



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3  
59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003  
Phone (212) 533-5300  
www.cb3manhattan.org - mn03@cb.nyc.gov

Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

## District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2023

### Introduction

Community District 3 Manhattan (CD 3) spans the East Village, Lower East Side, and part of Chinatown. It is bounded by 14th Street to the north, the East River to the east, the Brooklyn Bridge to the south, and Fourth Avenue and the Bowery to the west, extending to Baxter and Pearl Streets south of Canal Street. This community is filled with a diversity of cultures, religions, incomes, and languages. Its character comes from its heritage as a historic and present day first stop for many immigrants. CD 3 is one of the most densely populated Community Districts in New York City, with approximately 167,128 residents.<sup>1</sup> Our community is diverse: we identify as 33 percent Asian, 8 percent Black, 25 percent Hispanic, and 30 percent White.<sup>2</sup> Our residents are very proud of their historic and diverse neighborhood, however, the very characteristics that make this district unique also make it a challenging place to plan and ensure services for all residents and businesses.

### Growing Inequality and the Impact of COVID-19

Many people within our community live on the edge of homelessness and economic survival. Inequality and housing precarity are tied to rising housing costs and stagnating incomes within the Community District. Prior to COVID-19, median asking rents in CD 3 had increased by 26 percent since 2010, while median household incomes have declined by 8 percent since 2010 to \$42,010 in 2019.<sup>3,4</sup> The gap between the lowest and highest earners in CD 3 continues to widen.<sup>5</sup> In 2019, 24 percent of renter households in CD 3 were severely rent burdened (spent more than 50 percent of household income on rent.) Before COVID-19, an estimated 24 percent of residents in CD 3 were living below poverty level, with approximately 36 percent of children under the age of

---

<sup>1</sup> 2015-2019 American Community Survey, NYU Furman Center (2021). < <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown> >

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census. 2006-2010. American Community Survey. (2021). NYC Population Fact Finder <<https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/profile/396/economic>>.

<sup>4</sup> 2015-2019 American Community Survey. Furman Center (2021). < <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown> >

<sup>5</sup> Furman Center (2021). State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2019/2020. <<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

18 and 31 percent of adults 65 and over living below the poverty level.<sup>6</sup> COVID-19 has increased hardships for low-income residents and residents of color (58 percent of the CD 3 population),<sup>7</sup> creating even more destitution and need for resources.

The onset of COVID-19 in early 2020 significantly impacted the residents and business owners in CD 3 and emphasized the inequalities and income disparities that previously existed among our different communities. The COVID-19 case rate in CD 3 between February 2020 and April 2021 was 87.2 (per 1,000 residents) and the death rate between March 2020 and April 2021 was 2.7 (per 1,000 residents).<sup>8</sup> We now know that New York City residents from low-income communities like CD 3 have tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies at a higher-than-average rate, underscoring the disproportionate impact of the disease on people of color.<sup>9</sup> The district now has the highest gap between the lowest- and highest-income households out of all 59 districts in New York City and it continues to grow.<sup>10</sup>

The pandemic has also exacerbated New York City's housing crisis, a major issue in CD 3 prior to COVID-19, and this impact has hit particularly hard for Black and Hispanic New Yorkers who have lost work.<sup>11</sup> A study shows a higher rate of respondents who have lost work for a reason related to COVID-19 already faced some form of housing hardship prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>12</sup> The same study shows that COVID-19 unemployment and income losses are disproportionately hitting those who were already financially vulnerable prior to the crisis. With COVID-19 we are seeing the confluence of issues around racial inequities, public health, housing and job insecurity, and income inequality. It has heightened existing inequities in our District and is highlighting the need for more resources to support our community.

Community-based organizations that provide essential services for residents in CD 3 continue to struggle to provide more services and fund themselves with fewer resources, particularly in the fiscal environment that COVID-19 has created. Community healthcare and social service providers face similar challenges and residents are left to grapple with service reductions while they are experiencing extreme economic and health vulnerability.

CD 3 is also a coastal community still recovering from Superstorm Sandy in 2012, and the area is increasingly vulnerable to future climate change impacts and extreme weather scenarios that affect the waterfront. Several

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> ANHD, "Housing Risk Chart" (2021). ACS 2019 1-Year Estimates, Race. < <https://anhd.org/report/how-affordable-housing-threatened-your-neighborhood-2021> >

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Rajesh Kumar Singh and Nathan Layne. "New York City's low-income, minority areas hit hardest by COVID-19, Cuomo says." (May 20, 2020) <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-new-york/new-york-citys-low-income-minority-areas-hit-hardest-by-covid-19-cuomo-says-idUSKBN22W2IG>>

<sup>10</sup> Furman Center. (2021). State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2019/2020. <<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>11</sup> Robin Hood and Columbia University. "Poverty Tracker." (2020) <<https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/poverty-disadvantage-in-new-york-city>>

<sup>12</sup> Rajesh Kumar Singh and Nathan Layne. "New York City's low-income, minority areas hit hardest by COVID-19, Cuomo says." (May 20, 2020) <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-new-york/new-york-citys-low-income-minority-areas-hit-hardest-by-covid-19-cuomo-says-idUSKBN22W2IG>>

coastal resiliency projects have been planned for the district and are in various phases of approval, funding, or construction, but COVID-19 has threatened these crucial public works as well. City agencies tasked with coastal resiliency construction have pivoted to work related to COVID-19 response, putting critical funding streams from the federal government that are necessary for project completion at risk of expiration.

## **Economic Development**

The COVID-19 shutdown in March of 2020 required businesses of all sizes that were deemed non-essential to indefinitely cease, limit, or adapt operations. While restrictions have lifted in varying degrees, the impacts on the economic ecosystem include:

- Retail stores, restaurants, bars, arts venues, personal care salons, hotels and many other local businesses that are concentrated in CD 3 experienced significant revenue losses and struggled to pay expenses such as rent, mortgages, utilities, and payroll.<sup>13</sup>
- Employers were unable to retain jobs leading to significant unemployment for local residents. Unemployment within the city reached as high as 20 percent in May 2020 and has now dropped to 11.4 percent as of April 2021.<sup>14</sup>
- Many commercial and residential tenants were unable to pay rent to property owners limiting the ability for landlords to pay operating expenses including property taxes and mortgages. Particularly impacted were small property owners, including providers and managers of affordable housing many of which also have commercial space, that did not have the same access to capital or influence as large owners or entities.

These impacts were especially acute for small businesses located in CD 3, particularly those that are immigrant, minority or women owned.<sup>15</sup> As a result, many businesses have permanently shuttered and the remaining are vulnerable to permanent closure or relocation. The medium and long-term impacts on real estate, landlords, businesses, and workers due to COVID-19 are not yet fully known at the time of writing this needs statement. Reducing regulatory and financial barriers in order to support and stabilize existing businesses and also to attract a diversity of new businesses will be critical.

Prior to COVID-19, there had already been a sustained loss of independent "mom-and-pop" stores providing a variety of goods and services in CD 3 due to increasing costs of doing business and increased competition from chains, and a saturation of destination bars and restaurants. As the local economy becomes more homogenous, in order to meet basic needs residents must increasingly leave our community or shop online—a trend further accelerated by COVID-19. In a December 2020 survey, showing chain store business impacts by the COVID-19 shutdown, there was a drop in the number of chain stores throughout the city. Manhattan saw the biggest losses of chain stores shrinking by 17.4 percent accounting for more than half of all the chain store closures (518 out of 1,021) citywide. In CD 3, there were 22 chain stores in zip code 10009, down from 31 in 2019 and 42 chain stores

---

<sup>13</sup> Center for an Urban Future: "Supporting Small Business Through Coronavirus: Ideas From Experts And Leaders Across NYC"

<sup>14</sup> New York State Department of Labor (2021). "State Labor Department Releases Preliminary April 2021 Area Unemployment Rates." <https://dol.ny.gov/labor-statistics-new-york-city-region>

<sup>15</sup> [https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/minority-and-women-owned-businesses-at-risk-impact-of-covid-19-on-new-york-city-firms/#Business\\_profile\\_of\\_the\\_MWBE\\_survey\\_respondents](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/minority-and-women-owned-businesses-at-risk-impact-of-covid-19-on-new-york-city-firms/#Business_profile_of_the_MWBE_survey_respondents)

in zip code 10002, down from 51 in 2019.<sup>16</sup> While the district lost approximately 18 chain stores, the still significant presence of these stores has altered the character of the Lower East Side by shifting purchasing power to mass-market retailers and constructing facades out of context with the rest of the historical community. Retail stores that do survive in our community are threatened by the rising costs of doing business in NYC without sufficient relief or protection from the City.

