with community districts pursuant to subdivision a or c of this section shall organize the local service delivery districts of the agency to coincide as closely as possible to the boundaries of the community districts.

e. For purposes of this section, coterminality of services shall mean that the boundaries of the local service districts of each agency service listed in subdivision a or required to be made coterminous pursuant to subdivision c shall coincide with the boundaries of community districts.

f. The head of each agency responsible for one or more of the services listed in subdivision a or required to be made coterminous pursuant to subdivision c shall: (1) assign to each such local service district at least one official with managerial responsibilities involving the exercise of independent judgment in the scheduling, allocation and assignment of personnel and equipment and the evaluation of performance or the management and planning of programs; each such official shall have operating or line authority over agency programs, personnel and facilities within the local service district; (2) assign to each borough at least one borough commissioner, or official with an equivalent title, who shall have line authority over agency programs, personnel and facilities within the borough related to such services; such official shall consult regularly with the borough president and shall be a member of the borough service cabinet established

pursuant to section [twenty-seven hundred six](#) of the charter; and (3) publish semi-annually in the City Record and make available to interested parties a list, by community district and borough, of the name, title, office mailing address, and office telephone number of the officials appointed pursuant to paragraphs one and two of this subdivision and to subdivision a of section [twenty-seven hundred six](#).

g. The head of any agency may assign or reallocate personnel, equipment or other resources outside a community district to meet emergency needs, special situations, or temporary conditions.

h. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any agency from maintaining sub-districts within a community district for purposes of efficient and effective service delivery so long as the combined sub-districts shall coincide with the boundaries of the community district. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the establishment of any special district authorized pursuant to federal, state or local law, the boundaries of which do not coincide with the boundaries of a community district.

i. Each borough president may publish an annual report evaluating the delivery, within the borough, of the services which are listed in subdivision a, or are required to be made coterminous pursuant to subdivision c, of this section.

j. On or before the first day of December, nineteen hundred ninety, the mayor shall appoint a task force on service delivery, consisting of no more than ten members, to review the requirements of subdivision a, c, and f of this section. Such task force shall include members appointed upon the recommendations of the council, comptroller, public advocate, and borough presidents. The membership of the task force shall include, but not be limited to community board members, district managers, and representatives of the agencies subject to the requirements of this section. On or before the first day of December, nineteen hundred ninety-two, the task force shall submit a report to the mayor and council summarizing its conclusions and presenting such recommendations for changes in the list of services made coterminous pursuant to subdivisions a or c, and in the requirements for such services contained in subdivision f, as the task force deems appropriate.

k. The mayor shall report biennially to the council on the implementation of the requirements of this section. Such report shall include: (1) an evaluation of the quality of the services delivered to community districts pursuant to subdivisions a and c of this section during the preceding two fiscal years, (2) a review of the agencies' implementation of subdivisions d and f of this section, and of subdivision a of section [twenty-seven hundred six](#), and (3) any recommendations for changes in the services listed or in the requirements for those services which the mayor deems appropriate.

Community Boards, the District Service Cabinet, and the Borough Services

New York City Charter Chapter 69, Section 2705, 2706, 2707, and 2708

a. There shall be a district service cabinet within each community district established pursuant to this chapter. The members of the district service cabinet shall include:

(1) The agency officials designated pursuant to paragraph one of subdivision f of section [twenty-seven hundred four](#);

(2) Representatives of other agencies that provide local services on a regular basis in the community district, who shall be the ranking line official assigned to the district;

(3) Each council member whose district comprises all or part of the community district;

(4) A representative of the department of city planning designated by director of city planning;

(5) The district manager appointed pursuant to subdivision f of section [twenty-eight hundred](#); and,

(6) The chairperson of the community board for the community district or his or her representative.

b. Each district service cabinet shall:

(1) Coordinate service functions and programs of the agencies that deliver services in the community district;

(2) consider interagency problems and impediments to the effective and economic delivery of services in the district;

(3) Plan and recommend joint programs to meet the needs and priorities of community districts and their residents;

(4) Consult with residents of the community district and their representatives about local service problems and activities; and

(5) Keep a public record of its activities and transactions, including minutes of its meetings.

The head of each agency delivering services in the boroughs shall designate one or more senior officials of the agency with line authority as borough representatives of the agency with such coordinative or other duties and responsibilities as the head of the agency may specify in a written statement filed in the agency and with the director of operations and the appropriate borough president.

b. There shall be a borough service cabinet within each borough whose members shall include the borough representatives designated pursuant to subdivision a of this section, and the borough president, who shall be the chairperson. Each borough service cabinet shall:

(1) Coordinate at the borough level service delivery functions and programs of agencies that provide services in the borough;

(2) Consider interagency problems and impediments to the effective and economic delivery of services in the borough;

(3) Plan and develop programs addressed to the needs and priorities of the borough and its residents; and

(4) Consult with residents of the borough and representatives of the community boards about service problems and activities.

