



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Anthony Notaro, Jr. CHAIRPERSON | Lucian Reynolds DISTRICT MANAGER

February 23, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Hartzog:

I am writing to assess the responsiveness of the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 to the Prioritized Budget Requests for FY 2019 submitted by Community Board 1 (CB1).

One of CB1's capital budget priorities for FY 2019 was the following:

- Construct 1,000 Pre-K to 5th grade school seats in CB1 in the next 5-year Capital Plan as committed by the DOE and construct a zoned middle school for CB1.

CB1 is pleased that a facility that provides close to 500 school seats is under construction in our district at 42 Trinity Place. We are hopeful that the Department of Education will continue making progress in the creation of the remaining 500 school seats, which reflect the extraordinary growth in our district's residential population in recent years. This has been our number one capital budget priority for over six years.

According to the U.S. Census, the population in Community District 1 (CD1) 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 6,400 residential units were added to our district between 2010 and 2016, and that another 4,022 residential units are in the pipeline to come online shortly after^{i,ii}. 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 12,300 residents from 2010 to 2016 with a projected increase of approximately 7,800 residents within the next couple years.

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.

Two of CB1's top capital budget priorities for FY 2019 were the following:

- Provide funds to close the funding gap for Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency, for the design and construction of long term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.
- Provide funds for the design and construction of short to medium term resiliency infrastructure in anticipation of future extreme weather events.

At a height of seven feet, CB1 experienced one of the highest inundation levels in Manhattan during Superstorm Sandy. Two people in our district drowned and the storm resulted in billions of dollars of damage to infrastructure, housing and commercial property and utilities. We are concerned about both the short-term and long-term time frame because Lower Manhattan remains largely unprotected approaching the fifth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. We face an increasing potential for suffering extreme weather events and subsequent financial damage to Lower Manhattan and the City at large.

CB1 has worked collaboratively with City, State and Federal representatives since October 2012 when Sandy devastated our community. We thank the City for the funds it has already contributed towards resiliency in Lower Manhattan. The Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency project is underway but there is a substantial funding shortfall. CB1 maintains that it is critical to fully finance the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency project and ensure that our district is protected in the future. It is unclear where the required funding will come from and we urge the City to find ways of securing additional funding sources for the construction of a more resilient Lower Manhattan.

Another top budget priority for FY 2019 was:

- Funding for traffic and mobility studies in the Financial District, including east of Broadway and south of Park Row, as well as the WTC area, to address safety, sanitation and crowding issues as noted previously by CB1 and numerous other groups, including for example, the "Make Way for Lower Manhattan" initiative.

CB1 has long requested a study of traffic and mobility issues in our district and specifically in the Financial District area. Our street grid is the oldest in the City and was not built to support a high density, 24/7 mixed-use community with car, truck and bus traffic; high volumes of commercial and residential garbage and recycling; pedestrian traffic from residents, commuters and tourists; and security infrastructure that crowds already narrow streets and sidewalks. We reiterate the request for funding to facilitate a study of these conditions as the first step to establishing a proactive, holistic approach to implementing a plan for better managing the unique street and sidewalk conditions in Lower Manhattan.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has approved this capital budget item and Manhattan Community Board 1 looks forward to working with our elected officials and DOT to make travel throughout the Financial District a more convenient, safer, more hygienic experience for all.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Anthony Notaro, Jr. in black ink.

Anthony Notaro, Jr.
Chairperson

cc: NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio
NYC Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
NYC Council Member Margaret Chin
Daniel Zarrilli, Director, Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency

ⁱ [Switaj, Diana & Flippen, Cammie. *Manhattan Community Board 1 Child Demographics Update*. Dec. 2015. Web.](#)

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