### **Merchant Organizing and Additional Opportunities for City Support**

CD 3 is represented by the following Business Improvement Districts (BIDs):

- The Chinatown BID: Broome to Worth Street and from Allen to Rutgers;
- The LES Partnership: Orchard Street and currently seeking to expand to include a large section of the Lower East Side with Houston Street as its northern border;
- The Union Square Partnership: 14th Street;
- The Village Alliance: 8th Street and some surrounding blocks;

Despite the presence of these organizations, many merchants are still not organized into associations and therefore under-supported in a substantial portion of the District.

As our community continues to be burdened by a high cost of doing business, Community Board 3 (CB 3) has identified several ways that the City can help us grow and strengthen our local economy:

- Provide Direct Support for Merchant Organizations – Continue financial and programming support for our local merchant-based organizations and BIDs
- Consideration of Special Commercial Zoning – CB 3 is considering the creation of several Special Enhanced Commercial Districts in the East Village. These districts would establish zoning requirements to facilitate a diverse mix of affordable and appropriate retail and service providers that meet local needs, support independently owned businesses, encourage robust daytime foot traffic, and level the competitive field of operation between small businesses and large national retail chains.
- Prioritize comprehensive adult education and job training programs to support district residents to access living wages, career mobility, and job quality. Continue financial and programming support for our local workforce development organizations and spaces like the Union Square Tech Training Center.

### **Arts and Cultural Affairs**

In CD 3, arts and cultural activities are an important means of preserving and exploring our exceptionally diverse community culture. Arts and cultural activities are also an important economic engine for our district that has a large concentration of artists and arts and cultural organizations—large and small, professional and community-based, experimental and culturally specific.

---

<sup>16</sup> Center for an Urban Future: “State of the Chains 2020.” <[https://nycfuture.org/pdf/CUF\\_StateoftheChains\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://nycfuture.org/pdf/CUF_StateoftheChains_2020_final.pdf)>

Artists, cultural workers and arts and cultural organizations of all sizes were impacted to a devastating degree by COVID-19 in 2020. The performing arts sector was one of the hardest hit industries in NYC, putting cultural workers, including performing artists and administrators, in vulnerable positions.<sup>17</sup> Many artists and cultural producers have not had an income since March 2020. The sector lost 56 percent of its total jobs between February 2020 and suffered the highest peak of sectoral unemployment in July 2020. As of April 2021, the sector has begun to slowly recover with a 11 percent improvement over July 2020. The negative economic impact on the arts and cultural sector is anticipated to last months, if not years depending on sector specificities.<sup>18</sup>

City funding for small, vulnerable arts organizations is also not certain. The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) primarily funds larger, well-known cultural institutions, with less funding typically awarded to small arts nonprofits located in CD 3. There is a need for equitable funding, support and resource opportunities for small local organizations in CD 3 that focus on the population most impacted by COVID-19, which are low-income people of color.

CB 3 has identified the following priority needs for Arts & Culture:

- In May 2021, NYC announced the Artists Corps program, which was created to assist with pandemic recovery and provided a \$25 million investment in grant funding for local artists across the City. This should become an ongoing program to meet the long-term needs of artists recovering from loss of income during the pandemic.<sup>19</sup>
- There is a need for more affordable and accessible workspaces for artists in CD 3.
- There is a need for more equitable funding for small and mid-sized cultural organizations, which are limited in their capacity to plan for the future since their funding is not baselined, unlike the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). CB 3's dozens of small cultural organizations, many of which are Black, Latinx, and Chinese-run, are not members of the CIG and do not have the same access to wealthy donors. These organizations also need better access to cross-sectoral and inter-agency partnerships, which was outlined as a priority in the 2017 DCLA Cultural Plan.<sup>20</sup>
- There is a need for increased engagement with the Community Board for community space and art programming in new developments in the District. It should be encouraged that arts and culture organizations be included in the planning of City projects and new private development, such as setting aside designated arts and cultural spaces and providing opportunities for local arts and cultural organizations to be involved in the programming and design of new public spaces.
- There is a need for CHARAS/El Bohio, a nonprofit community and cultural center that served as a much-needed axis for a local web of organizations, stakeholders and leaders that reflected the values of the communities in which they serve, to be restored in order to address a deeply felt loss in the community.

---

<sup>17</sup> New York State Department of Labor (2021). "New York City Employment Statistics," April, 2021. < <https://dol.ny.gov/labor-statistics-new-york-city-region>>

<sup>18</sup> *Culture shock: COVID-19 and the cultural and creative sectors*. (n.d.). OECD. Retrieved May 29, 2021, from

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/culture-shock-covid-19-and-the-cultural-and-creative-sectors-08da9e0e/>

<sup>19</sup> "New York City Plans a \$25 million program to put artists back to work." <<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/06/nyregion/new-york-city-arts-pay.html#:~:text=The%20program%2C%20the%20City%20Artist,or%20other%20community%20arts%20projects>>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/createnyc/createnyc-download.page>

## Health and Human Services

### Technology

COVID-19 underlined the technological disparities in CD 3. In a 2019 survey, the Lower East Side was cited as having the fourth highest rate of households (23 percent) without access to the internet in New York City.<sup>21</sup> This disparity will impact CD 3 residents' access to school, health care, and social services and if left unaddressed will have significant long-term and short-term impacts on the health and livelihood of our community.

### Education

In Spring 2020, the abrupt closure of the public schools and transition to at-home remote learning burdened low-income students and their families the most. At the same time, these families faced declining incomes due to unemployment or illness. Students attending schools without resources such as well-equipped computer labs and regular in-school digital literacy instruction were less prepared for at home remote learning and needed more support. Students with special needs or in temporary housing faced additional challenges. COVID-19 served to highlight these long-standing disparities that exist among K-12 students in CD 3.

### Priority education needs in CD 3:

- **Social workers and counselors**  
Social services staff are needed to support students who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 related changes to public education, changes at home due to loss of jobs or illness, and loss of a daily routine at school where there is in-person counselor or social worker support. Social workers are also crucial to those students in temporary housing and students with special needs. This is a continuing need and must be added on a permanent basis.
- **Technology**  
Technological enhancements, including the provision of necessary devices, WiFi/internet and technical support, are needed to ensure our students are not left behind. This will be even more urgent as schools plan for greater use of technology in learning and communications, even once schools fully reopen for in-person learning. In addition, the particular needs of students living in temporary housing, those living in NYCHA (NYC Housing Authority) housing, and those with special needs still need to be addressed.
- **After school programs**  
Families in CD 3 rely heavily on community-based programs during after-school hours, weekends, and holidays, because 36 percent of our children under 18 years of age live below poverty level.<sup>22</sup> After school programs provide the youth and their families intervention services and support programming.

## Need for a New School

---

<sup>21</sup>Citizen's Committee for Children of New York. (April 2020). "NYC'S Digital Divide: 500K Households Have No Internet Access When it Is More Important Than Ever Before." <<https://www.ccnnewyork.org/blog/new-york-citys-digital-divide-500000-nyc-households-have-no-internet-access-when-it-is-more-important-than-ever-before/>>

<sup>22</sup> Furman Center (2021). U.S. Census. 2015-2019 American Community Survey. <<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown> >.

Community School District 1 (CSD1) schools are outdated and under-resourced. From 2012-2020, CSD1 lost 1,514 students, as more neighborhood families must send their children to schools outside CSD1 because there are not enough well-resourced schools in the school district.<sup>23</sup> A state-of-the-art facility could prevent the loss of these students to better equipped and resourced schools. CD 3 is in need of a new public-school facility, as exemplified by:

- 85 percent of CSD1 schools share a building with one or more schools resulting in inadequate access to gym, arts and enrichment, science labs, and acceptable hours for school lunch. 16 percent of schools share a gym and/or yard space with three or more schools and almost 1/4 of these schools share gym facilities between two schools. This lack of access is further exacerbated by the fact that 35 percent of gym facilities are used for multiple purposes, creating “cafegymalaboriums.”<sup>24</sup>
- The NYC Department of Education (DOE) mandates 120 minutes of physical education per week. Students in CD 3 do not have equal access to physical education and activity due to inadequate space.
- Inadequate, aging buildings that were not designed for today’s students. Middle and high school students often learn in classrooms designed for elementary school students.
- The lack of technology infrastructure in all these aging buildings, which prevents CD 3 children from access to 21st Century College and Career Ready skills. With the advent of updated state testing moving to an online format, these aging buildings will limit students' ability to compete in this new online testing format. Working families with multiple children face daily hardships when having to drop their children off at different elementary and middle schools that are in different locations. K-8 schools resolve such hardships and ensure students arrive safely and one time. There is a dearth of K-8 schools in the western side of School District 1 where the proposed site is located.