(5) Keep a public record of its activities and transactions, including minutes of its meetings.

a. Each agency with service districts within the community districts and boroughs shall prepare annually a statement of its service objectives, priorities, programs and projected activities within each community district and each borough for the new fiscal year, if requested by the respective community board or borough board .

b. In preparing such statements for community districts the agencies shall consult with the respective district service cabinets and community boards. In preparing such statements for the borough, the agencies shall consult with the borough service cabinet and borough board. The

statements shall be filed no later than the fifteenth day of August with the mayor, council, borough president, community board and borough board.

c. By no later than four months after the end of the fiscal year, each agency with service districts within the community districts and boroughs shall report to the respective community and borough boards the amount of expenditures within each service district for each unit of appropriation for the preceding year.

Each agency with service districts within the community districts and boroughs shall make available to each community board and borough board and to the respective borough presidents' current information on its operations and programs within each community district and borough.

Composition of the Community Board

New York City Charter Chapter 70, Section 2800

For each community district created pursuant to [chapter sixty-nine](#) there shall be a community board which shall consist of (1) not more than fifty persons appointed by the borough president, at least one-half of whom shall be appointed from nominees of the council members elected from council districts which include any part of the community district, and (2) all such council members as non-voting members. The number of members appointed on the nomination of each such council member shall be proportional to the share of the district population represented by such council member. The city planning commission, after each council redistricting pursuant to [chapter two-A](#), and after each community redistricting pursuant to section [twenty-seven hundred two](#), shall determine the proportion of the community district's population represented by each council member. Copies of such determinations shall be filed with the appropriate borough president, community board, and council member. Members appointed to community boards shall be appointed to serve staggered terms of two years. One-half of the members appointed to any community board shall serve for a term of two years beginning on the first day of April in each odd-numbered year in which they take office and one half of the members appointed to any community board shall serve for a term of two years beginning on the first day of April in each even-numbered year in which they take office. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed but no member may serve for more than sixty days after the expiration of his or her original term unless reappointed by the borough president, and provided further that no person shall be eligible to be appointed as a community board member if that person has previously held such appointment for four or more consecutive full terms that commenced on or after April 1, 2019, unless one full term or more has elapsed since that person last held such office; provided however, that in the case of a community board member appointed or re-appointed for a term that commenced on April 1, 2020, the borough president may appoint such member for up to five consecutive terms commencing on such date. Not more than twenty-five percent of the appointed members shall be city employees. No more than two members shall be less than eighteen years of age. No person shall be appointed to or remain as a member of the board who does not have a residence, business, professional or other significant interest in the district. The borough president shall assure adequate

representation from the different geographic sections and neighborhoods within the community district. In making such appointments, the borough president shall consider whether the aggregate of appointments fairly represents all segments of the community. The borough president shall seek out persons of diverse backgrounds, including with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability status, sexual orientation, language, and other characteristics the borough president deems relevant to promoting diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups and communities within community boards, to apply for appointment. Community boards, civic groups and other community groups and neighborhood associations may submit nominations to the borough president and to council members.

d. Each community board shall:

- (1) Consider the needs of the district which it serves;
- (2) Cooperate with, consult, assist and advise any public officer, agency, local administrators of agencies, legislative body, or the borough president with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the district and its residents;
- (3) At its discretion hold public or private hearings or investigations with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the district and its residents, but the board shall take action only at a meeting open to the public;
- (4) Assist city departments and agencies in communicating with and transmitting information to the people of the district;
- (5) Cooperate with the boards of other districts with respect to matters of common concern;
- (6) Render an annual report to the mayor, the council and the borough board within three months of the end of each year and such other reports to the mayor or the borough board as they shall require (such reports or summaries thereof to be published in the City Record);
- (7) Elect its own officers; adopt, and make available for reasonable public inspection, by-laws and statements of the duties assigned by the board to its district manager and other professional staff appointed pursuant to subdivision f of this section; and keep a public record of its activities and transactions, including minutes of its meetings, majority and minority reports, and all documents the board is required by law to review, which shall be made available, in accordance with law, to elected officials upon request and for reasonable public inspection;
- (8) Request the attendance of agency representatives at meetings of the community board.
- (9) Prepare comprehensive and special purpose plans for the growth, improvement and development of the community district;
- (10) Prepare and submit to the mayor, on or before a date established by the mayor, an annual statement of community district needs, including a brief description of the district, the board's assessment of its current and probable future needs, and its recommendations for programs, projects, or activities to meet those needs;
- (11) Consult with agencies on the capital needs of the district, review departmental estimates, hold public hearings on such needs and estimates and prepare and submit to the mayor capital budget priorities for the next fiscal year and the three succeeding fiscal years;
- (12) Conduct public hearings and submit recommendations and priorities to the mayor, the council and the city planning commission on the allocation and use within the district of funds earmarked for community development activities under city, state or federal programs;
- (13) Consult with agencies on the program needs of the community district to be funded from the expense budget, review departmental estimates, hold public hearings on such needs

and estimates, and prepare and submit to the mayor expense budget priorities for the next fiscal year;

