



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Anthony Notaro, Jr. CHAIRPERSON | Lucian Reynolds DISTRICT MANAGER

**The New York City Council
Committee on Governmental Operations
Preliminary Budget Hearing – Community Boards
Lucian Reynolds, District Manager
Council Chambers, City Hall
New York, NY 10007
2:00PM, Monday, March 19, 2018**

Good afternoon. My name is Lucian Reynolds, and I am the District Manager of Manhattan Community Board 1. I want to thank Chairman Cabrera and the members of the Committee on Governmental Operations for holding this hearing. As you already know, community boards are where the rubber meets the road for local governance at its most grassroots level, and the office makeup and committee structure of each board is unique to each district. I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of my staff and the incredible work that they accomplish for the people who live and work in Lower Manhattan.

Long Term Planning and Response to Tragedy

For those who know the district that I serve, and to all of the people here today, welcome to Community District 1. For those who only know the area around City Hall for its bridges and buildings and waterfront, you may be surprised to learn that this is one of the fastest growing residential communities in the city. From 2000 to 2010, CB 1's population increased by over 79%, attracting young families with school-aged children. The policy discussions around the nuts and bolts of demographics shifts resulting from residential demand and land use policy led to action and a new elementary school.

Action also comes during the aftermath of tragic events, which I don't need to mention today. The important point is that all community boards must assist their communities come to grip with tragic events and the policies that may have prevented or lessened those tragedies. Every building fire, resident without heat, and traffic-related death is a tragedy as well as a call for community action. Our offices must be given the resources to act as the center for community discussion and response.

Strategic Decisions

Currently, our budget provides the resources to maintain a basic staff of three. Community boards must decide whether they wish to narrow the roles of office staff towards land use and policy as CB 1 has done over the years, or to instead focus on constituent services as many other boards must do. Any pivot towards specialization reduces the amount of general committee support that is required for the volunteer members to maximize the time and skills that they donate to their districts. Research must be

completed in a timely manner for every committee and for the full board. Information is shared with local state and municipal elected officials whenever possible. Community board offices also sort through constituent issues by municipal or state oversight to send them along through the proper channels. If the committee would allow me to use a basketball analogy: if each individual, institutional, or commercial constituent that gets the service or information that they need represent one point on the scoreboard, not only would community boards have impressive stats in that regard alone, but we would surely lead the league in assists.

Community-based City Agencies

Each community board is an agency unto themselves, but limited staffing inhibits our agility to adapt to new issues and to expand our reach into pockets of residents that are not yet engaged with the community process. Community board budgets have been. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.