For students in our community to meet the goals of NYC DOE’s “Equity and Excellence for All” agenda, they must have adequate opportunities to move throughout their day and have adequate access to technology.<sup>25</sup> A new school facility will provide the students of CSD1 with a state-of-the-art building and could also provide existing schools with necessary use of space. In consultation with the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA), a parcel of City-owned land that can accommodate a footprint of 75,000 square feet (on Site 5 of Essex Crossing) has been reserved for a school until 2023.<sup>26</sup> Given the rapid approach of the 2023 deadline, CB 3 urges DOE take advantage of this time-sensitive opportunity and fund construction of a new school in the 2019 five-year Capital Plan.

### **Unmet Needs in Youth Programs**

Community Board 3 has overlapping unmet needs that restrict the ability for our social service organizations to serve our most underserved residents, particularly children and seniors.

---

<sup>23</sup> New York City Department of Education, Demographic Snapshots (School Years 2014-15 to 2019-20). <<https://data.ccnyc.gov/data/table/103/enrollment#103/157/99/a/a>>

<sup>24</sup> Community School District 1 Gym Survey <<https://cecd1.org/gym-survey/>>

<sup>25</sup> <http://schools.nyc.gov/AboutUs/schools/equityandexcellence/default.htm>

<sup>26</sup> Essex Crossing School Position Paper. Manhattan CB 3.

<[http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb3/downloads/planning/CB%203%20Essex%20Crossing%20School%20Position%20Paper%20\(FINAL%206.11.14\).pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb3/downloads/planning/CB%203%20Essex%20Crossing%20School%20Position%20Paper%20(FINAL%206.11.14).pdf)>

- **Lack of proper facility maintenance by NYCHA**

Many of our programs are held in NYCHA community rooms and serve mostly NYCHA residents. Because the programs are not run by NYCHA, the housing authority will not maintain the facilities. The settlement houses and other nonprofits who run the programs receive funding for programming and staff, but do not receive capital funding for needed extensive repairs. There are intolerable conditions that have been ongoing for years—plumbing backups in facilities used by Cornerstone programs, the ceiling falling in a senior center and raw sewage in a preschool program are among the significant problems. The situation is so dire that some of our settlement houses have taken it into their own hands to fix the problems. However, this diverts funds needed for operating these programs that serve our residents. The smaller organizations do not have the resources to do the major fundraising needed to both meet organizational goals and to raise funds to repair NYCHA facilities.

- **Families no longer qualified for programs due to outdated income requirements**

Many families now surpass the federal maximum income requirement for programs serving low-income families (such as Head Start). This is often the result of wage increases from minimum wage to living wage without corresponding increases in maximum income requirements. Families earning a living wage are still in need of these programs.

- **Pay disparity**

City Council legislation will require pay parity for educators in early childhood programs, whether funded by DOE or DYCD (CBO based). However, the pay parity is not sustained. While first year CBO-based teachers receive a salary that is comparable to that of DOE teachers, DOE teachers also receive salary increases over time whereas CBO teachers do not.<sup>27,28</sup>

## Senior Citizens

CD 3 needs critically important investments to help older residents live healthier and more fulfilling lives as they age in place. In CD 3:

- There are 37,102 residents (22 percent of total CD 3 population) over the age of 65; CD 3 is home to the third highest population of senior citizens in the city;
- Approximately 11,502 seniors—31 percent of all seniors in the district—live below the poverty line;<sup>29</sup>
- 43 percent of seniors are living with a disability;
- 34 percent of seniors experience ambulatory difficulties; and
- 36 percent of seniors live alone.<sup>30</sup>

Fifty-nine percent of CD 3 seniors are foreign born, with 24 percent speaking Spanish at home and 45 percent

---

<sup>27</sup> Education Alliance < <https://edalliance.org/>>

<sup>28</sup> Chinese American Planning Council < <https://www.cpc-nyc.org/>>

<sup>29</sup>Furman Center (2021). U.S. Census. 2015-2019 American Community Survey. < <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown> >

<sup>30</sup> 2014-2018 American Community Survey (2020). NYC Population Fact Finder. < <https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/profile/396/demographic>>

speaking Asian and Pacific Island languages at home.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, CD 3 requires culturally and linguistically appropriate health and social services for its large senior population. In practice, seniors require care on a continuum that covers their diverse cultural, health and wellness needs. Priority concerns of seniors that have been identified are:

- Concerns about isolation
- Food access
- Wellness concerns such as needs for physical activity, mental stimulation, coping with depression, low self-esteem & self-worth issues (especially amongst the oldest)
- Staying informed with accurate information about health and other issues

Programs at senior centers and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) provide programs to address these concerns.

### **Senior Centers**

According to the Department for the Aging (DFTA), in CD 3 there are 12 DFTA funded senior centers.<sup>32</sup> Each center is particularly important as they are culturally sensitive to the needs of our diverse communities. Given the growing senior population, there is a need to maintain and expand the existing facilities and to address significant capital maintenance needs.

### **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities**

In addition to senior centers, NORCs are also vital in CD 3. A NORC is a multi-age housing development or neighborhood that was not originally designed for seniors, but now is home to a significant number of older persons. There are six NORCs in CD 3 that provide Supportive Services Programs to maximize and support the successful aging in place of older residents (*See appendix for list of NORCs in CD 3*).

Often, NORC residents can access health and social services in their own buildings, building complexes or locally within their neighborhoods. Both the City Council and DFTA recognize the need for NORCs in the community and are working to budget more NORC programs. NORC programs are a model for bringing necessary care and support to seniors living in age-integrated buildings and neighborhoods. Nurses and social workers are necessary to provide supportive services.

## **Health**

### **Health Care Needs and Services**

COVID-19 has highlighted health justice inequities that are particularly notable in CD 3 because of the large gap between the lowest and highest income populations and concentration of lower income communities of color who are at two to three times higher risk of contracting COVID-19 than wealthier, white residents.<sup>33</sup> Underlying health conditions and low-paying essential jobs are two of the most visible conditions causing this disparity, but questions remain unanswered about additional connections between race, economic status, and COVID-19 risk.

---

<sup>31</sup> 2014-2018 American Community Survey (2020). NYC Population Fact Finder.  
<<https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/profile/396/demographic>>.

<sup>32</sup> “Aging Connect.” NYC Department for the Aging. <<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dfta/services/find-help.page>>

<sup>33</sup> “Who is Most likely to Die from the Coronavirus?” New York Times, June 4, 2020.

<<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/06/04/opinion/coronavirus-health-race-inequality.html>>

The changes in responding to health care needs due to COVID-19 have highlighted areas of unmet needs as well as new trends in the provision of health care. In 2019, approximately 5.4 percent of CD 3 residents were uninsured.<sup>34</sup> The trends and priorities below were reported to the CB 3 Health and Human Services Committee by the following community health care facilities: Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, the Betances Health Center, and the Gouverneur Health Facility.

### **Behavioral Health Services**

Behavioral health services are a priority for people with underlying conditions: seniors, first responders, and those with substance abuse disorders and pre-existing health conditions, people with disabilities, and those who have experienced traumatic changes in their employment. At this time there is not an overall plan to address the continuing increase in substance abuse and no increase in outreach/harm reduction services.

Stresses from the pandemic will continue after the immediate health crisis is over. It is estimated it will take several years for the economy to return to near normal. Community health centers, settlement houses, and local service organizations will need to meet the needs of our impacted residents.

### **Chronic Care Management**

Many of our residents suffer from multiple conditions (such as diabetes and hypertension). Management of medical appointments and coordination of medical services is a necessary function. The changes to telehealth services makes this more of a challenge and is also not reimbursed by insurance companies.

### **Health disparities with a root in social determinants**

People of color and those with lower income experience a disproportionate burden of preventable disease, death and disabilities.<sup>35</sup> Maintaining social supports and community programs (such as smoking-cessation, medical screenings and family planning as a few examples) are necessary. Pediatricians are seeing children left behind socially, educationally, and emotionally. Children are experiencing social isolation and services for special needs have been disrupted when most needed. Children will not catch up immediately when there is a vaccine.

Enhanced services for these children will be needed for the near future and on an ongoing basis for several years.

### **Telehealth**

Telemedicine has proved to be important in enabling community residents to access care. In 2020-2021, televisits increased access for senior citizens who were homebound and for those too ill to travel. In addition, it increased access for those hesitant to go out due to Covid or concerns of violence.