(14) Assist in the planning of individual capital projects funded in the capital budget to be located in the community district and review scopes of projects and designs for each capital project provided, however, that such review shall be completed within thirty days after receipt of such scopes or designs;

(15) Evaluate the progress of capital projects within the community district based on status reports to be furnished to the board;

(16) Be authorized to assign a representative to attend any meeting held by a city agency to determine, in advance of drafting, the form and content of any environmental impact statement required by law for a proposal or application for a project in such board's district;

(17) Exercise the initial review of applications and proposals of public agencies and private entities for the use, development or improvement of land located in the community district, including the conduct of a public hearing and the preparation and submission to the city planning commission of a written recommendation;

(18) Assist agencies in the preparation of service statements of agency objectives, priorities, programs and projected activities within the community district and review such statements;

(19) Evaluate the quality and quantity of services provided by agencies within the community district;

(20) Within budgetary appropriations for such purposes, disseminate information about city services and programs, process complaints, requests, and inquiries of residents of the community district; and

(21) Conduct substantial public outreach, including identifying the organizations active in the community district, maintaining a list of the names and mailing addresses of such community organizations, and making such names and, with the consent of the organization, mailing addresses available to the public upon request; and

(22) With assistance and support from the department of information technology and telecommunications, maintain a website that provides adequate public notice of upcoming meetings, minutes from past meetings for the past twelve months, and contact information for the board.

e. Each agency shall furnish promptly to each community board on request any information or assistance necessary for the board's work. Each agency shall also report periodically to each board on its service activities programs and operations within the community district.

f. Each community board , within the budgetary appropriations therefor, shall appoint a district manager and shall be authorized to utilize the services of such other professional staff and consultants, including planners and other experts, as it may deem appropriate, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the community board and shall provide the board with the staff support and technical assistance it requires to fulfill the duties assigned to it by this charter or other law. The district manager shall (1) have responsibility for processing service complaints, (2) preside at meetings of the district service cabinet and (3) perform such other duties as are assigned by the community board in accordance with the statement of duties required by paragraph seven of subdivision d of this section. One of the board members shall be elected by the other members to serve as chairperson. The chairperson shall use no title other than chair

or chairperson of the community board and the other members shall use no title other than member of the community board or community board member, except that any member who is elected or appointed to an official position on the board, including but not limited to, vice-chairperson, secretary, treasurer, or chair of a committee or subcommittee of the board shall be allowed to use such title when acting in such capacity. The department of investigation shall investigate any allegations concerning the misuse of a community board title and shall report its findings to the mayor, the council and the borough president in whose borough the community board is located. The knowing and intentional use of an improper title by any member of a community board shall be punishable by a civil penalty of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than two hundred and fifty dollars for every infraction thereof. The chairperson of the community board or his or her representative shall be a member of the district service cabinet. A member of a community board shall be eligible for appointment to the position of district manager provided that such member does not participate in any manner in the selection of the district manager by the board and resigns as a member of any board prior to or upon assuming the duties of district manager.

g. Each community board may employ such other assistants as it may require within budgeted appropriations for such purposes or funds contributed for such purpose. Any funds appropriated by the city to enable the community boards to conduct their duties and responsibilities pursuant to this chapter shall be allocated directly to each board subject to the terms and conditions of such appropriations. The basic budget appropriation for the personal service and other than personal service needs of each community board shall not include rent. Within reasonable limits appropriate to each board's location, rent shall be separately appropriated for the board.

h. Except during the months of July and August, each community board shall meet at least once each month within the community district and conduct at least one public hearing each month. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a community board shall be required to meet for purposes of reviewing the scope or design of a capital project located within such community board's district when such scope or design is presented to the community board. Such review shall be completed within thirty days after receipt of such scope or design. Each board shall give adequate public notice of its meetings and hearings and shall make such meetings and hearings available for broadcasting and cablecasting. At each public meeting, the board shall set aside time to hear from the public. The borough president shall provide each board with a meeting place if requested by the board.

i. Each community board may create committees on matters relating to its duties and responsibilities. It may include on such committees persons with a residence or significant interest in the community who are not members of the board, but each such committee shall have a member of the board as its chairperson. Except as otherwise provided by law, meetings of such committees shall be open to the public.

