



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

March 3, 2015

Dean Fuleihan
Budget Director
New York City Office of Management and Budget
255 Greenwich Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Fuleihan:

I am writing to assess the responsiveness of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 to the Prioritized Budget Requests for FY 2016 submitted by Community Board 1 (CB1).

CB1's number one capital budget priority for FY 2016 was the following:

- Construct 1,000 new school seats in CB #1 in the next 5 -year Capital Plan as committed by the DOE

CB1 was greatly disappointed by the DOE's response to our number one capital budget request. DOE responded in the following way in the Register of Community Board Budget Requests for the Preliminary Budget Fiscal Year 2016:

- Location for school will be based on site and funding availability.

There is an urgent and immediate need for the additional school seats that we requested, which has been created by the extraordinary growth in our district's residential population in recent years. This has been our number one capital budget priority for the past five years.

According to the U.S. Census, the population in Community District 1 increased 77% between 2000 and 2010, making it the fastest growing residential neighborhood in New York City. During this period, our district's child population has increased exponentially. The fastest growth occurred in the Financial District, where the population of children aged 0-19 increased 246%, and where there is currently no zoned school. Our research indicates that nearly 4,700 residential units were added to our district between 2010 and 2015, and that another 3,700 residential units are in the pipeline to come online shortly after^{1,2}. Using an average household size of 1.94 multiplied by the number of built and expected housing units in CB 1, our research further indicates that district's population has increased by approximately 9,100 residents (15%) from 2010 to 2015 with a projected increase of approximately 7,300 residents within the next couple years.

¹ Switaj, Diana. *Manhattan Community Board 1 Child Demographics Update*. Rep. N.p., 27 Feb. 2014. Web.

² U.S. Census Bureau. *Census 2010 Summary File 1*. Esri forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

The recent population growth has raced far ahead of the number of school seats that have been added. It is imperative for the DOE to make a commitment to identify and develop as soon as possible 1,000 new school seats to meet the critical need in our district.

CB1's number two capital budget priority for FY 2016 was the following:

- Provide funds for the design and construction of short to medium term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.

Given the potential for future weather-related events it is crucial that short and medium-term measures such as storm walls, levees and berms be constructed as soon as possible.

At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan and unfortunately two people in CB1 drowned and there was billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial property and utilities. CB1 is very concerned about the unmet resiliency needs, timeline, implementation and funding for such a proposal for "Compartment C" of the Big U. CB1 strongly urges the City to address unmet needs to fund a comprehensive design, engineering and feasibility study that protects our most vulnerable edges along the waterfront and to make CB1 a top priority in the next round of Federal funding projects. CB1 specifically urges implementation of initiatives outlined in the SIRR report such as Coastal Projection "(A) Install an integrated flood protection system in Lower Manhattan" and "(1) Create an implementation plan and design for an integrated flood protection system for remaining South Manhattan areas" as well as other flood resiliency measures. This is particularly important after Mayor de Blasio releases the NPCC 2015 Report, Providing Climate Projections Through 2100 for the First Time. It has projections for sea level rise in New York City that show an increase between 11 inches and 21 inches by the 2050s, between 18 inches and 39 inches by the 2080s, and between 22 inches and 50 inches by 2100, with a worse case projection of up to six feet by 2100 (02/17/2015).

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on our number one and two capital budget requests for FY 2016. We urge the city to fund these items.

Sincerely,



Catherine McVay Hughes
Chair

cc: NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
NYC Council Member Margaret Chin

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