One local federally qualified health center reported that in March 2020, at the on-set of the Covid-19 pandemic, televisits increased and then peaked at 25 percent by the end of 2020. In 2021, the number of visits dropped, and by June 2021 it was at 15 percent. This provider reported that they hope to retain a mix of 85-90 percent face-to-face visits, and 10-15 percent televisits. They also reported that behavioral health and pediatrics were the areas where telehealth was used most frequently.<sup>36</sup>

However, telemedicine will not replace face-to-face care as it is still needed to provide a continuity of care—regular checkups, screenings, laboratory and diagnostic work-ups, and management of chronic conditions.

The biggest challenge facing telehealth is the lack of internet access—23 percent of households in CD 3 do not

---

<sup>34</sup> ANHD, "Housing Risk Chart" (2021). ACS 2018 5-Year Estimates, Health Insurance.

<sup>35</sup> "Community Health Profile 2018: Lower East Side and Chinatown." (2018) New York City Department of Health.  
<<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/data/2018chp-mn3.pdf>>

<sup>36</sup> Reported from Betances Health Center and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, July 2021.

have internet access.<sup>37</sup> Senior citizens generally experience greater difficulty in navigating the portal required to access telehealth. There are also ongoing concerns about the sustainability of a telemedicine program because of the way the visits are being reimbursed by health insurance providers.

### **Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Facilities**

After suffering losses of hospital resources and nursing home/rehab beds, our community is in critical need to ensure these services. There are currently no Alzheimer’s dedicated beds/units in the district. Since 2006 the number of long-term care facility beds in Lower Manhattan decreased from 1,085 beds across eight facilities to 353 beds across two facilities.<sup>38</sup> This includes the 219 beds lost when Rivington House was closed.<sup>39</sup> The remaining long-term care providers are Gouverneur Skilled Nursing Facility with a total of 295 beds for rehabilitation and long-term care beds and New East Side Nursing Home with 58 beds. The skilled nursing facility at Gouverneur operates at 95.69 percent occupancy rate – greater than the New York City average and the national average.<sup>40</sup>

### **Unintentional Drug Overdose**

In September 2020, The American Medical Association reported increases in opioid-related mortality since the COVID-19 pandemic started.<sup>41</sup> In addition:

- There is a general lack of education about the dangers of prescription opioids and propensity for overdose.
- Community residents do not receive enough education from their primary physicians regarding inherent dangers of opioid prescriptions.
- There is not enough education about how to dispose of outdated or unnecessary opioid prescription drugs.
- One program noted that they are seeing a rising use in heroin and other opiates. Heroin has become one of the top three substances. K2 use has been increasing, and dealers are lacing heroin and cocaine with extremely potent opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanil which cause more overdose deaths.<sup>42</sup>

### **Food Security**

The Lower East Side was reported as having a food hardship rate of 36 percent as of November 2019. That is the 5th highest food hardship rate in all of Manhattan, which has only been exacerbated by COVID.<sup>43</sup> Local community organizations operating food pantries are filling the gaps of food security for households with immune compromised or elderly residents resulting in the engineering of home delivery by food pantries to particularly high need developments. Because of the Lower East Side’s diverse population, food that is culturally appropriate is needed. The lack of coordination limits and complicates the ability of organizations serving food to insecure residents and results in gaps in food delivery and access. There has been an increase of community fridges from

---

<sup>37</sup> “Households without Internet; Community District; Percent; 2019“ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Tables S2801& B28002 (2015-2019) <<https://data.census.gov/>>

<sup>38</sup> New York State Department of Health NYS Nursing Home Profiles <[https://profiles.health.ny.gov/nursing\\_home/index](https://profiles.health.ny.gov/nursing_home/index)>

<sup>39</sup> Hobbs, A. (2016). Lower Manhattan hit hardest by nursing home decline, stats show. DNAInfo. <<https://www.dnainfo.com/new-york/20161010/lower-east-side/nursing-care-facility-closures-department-of-healthdata-rivington-house>>

<sup>40</sup> Gouverneur Hospital Community Advisory Board report at the CB3 June 2019 Health, Seniors, & Human Services / Youth, Education, & Human Rights Committee meeting

<sup>41</sup> American Medical Association. (2020). “Issue brief: Reports of increases in opioid related overdose and other concerns during COVID pandemic.” <<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2020-09/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf>>

<sup>42</sup> 2019 Report from Educational Alliance Wellness and Recovery Center

<sup>43</sup> Robin Hood. (2020). “Mapping Hunger in New York City: A look at the Rate of Food Hardship in New York City neighborhoods, 2019.” <[https://www.robinhood.org/uploads/2020/02/PovertyTracker\\_Mapping-Hunger.pdf](https://www.robinhood.org/uploads/2020/02/PovertyTracker_Mapping-Hunger.pdf)>

zero to five in this district.

## Homeless Population

### Street Homelessness

Street homelessness increased in areas in CD 3 before the pandemic. The recent history of street homelessness as measured by the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE) for Manhattan showed a 40 percent increase in 2016 followed by decreases of two and five percent, and then an increase of 55 percent in the January 2020 report.<sup>44</sup> The January HOPE 2021 report found a 38 percent decrease in unsheltered individuals compared to the 2020 report. The drop is reportedly due to an increase in Department of Social Services outreach staff and the increase in specialized beds, including hotel beds. While there is an overall reported drop, there is a significant increase in the number of single adults in the shelter system.<sup>45</sup> Advocates warn that that the 2021 HOPE report may not be accurate and that the City's overnight subway shutdown resulted in fewer homeless individuals riding the trains in general, and police doubled their encampment sweeps in 2020.<sup>46</sup> (See appendix for additional information on encampment sweeps.)

The Coalition for the Homeless reports that in 2021, 86 percent of homeless single adults and 93 percent of heads-of-household in family shelters identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian-American, or Native American.<sup>47</sup> An estimated 77 percent of adult families, 68 percent of single adults, and 53 percent of families with children have a disability or condition that may require an accommodation.<sup>48</sup> Additionally, there was an increase in the percentage of seniors in single adult homeless population.<sup>49</sup>

There is a recognized need for mental health services and a variety of programs for those experiencing homelessness, however there are no benchmarks or tracking systems to show effectiveness of programs. There are reports by NYPD of people being hospitalized for a few days and then released back on the street. CB 3 has also observed this with specific individuals.

The need for effective mental health outreach and treatment was evident before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the shutdown of services, isolation, and other consequences of the pandemic means that enhanced outreach and targeted services will be needed in the current and coming year.

There is observed substance abuse among the homeless population, and this is sometimes combined with mental illness. This pandemic has exacerbated existing systemic problems: many with mental health issues do not seek

---

<sup>44</sup> "NYC Hope 2020 Results." NYC Department of Homeless Services. (2020). <<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope-2020-results.pdf>>

<sup>45</sup> Acevedo, A. (n.d.). *HOPE amid crisis: Mayor reports 38% drop in homelessness in 2021 count* | *amNewYork*. Retrieved June 1, 2021, from <https://www.amny.com/news/mayor-unveils-encouraging-homeless-outreach-population-estimate-report/>

<sup>46</sup> Ricciulli, V. (2021, May 28). *NYC's Annual Homeless Count Says the Numbers Are Way Down. It's Probably Wrong*. Curbed. <https://www.curbed.com/2021/05/nyc-homeless-count-hope-survey.html>

<sup>47</sup> Coalition for the Homeless, "State of the Homeless 2021." (April 2021) < <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/StateOfTheHomeless2021.pdf>>

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

help, many do not have access to a phone, WiFi, or other resources.<sup>50</sup>

CB 3 has advocated for DHS to pilot an outreach program that combines outreach to the homeless with harm reduction outreach workers. Harm reduction workers engage those who may not be ready to accept other support services.