Racial Justice Charter Amendments

New York City Charter revision pending

In November 2022, New York City voted the Racial Justice Charter Amendments into law during the general election. These amendments — the first of their kind in the nation — added a

statement of values to the city’s charter; required the city to establish a racial equity office and commission, as well as racial equity focused plans; and called for the city to measure the true cost of living for city residents. In April 2023, the Mayor announced an advisory board to lead implementation of these amendments and help ensure the city continues to lead the nation in innovative, racial equity work and carries out the city’s newly enshrined charter changes.

The [Mayor's Office of Equity](#) now includes the Racial Justice Commission, the Commission on Gender Equity, the Pay Equity Cabinet, the Unity Project, the Young Men's Initiative and the Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity.

New York State Constitutional Amendment: Equal Rights

On November 6, 2024, New Yorkers voted in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment, which expands New Yorkers’ constitutional civil rights and codifies protections against discrimination in the state constitution. Effective January 1, 2025, the New York State Constitution will include protections against discrimination “by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency” based on “race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.” The Equal Rights Amendment further clarifies that Article I, § 11 of the New York State Constitution does not invalidate or prevent any future law, program, or practice from preventing or dismantling discrimination (such as the New York State Human Rights Law). It also does not invalidate or curtail the free exercise of religion under Article I, § 3 of the New York State Constitution.

[Source.](#)

Appendix D: Combating Hate Resource Guide

Bronx Community Board 8

Resources to Cope with and Combat Hate

Hate crimes reached record levels in 2023

According to USA Today, an increase of hate crimes nearly 13% from 2022 driven in part by upticks in anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim attacks amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. A larger analysis of 25 American cities found hate crimes increased an average of 17% from 2022, according to the study. "The top 10 cities generally match what's going to happen nationally," said Brian Levin, professor emeritus and founder of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. The increase caused Jewish people to surpass African Americans as the most-targeted group in America's largest 10 cities. Black Americans and gay Americans were the other most-targeted groups.

Locally, it starts with us. Our community is responsible for combating hate and hate crimes. Oppression of one group indicates that there will be an increase in discrimination, threat of and violence itself against other marginalized groups. This underscores our collective responsibility and coming together is the way we protect the value of ourselves, our loved ones and our neighborhood.

[We hope you will find this Resource](#)

Hate Is a Danger to Everyone and So Fighting It Must Be a Job for Everyone

Secretary-General Security Council on Human Fraternity, February 2024



YOU ARE NOT ALONE!
TOGETHER, WE CAN FIGHT HATE AND DISCRIMINATION!

¡JUSTED NO ESTÁ SOLO!
¡JUNTOS PODEMOS COMBATIR EL ODIO Y LA DISCRIMINACIÓN!

你并不孤单!
我们可以共同对抗仇恨和歧视!

	What is hate? How do I know if what I experienced was a hate crime? Why should I report a hate crime?
	If I am the victim of or witnessed a hate crime, what do I do? If you believe that you have been the victim of a hate crime or hate incident, ask for help, report it, and help reduce future victims.
	What if I feel hate towards myself or others? NYC 988 is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365.
	Resources for the entire Community Recursos para toda la comunidad 面向整个社区的资源
	Locally, stopping hate starts with us. Our community is responsible for combating hate and hate crimes. Coming together is the way we protect ourselves, our loved ones and our neighborhood. Join Bronx Community Board 8: https://cbbronx.cityofnewyork.us/cb8/

[Guide useful and actionable.](#)

Appendix E: Know Your Rights

Kajori Chaudhuri, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights presentation on the Commission's history, purpose, scope and enforcement of municipal laws. See the full presentation and discussion here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzxZeQLrrvM>

Hate and Bias Incidents Factsheets are in English, Spanish, and Hebrew. Other languages are also available on the Commission's website.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/cchr/downloads/pdf/materials/Interagency-Hate-Bias-One-Pager.pdf>
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/cchr/downloads/pdf/materials/Interagency-Hate-Bias-One-PagerFINAL-Spanish.pdf>

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/cchr/downloads/pdf/materials/Interagency-Hate-Bias-One-PagerFINAL-Hebrew.pdf> Link to the protected categories factsheet on Commission's website:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/cchr/media/list-of-protected-classes.page> Link to the Community Grant Initiative application: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/stophate/initiatives/community-project-grants.page>

List of all the workshops that the Commission provides for free:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/cchr/community/commission-workshops.page> The Commission also has information around employment statistics, enforcement and litigations statistics:

<https://www.nyc.gov/site/cchr/media/materials.page>

CB8 held an [information session](#) for neighbors who emigrated to the U.S. to be informed of their rights. [Additional resources](#) were posted to the website.