### **Shelters and supportive housing**

The number of people sleeping in shelters in New York City has been increasing for the last decade.<sup>51</sup> Individual adults in shelters have increased 132 percent over the last 10 years.<sup>52</sup> In March 2021, there were 54,667 homeless people, including 16,956 homeless children, sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system. A near-record 20,790 (up from 17,759 last year at this time) single adults slept in shelters in March 2021.<sup>53,54</sup>

The pandemic profoundly altered the ecology of life on the streets in New York City, marked by a large increase in the number of people in need, and dramatically reduced access to the resources needed to survive.<sup>55</sup> The total number of deaths in 2020 for homeless individuals in NYC reached 613, higher than ever before, with an estimated 120 deaths due to COVID-19. Many attempt to access the shelter system, but abandon it due to concerns for their safety, especially the fear of contracting COVID-19, or after becoming overwhelmed by shelter rules and procedures. There is no question that fewer individuals would have been sleeping in public spaces during the pandemic if the City had offered all homeless single adults the option of single-occupancy hotel rooms as an alternative to dorm-style shelters.<sup>56</sup>

CD 3 is home to over 14 shelters, among the highest in the city.<sup>57</sup> The perception by many people experiencing homelessness that the shelters are unsafe appears to contribute to the many homeless people refusing services unless there is a Safe Haven bed available in a community they are connected to. In 2017-2018, the Coalition for the Homeless conducted a survey of individuals sleeping on the streets and subways, and found the majority of those interviewed on the streets had stayed in the DHS shelter system at some point and were unwilling to return to the shelter system because they feared for their safety and/or experienced difficulty following the rules and procedures.<sup>58</sup> Additionally, two-thirds of those interviewed had mental health needs.<sup>59</sup>

CB 3 has long advocated for more Safe Havens and supportive housing as well as more affordable housing as part of the solution to end homelessness. Community issues sometimes arise around adult shelters. Outdoor space and programming that engages the residents is necessary. Better security is also necessary for both the neighboring

---

<sup>50</sup> Heather J. Kagan. ABC News. (2020). "Opioid overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, despite telemedicine care." <<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/opioid-overdoses-rise-covid-19-pandemic-telemedicine-care/story?id=72442735>>

<sup>51</sup> "Basic Facts About Homelessness in New York City." Coalition for the Homeless. (2020). <<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city/>>

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> <<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/dashboard/tables/FYTD20-DHS-Data-Dashboard-Data.pdf>>

<sup>54</sup> Basic Facts About Homelessness: New York City. (n.d.). Coalition For The Homeless. May, 2021. <<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city/>>

<sup>55</sup> Coalition for the Homeless, "View From the Street." (April 2021). <<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/View-from-the-Street-April-21.pdf>>

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> NYC Department of Homeless Services, May 2021. NYC Open Data. <[https://data.cityofnewyork.us/d/3qem-6v3v?category=Social-Services&view\\_name=Buildings-by-Borough-and-Community-District](https://data.cityofnewyork.us/d/3qem-6v3v?category=Social-Services&view_name=Buildings-by-Borough-and-Community-District)>

<sup>58</sup> "State of the Homeless 2020." Coalition for the Homeless. (2020). <<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/StateofTheHomeless2020.pdf>>

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

community members and the shelter residents.

Manhattan Outreach Consortium (MOC) outreach teams are continuing to try a harm reduction approach for individuals experiencing homelessness who also actively use substances. There is an effort being made to team with a substance abuse harm reduction organization. We have encouraged DHS to support this substance abuse joint effort but the agency seems unwilling to do so, even as a pilot. MOC outreach workers report placing 190 people in safe havens, 166 into stabilization beds, and 68 people into permanent housing in the last year with a continued retention rate of 91 percent.<sup>60</sup> Their work is invaluable but cannot keep up with the additional number of people who become homeless every year. More safe havens are needed for people experiencing homelessness in our community to provide safe shelter and services.

### **Homelessness in the Subways**

The Hope Count for 2020 showed a 23 percent decrease in homelessness in the subways from the previous year.<sup>61</sup> The most recent count from January 2021 showed another 23 percent decrease.<sup>62</sup> At the time of writing this needs statement, people are evicted from the subway system every night for COVID-19 disinfectant cleaning. The current situation caused by COVID-19 has resulted in new initiatives and information which can be found in a report on Homeless Outreach Activities issued in June 2020 by the MTA Inspector General.

### **Homelessness in Parks**

Two parks in CD 3, Tompkins Square Park and Sara Delano Roosevelt (SDR) Park, have for the last several years become the only open space for some shelter residents as well as magnets for drug dealers, users, and other crime. The current reported drug trend is K2, fentanyl, and heroin.

### **Parks/Recreation**

CD 3, like most community districts in New York City, is underserved in terms of open space, with less than the City-recommended 2.5 acres of open space per 1000 residents.<sup>63</sup>

- Citywide the median open space ratio is 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents<sup>64</sup> – CD 3 is slightly below that average at 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents.<sup>65</sup>
- While 99 percent of residential units in CD 3 are located within ¼ mile of a park, not all parks are easily accessible or maintained at an acceptable level.<sup>66</sup>

---

<sup>60</sup> Information provided by NYC Department of Homeless Services, July 6, 2021.

<sup>61</sup> “NYC Hope 2020 Results.” NYC Department of Homeless Services. (2020). <<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope-2020-results.pdf>>

<sup>62</sup> “NYC Hope 2021 Results.” NYC Department of Homeless Services. (2021). <<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope-2021-results.pdf>>

<sup>63</sup> NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability. (2016). City Environmental Quality Review. <[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oec/html/ceqr/open\\_space\\_maps\\_manhattan.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oec/html/ceqr/open_space_maps_manhattan.shtml)>

<sup>64</sup> NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Coordination. (2014). CEQR Open Space. <[http://www.nyc.gov/html/oec/downloads/pdf/2014\\_ceqr\\_tm/07\\_Open\\_Space\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/oec/downloads/pdf/2014_ceqr_tm/07_Open_Space_2014.pdf)>

<sup>65</sup> New Yorkers For Parks. *Open Space Index*. <[http://www.ny4p.org/client-uploads/pdf/OSI/NY4P\\_Open\\_Space\\_Index.pdf](http://www.ny4p.org/client-uploads/pdf/OSI/NY4P_Open_Space_Index.pdf)>

<sup>66</sup> Furman Center. (2018). State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2017. <[http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/SOC\\_2017\\_Full.pdf](http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/SOC_2017_Full.pdf)>

- Open space is not evenly distributed throughout the district, with the area west of Avenue A and Chinatown lacking adequate open space.
- With the impending closure of East River Park for a minimum of 3.5 years, other parks in CD 3 risk being inundated and over-used by people looking for alternative spaces.

### **Parks Buildings**

There are numerous Parks Department buildings in the district that are underutilized. These spaces are either completely closed or are used as store houses for citywide Parks operations. Our local park houses should not bear this disproportionate burden for other neighborhoods. These buildings would be better used as community facilities that could serve as neighborhood safe anchors thus increasing park safety.

We believe these buildings should be renovated and reopened for community use. According to a 596 Acres Study, the following properties are underutilized in the district:<sup>67</sup>

- SDR Park: The Stanton Street Park House in SDR Park was a community center until the 1970s and must be returned to community use (only the restrooms are open to the public). Three out of four Parks buildings in SDR Park are used for citywide Parks maintenance or communication centers. Public restrooms are closed in one park house and open only for limited, unsupervised and sporadic hours in the three others. This inequitable distribution of resources does not allow CD 3 to meet its needs for community space, programming and park safety, especially in this very densely used and troubled park straddling the Lower East Side and Chinatown and a Scope of Work is needed to move this forward.
- SDR Park: Hester St. Building (Used by Parks. Only the restrooms are open to public)
- Allen Street Mall Comfort Station (Completely closed. RFPs for food vendor still in progress, which would open bathrooms)
- Seward Park "Park House" Building (Bathrooms are open, space slated for temporary use by Lower East Side Ecology Center at the time of this writing as an East Side Coastal Resiliency project mitigation)
- LaGuardia Houses Playground Building (demolished and converted to open turf area. However, this is a temporary conversion and Parks needs to commit to building a permanent community recreation facility.)
- Baruch Houses Bathhouse (Completely closed, RFP has been issued.)
- Tompkins Square Park Building (Bathrooms are open. the rest of the building is closed to the community.)

### **Recreational Use**

The lack of park space is exacerbated by a lack of recreational sports fields. While CB 3 does not seek to exclude outside groups from our parks, the Board had taken the following positions:

- Priority access to recreational sports fields should be given to not-for-profit organizations serving the youth of CD 3 especially considering the full closure of East River Park.

---

<sup>67</sup> Living Lots NYC. <[https://livinglotsnyc.org/media/files/LESmap\\_7.27.16\\_FINAL.pdf](https://livinglotsnyc.org/media/files/LESmap_7.27.16_FINAL.pdf)>

- NYC Parks must revisit the policy of grandfathering sports field permits to certain organizations.
- Fields must be maintained to optimize use. This includes providing drainage so that fields can be used after rain and snow.

### **Rodents in Parks and Community Gardens**

The Rat Reduction program implemented in 2017 has not shown success uniformly in CD 3, but there has been success in parks. The pandemic put a pause on the program, which was then activated in May 2021. Parks that show increased active rats signs are Columbus Park, East River Park, SDR Park, Seward Park, and Strauss Square. Tompkins Square Park and Cooper Triangle are the only parks that have shown improvement.

### **Wireless Access**

CD 3 residents would benefit greatly from free wireless access in all public parks, such as the networks currently available in Alfred E. Smith Playground, Tompkins Square Park and Hamilton Fish Park, which allow all in the community to use their laptops and other devices in parks.

### **Maintenance**

CB 3 members have routinely observed parks, playgrounds, plazas, Greenstreets, and street trees with plantings not being properly and regularly maintained or mowed. This issue has been particularly exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic as more people than ever turn to their local parks and open spaces to escape their apartments for fresh air while they shelter in place. Many CD 3 parks have become overrun with overflowing trash cans, litter, overgrown lawns (some at almost 2-feet high) and rampant weeds. All this while parks in more affluent districts are maintained in pristine condition. Therefore CB 3 requests:

- Adequate staffing of Parks mobile maintenance staff
- Regular maintenance of parks mechanical equipment to ensure that they are always at the ready
- More frequent cleaning of playgrounds in parks, as well as standalone park playgrounds during the weekends and on summer weekdays, especially in all spray showers and water fountains, to maintain safety and sanitation
- Maintenance of new street trees and bioswales

### **Community Gardens**

CD 3 has one of the highest concentrations of Greenthumb gardens in New York City and the densest distribution of gardens in the city.<sup>68</sup> It is essential that our community gardens are protected. Currently gardens can still be sold as they are not legally Parks property. CB 3 supports:

- The creation of a new Special Purpose “Community Garden District” that would offer a measure of protection, as would a new protected NYC zoning designation of "Community Garden."

---

<sup>68</sup> <<https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/gardensearch.html>>

Since all community gardens have the same maintenance and resource needs as public parks, CB 3 requests that:

- All gardens under NYC Parks jurisdiction receive funding through Greenthumb and should be provided with adequate infrastructure, such as available water spigots, ongoing topsoil renewal, wrought iron fencing, and electricity/solar lighting where applicable. There should be installation of Bruckner Boxes in all parks that require them to ensure watering facilities are adequate to sustain greenery.

Keeping the gardens well-lit is a public safety need. The increase in illicit drug use, as reported by area gardeners, makes garden lighting especially relevant. Therefore:

- For these safety reasons, an additional PEP Officer should be hired to specifically patrol the community gardens in CD 3.

### **Bioswales, Tree Plantings**

Bioswales and tree plantings (tree canopy) needs to begin now especially considering the ESCR project. Indigenous plantings should also be distributed throughout CD 3.

### **Waterfront**

Pier 42 has been partially funded, but the delayed project leaves the unfulfilled need to complete the critical missing link of public access along Lower Manhattan's East River shoreline. Although additional funding from the city has been provided as part of the East Side Coastal Resiliency mitigations, this is only for the construction of temporary fields and amenities. The full masterplan approved by CB 3 in 2013 would provide needed access to the waterfront at Pier 42 with passive recreation space, barriers to storm surges, marine habitat, and ecological education opportunities.

### **Composting**

Composting renewal and expansion of city-wide composting in parks and community gardens wherever practicable is needed to ensure that the environmental benefits of composting remain cost efficient and locally-based.

The Lower East Side Ecology Center headquartered in the East River Park Fire Boat House and the compost yard must return to East River Park to continue to serve as a model for park regenerative practices. Each week, 3,500 people contribute eight tons of food scraps to the Center's programs which divert food scraps from waste streams.

### **New York Public Libraries**

CD 3 has five branches of the New York Public Library (NYPL) system: Chatham Square, Hamilton Fish, Ottendorfer, Seward Park, and Tompkins Square. The branches in CD 3 have amongst the highest numbers of visits in the NYPL system visits during FY20:

Manhattan Community Board 3 <sup>69</sup>		
Branch	Visits	Program Attendance
Chatham Square Branch	250,155	46,598
Hamilton Fish Park Branch	118,305	10,324
Ottendorfer Branch	37,447	13,542
Seward Park Branch	284,370	57,470
Tompkins Square Branch	164,797	35,370
<b>Totals</b>	<b>855,074</b>	<b>163,302</b>

NYPL is currently balancing what they have learned during the pandemic about the value of digital and remote services along with reconnecting with the community. The library will be looking at new initiatives such as modifying after-school programs and supporting greater proficiency in marketable technology skills. To this end, NYPL will implement a strategy for a hybrid model of course delivery in addition to in-person and online programming. The current COVID-19 crisis has shown that our libraries are needed to meet public health, social, and economic challenges.<sup>70</sup> There is a need to increase or maintain services to ensure the most vulnerable residents have access to library services six days a week and expand to seven-day service.

## Housing and Land Use

Housing in CD 3 is increasingly unaffordable for many residents and the district has become increasingly socially stratified:

- In 2020, CD 3 had the highest income disparity—the gap between our lowest income and highest income residents—in New York City.<sup>71</sup>
- Median asking rents in CD 3 increased by 26 percent between 2010 and 2018, while growing by only 2 percent across the rest of the city.<sup>72</sup>
- Twenty-four percent of low-income renter households in CD 3 are spending more than half their monthly income on housing.<sup>73</sup>

Additionally, CD 3 is experiencing a crisis of street homelessness,<sup>74</sup> and it is clear that new affordable housing is

<sup>69</sup> New York Public Library. (2020). “NYPL Statistics for Fiscal Year 2020 in Community Board 3”

<sup>70</sup> Giles, D. (2015). Library Funding is Behind the Times. Center for an Urban Future.

<<https://nycfuture.org/data/info/library-funding-is-behind-the-times>>

<sup>71</sup> NYU Furman Center. (2021). *State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2020*.

<<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>72</sup> NYU Furman Center. (2020). *State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2019*.

<<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>73</sup> NYU Furman Center. (2021). *State of New York City’s Housing and Neighborhoods in 2020*.

<<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>74</sup> NYC DHS. (2019). “NYC HOPE 2019 Results.” <<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dhs/downloads/pdf/hope-2019-results.pdf>>

needed, but it must be targeted at affordability levels appropriate for current neighborhood incomes. Under the City's Housing New York Plan, there were 910 new affordable housing unit starts in CD 3 between 2014 and 2021, with 25 percent targeted at households earning more than \$85,920 per year.<sup>75</sup> However, the median household income in the district is just \$42,010.<sup>76</sup>

There is still a need for more deeply affordable housing in CD 3, and federal American Rescue Plan funds could be a crucial, once in a generation resource to meet this need. While we do not know exactly how these funds will be distributed to local government and impact the budgets of our housing agencies, it should be carefully watched over the next fiscal year to ensure it is used to further affordable housing goals in CD 3.

In the face of these challenges, CB 3 has identified several housing and land use needs the City should address:

### **Build and Preserve Affordable Housing**

There is a need for more deeply affordable housing in CD 3 to address the crises of housing affordability, inequality, and homelessness in the district. New opportunities for affordable housing must be found, including senior housing, supportive housing, housing for the formerly homeless, hotel and commercial conversions to residential uses, community opportunities to purchase distressed properties, and long-term preservation of existing affordable housing in the district. CD 3 also needs more family-sized affordable housing, with higher volumes of 2- and 3-bedroom affordable units than the typical affordable unit mix. In addition, the homeownership rate in CD 3 is 10.8 percent, which ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of 59 community districts in the City.<sup>77</sup> Along with expanding affordable rental housing, there is a need to expand affordable homeownership opportunities like the kind seen in previous decades with programs like Mitchell-Lama.

Sufficient funding for capital projects and housing subsidy programs from the City will be required to ensure much needed affordable housing continues to be constructed. Community based organizations in CD 3, including Cooper Square Committee, CAAAV, GOLES and AAFE, which provide essential services to tenants who are dealing with the termination of basic services, egregious building code violations, and frivolous evictions, need expanded support to make sure tenants can remain in their homes and that existing affordable housing is protected.

### **Provide Support for the Expansion of Community Land Trusts (CLTs)**

CLTs are increasingly recognized as an effective mechanism for permanently preserving affordable housing. In CD 3, the Cooper Square CLT owns the land under 21 buildings, and the Cooper Square Mutual Housing Association manages 26 total buildings, with 418 housing units and more than 2 dozen storefronts, ensuring that they are a permanently affordable resource in the area. There is also interest from a number of small property owners, community-based organizations, and non-profit affordable housing developers to establish a new Community Land Trust in Chinatown. In CD 3 there is a need for more support for planning and operations of established CLTs that are looking to expand and as well as support for emerging CLTs that need technical assistance and education. CLTs also need priority consideration when disposing of City-owned property and need financial incentives to encourage the transition of City-foreclosed properties into CLT ownership.

---

<sup>75</sup> NYC HPD. (2022). "Housing New York Units by Building."

<<http://hpd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=192d198f84e04b8896e6b9cad8760f22>>

<sup>76</sup> NYU Furman Center. (2021). *State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2020*.

<<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>77</sup> <https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>

### **Preserve the Viability of HDFC Buildings**

Increasing operating costs, a lack of affordable refinancing options, and gentrification-fueled property value escalation has resulted in many Housing Development Fund Cooperatives (HDFCs) being converted to market-rate housing or being lost to foreclosure.<sup>78</sup> To ensure they remain a financially solvent and safe source of affordable housing in our district, HDFC need expanded support services, financial training, enhanced and stronger resale restrictions including sales price caps, and long-term tax abatements.

### **Expand Support for Residential Resiliency Upgrades**

In CD 3, over 21,000 dwelling units are located within the 2015 FEMA-identified 100-year floodplain—and over 27,500 units are located within the 500-year floodplain.<sup>79</sup> Current programs that finance residential resiliency upgrades are not being widely used in CD 3, and there is a need for the City to tailor programs to the specific financial needs of low- and moderate-income housing providers, including HDFC co-op boards, so that they can complete critical building infrastructure upgrades and take proactive steps to become environmentally resilient.

### **NYCHA and Section 8 Housing**

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) owns and manages over 14,900 units of low-income housing in CD 3 and the preservation of these apartments as viable, secure, publicly-owned housing is vital to ensure that our community remains diverse and economically integrated. Changes in agency leadership, new federal monitoring, uncertain funding from HUD, and proposals for increasing public-private partnerships underscores the fragile condition of NYCHA funding and operations in CD 3. The latest reports now show \$40 billion of capital and repair needs over the next five years, significantly more than the \$31.8 estimated in a 2018 report.<sup>80</sup> CB 3 has identified the following as pressing district needs:

- **Capital improvements and repairs**

To the extent possible, the capital repairs in CD 3 NYCHA buildings need to be funded and construction and repairs expedited

- **Bridge the NYCHA digital divide**

In May 2021 NYC announced licensing agreements with 5 internet service providers to offer high-speed internet access for 13 NYCHA developments.<sup>81</sup> There is a need to expand this high-speed internet accessibility to all NYCHA buildings in CD 3.

- **Community Participation in NextGen NYCHA and RAD**

The NYCHA 2.0 programs, including NextGen NYCHA infill and Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT), the local iteration of the federal Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, as well as the Blueprint for Change proposal to create a preservation trust, are new models for public housing that may introduce the private sector into NYCHA properties and could dramatically change the way developments are managed and funded. Several developments in CD 3 have been discussed as possible

---

<sup>78</sup> Stewart, Nikita. New York Times. (2018). “Under City Program, Renters-Turned-Homeowners Could Become Renters Again” <<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/29/nyregion/co-op-low-income-nyc-rent.html>>

<sup>79</sup> NYC Department of City Planning. (2020). *Manhattan CD 3 Community Profile*. <<https://communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov/manhattan/3>>

<sup>80</sup> Brenzel, Kathryn. (2020). “NYCHA Head: Agency Now Needs \$40B in Repairs.” <<https://therealdeal.com/2020/01/14/nycha-head-agency-now-needs-40b-in-repairs/>>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/338-21/recovery-all-us-new-york-city-free-low-cost-broadband-access-13-nycha>

sites for implementation of the three programs. There must be increased community engagement and transparency from NYCHA regarding these new programs, to better understand how they would impact public housing stock and public housing residents in our community district.

## Landmarks

CD 3 is rich in buildings of historic, cultural, and architectural significance. Compared to other areas of Manhattan, CD 3 is significantly under-designated, with only three historic districts and a modest number of individual landmarks. The most recent designations in CD 3 were the Bialystoker Home and the Seward Park Library in 2013 and the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District in 2012. The Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) should expedite designation of historic districts and individual landmarks in a community whose character is rapidly changing under the onslaught of new development.

Potential Historic Districts in need of full Commission consideration are:

- The Lower East Side Historic District north of Grand Street, south of Delancey Street, east of Forsyth Street and west of Essex Street (long under consideration)
- Extension of the East Village/Lower East Side Historic District
- Extension of the East 10th Street Historic District to include the area surrounding Tompkins Square
- A Chinatown Historic District
- Shtiebel Row (East Broadway between Clinton Street and Montgomery Street)
- Al Smith Historic District (St. James Place to Madison Street, James Street to Oliver Street)
- Bowery Historic District
- The area south of 14th Street included in the Union Square South Hotel Special Permit application (Note that this area spans CD 3 and CD 2)

Potential Individual Landmarks long on the CB 3 Landmarks Committee list include:

- James R. Whiting House (22 East Broadway)
- 2 Oliver Street
- Congregation Chasam Sopher (8-10 Clinton Street)
- Eastern Dispensary (75 Essex Street)
- 311 East Broadway (at Grand Street) 1905 (former Young Men's Benevolent Association)
- 197 East Broadway between Jefferson and Clinton 1891 (Educational Alliance)
- 184 Eldridge Street, University Settlement, (architects Stokes & Howell)
- Baruch Bathhouse

- Henry Street Firehouse, 269 Henry Street, Engine Company 55
- Former Gouverneur Hospital, 621 Water Street
- Fifth Police Precinct, 1881, 19 Elizabeth Street (architect Nathaniel Bush)
- Former Provident Loan Society, 1912, 225 East Houston Street (Renwick Apinwall & Tucker)
- Former Kletzker Brotherly Aid Society, 1891, 5 Ludlow Street/41 Canal Street
- **Chinatown**
  - Kim Lau Memorial, Chatham Square
  - 83 Mott Street (corner of Canal) ca. 1950 (includes Chinese thematic elements; architect Poy Gum Lee)
  - 60 Mott Street (between Canal and Bayard) ca. 1960 (unique for New York; screen is noteworthy; includes Chinese thematic elements; architect Poy Gum Lee)
- **CBJ Snyder Schools**
  - 371-379 Madison Street (corner of Jackson) 1891 (former PS 12 by C.B.J. Snyder; presently apartments called “The School House.”)
  - Former PS114, 78 Catherine Slip (Smith Houses)
  - Former PS160, Clemente Solo Velez, 107 Suffolk Street
  - PS1, 8 Henry Street, Alfred E. Smith Elementary School, 1887
  - PS110, Florence Nightingale School, 285 Delancey Street, 1897
  - PS42, Benjamin Altman School, 71 Hester Street

In CD 3, emphasis also needs to be given to designation of buildings of historical and cultural significance, including buildings on the Bowery. In addition, meticulous regulation of the currently designated Landmarks and Historic Districts requires strict application of the law, including that against “demolition by neglect.” For example:

- 18 Bowery, The Edward Mooney House has not been maintained as required by Landmarks Law. This property, built between 1785 and 1789, was the first designation under the new Landmarks Law in 1966, and is the only known town house surviving in Manhattan which dates from the period of the American Revolution. We cannot let such an important Landmark deteriorate.
- 605 East 9th, PS 64 (aka CHARAS/El Bohio) has been neglected and intentionally damaged by the owner (removal of white stone facing on the East 10th Street side of the building and failure to properly protect exposed brickwork on dormers and façade where stonework has been removed). The gutters have been damaged leading to potential water damage. The façade has cracked leading to action by the Department of Buildings (DOB). The building is not sealed against intruders. People have been on the roof hacking at the bricks with a pickaxe. Also, people are using the scaffolding in front of the building on 9th Street to enter the building. Police have stated that they cannot access the building without a warrant. We fear that the arson that destroyed Beth Hamredash Hagodol might be repeated here.

The deadlines between calendaring and designation are onerously tight and do not allow for LPC to process the proposed designations in a timely manner. The backlog steadily increases over time and creates the possibility of

losing the ability to save some potential but fragile proposed landmarks.

## **Transportation, Public Safety and Environment**

### **Accessibility and Safety**

Accessibility and pedestrian safety are a CB 3 priority, especially with 8.7 percent of residents of the area reporting ambulatory difficulty.<sup>82</sup> There are several ways to address this issue in the district:

- Improved accessibility of bus stops, which is necessary for seniors and people with disabilities. There are complaints to the community board and observations of bus stops being used as loading zones and short-term parking, which render the stops inaccessible for those in wheelchairs and walkers. NYPD needs to enforce bus stop regulations.

### **Pedestrian and Traffic Safety**

In the first four months of 2020, 303 total injuries and two fatalities have resulted from crashes in CD 3. The density of injuries in CD 3 is high in comparison to other community districts in Manhattan and the rest of the City. The highest volume of crashes were located on:

- East Houston Street (between Avenue A and Bowery)
- Delancey Street (between Bowery and Clinton)
- Grand Street (between Bowery and Clinton)
- Bowery (between East Houston and Delancey)
- Third Ave (between East Houston and East 10<sup>th</sup> St)

Pedestrian safety improvements and traffic calming measures are needed on these key corridors and high priority intersections to reduce overall traffic crashes and ensure the safety of pedestrians on our most dangerous streets.

### **Delivery and Curbside Management**

The increased demand for deliveries driven by on-line shopping, the proliferation of cargo delivery bicycles, and the need for loading/unloading zones by local businesses necessitate planning to ensure safety. The proliferation of mid-box stores with ongoing delivery needs but without appropriate loading zones exacerbates these problems. The effect on traffic due to commercial and residential deliveries calls for overall planning by the City to address these issues and develop a plan that will allow both the steady flow of traffic and safe access to sidewalks.

### **Public Transportation**

CD 3 is underserved by public transportation despite the fact that 93 percent of workers in the district do not use a car to commute to work. Many residents are poorly served by the subway system, with 15 percent living more

---

<sup>82</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 2014-2018.

than ½ mile from the nearest subway stop.<sup>83</sup> Therefore:

- There is a need for more east/west bus service south of 8th Street. The ease of East/West travel has been diminished by the elimination of the Grand Street Bus in the early 1980's and by the limited number of M14A buses.
- There is a need to take strong, creative measures in CD 3 to reduce traffic congestion, which contributes to a vicious cycle of reduced ridership and reduced service. The MTA/NYCT will reduce service after ridership on a bus route drops below a certain threshold. Service cuts have a severely negative impact on vulnerable populations, including the elderly and disabled, who rely on public transportation.

## Rodents

CD 3 is the core rat reduction neighborhood in Manhattan. The program included \$32 million mostly going to city agencies and funded for 5 years. In the first three years the program went into effect, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) reported success in working with NYCHA to reduce rat activity in NYCHA buildings. DOHMH has also reported great success in working with the Department of Parks to have zero to very few burrows in CD3 parks. However, The DOHMH reports that rat activity in private buildings has been stubbornly high at around 11 to 12 percent. The program was paused during the shutdown and has now been reactivated. It appears that all the gains have been lost. 311 rat complaints have greatly increased. In May 2017 the baseline number for May was 79 complaints. In May 2021, there were 105 complaints, up from 49 complaints in May 2020. Inspections restarted in March and Active Rat Sign (ARS) failure rate has ranged from 17 percent to 12 percent, but is now trending toward 20 percent. Compliance inspections of properties in 2021 has the extraordinarily high rate of 51 percent ARS failure rate.<sup>84</sup> The year lost to the program during the shutdown will be added back to the program. Compliance with City, NYCHA, and Private properties as well as Parks will need to be monitored for compliance. This will require reinstatement of extra basket pickups and sanitation staff. The Open Streets: Restaurants with roadside and sidewalk dining has created additional need for sanitation inspection and enforcement.

## Environment

Air pollution is a significant environmental threat to the health of CD 3 residents. The New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS) measurements of air pollutants in CD 3 were among the highest in NYC in 2018.<sup>85</sup> A key finding of their 2018 report is that some air pollutants (PM2.5, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, and BC) are highest in areas of higher traffic density. The Williamsburg Bridge causes these conditions in CD 3, with vehicles heading to the bridge using residential streets surrounding Grand and Clinton St, and vehicles, especially trucks, crossing to the Holland Tunnel using Canal St.

- Airborne particulate matter: CD 3 ranks 13th of the 59 CDs for PM 2.5 (Fine Particulate Matter), and 8th for BC (Black Carbon), 6th for Nitric Oxide and 7th for Nitrogen Dioxide. These pollutants are particularly harmful, worsening respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and causing hospital admissions and deaths. *(See appendix for further discussion of health impacts.)*

---

<sup>83</sup> Furman Center. (2019). State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2018. <[http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/SOC\\_2018\\_Full\\_2018-05-22.pdf](http://furmancenter.org/files/sotc/SOC_2018_Full_2018-05-22.pdf)>

<sup>84</sup> Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene, Director of Neighborhood Intervention Pest Control Services, June 11, 2021.

<sup>85</sup> New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS) - *Neighborhood Air Quality 2008-2018* <<https://nyc-ehs.net/nyccas2020/web/report>>

Climate change is causing more weather events with extreme heat and stormwater. CD 3 is a high priority area for planting trees to reduce air temperature, according to the US Forest Service.<sup>86</sup> We are one of the warmest parts of the city with the most people, and have the fourth highest air temperature planting index (heat stress index) among the 59 NYC community districts.<sup>87</sup> Increasing the District's tree canopy will help reduce peak temperatures in the summer and improve air quality by directly removing air pollutants, including PM2.5, NOx, sulfur dioxide and ozone from the air. CD 3 currently has 21.1 percent tree cover, with a further 27.3 percent that is space where trees can be planted.

Noise is the number one complaint in CD 3 and is increasing in frequency. From March 2020 to March 2021, there were 20,395 total 311 noise complaints in CD 3, significantly up from 14,992 from March 2019 to March 2020.<sup>88</sup> Most of these complaints are regarding residential noise (9,965 complaints) followed by street/sidewalk noise (5,440 complaints). There are resident requests for legislation to address residential noise. *(See appendix for further break down of 311 complaints and discussion of health impacts.)*

### **Public Safety**

The serious crime rate in CD 3 was 13.8 serious crimes per 1,000 residents in 2020, compared to 11.55 serious crimes per 1,000 residents citywide.<sup>89</sup>

Crime between January to June across precincts 5,7, and 9 increased slightly (5 percent) from 2020 to 2021. In January to June 2021, precinct 5 experienced a total of 294 crimes committed (332 in 2020), precinct 7 a total of 371 crimes committed (355 in 2020), and precinct 9 experienced a total of 551 crimes committed (473 in 2020). There was an increase of murders, rapes, grand larceny, and grand larceny auto across all three precincts.<sup>90</sup> *(See appendix for full 2021 YTD crime data.)*

There has been a significant increase in the number of complaints to the Community Board regarding open drug use and other crime. However, the current COVID-19 crisis makes it impossible to predict what the situation will be for the 2022 Fiscal Year. There is a need for stronger and more streamlined communication between the NYPD, Department of Corrections, and other city agencies in relation to CD 3.

### **Nightlife and Licensing**

Since March 2020, CD 3 has struggled to adapt to a changing environment as a consequence of COVID-19. While CD 3 is a primarily residential district, it has one of the highest volumes of licensed eating and drinking businesses of any community district in the City. Eating and drinking businesses within CD 3 have been hard hit by the pandemic. CD 3 is currently seeing many new applications for vacant storefronts as well as at locations for existing businesses. The community is also dealing with outdoor dining that has revitalized the community. Unfortunately, it appears that many businesses do not comply with outdoor dining guidance and there has been complete lack of enforcement as a designated City policy. The Community Board is receiving many complaints regarding noise—especially because of

---

<sup>86</sup> NYC Street Tree Map, 2021. < <https://tree-map.nycgovparks.org/tree-map/neighborhood/340>>

<sup>87</sup> USDA Resource Bulletin. (2018). *The Urban Forest of New York City*. In <<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/57234>> and <[https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rb/rb\\_nrs117.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rb/rb_nrs117.pdf)>

<sup>88</sup> New York City 311 Service Requests. (2021). NYC Open Data. <<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/311-Service-Requests-from-2010-to-Present/erm2-nwe9>>

<sup>89</sup> Furman Center. (2021). State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2020. <<https://furmancenter.org/neighborhoods/view/lower-east-side-chinatown>>

<sup>90</sup> NYPD CompStat2.0 < <https://compstat.nypdonline.org/2e5c3f4b-85c1-4635-83c6-22b27fe7c75c/view/89>>

unpermitted amplified sound associated with outdoor dining and lack of enforcement.

The yearly commercial noise complaints and reopening complaints for CD 3 have significantly increased between pre-COVID years (FY 2019) and post-COVID years (FY 2021). There was an increase of 5,728 total complaints resulting in a 108% increase.<sup>91</sup> See chart below.

<b>Commercial/Business Noise Complaints (311 Calls)<sup>91</sup></b>					
	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>% Change (FY19 - FY21)</b>
<b>Noise – Commercial</b> (loud music/talking)	3641	3007	2087	2756	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Noise - Street/Sidewalk</b> (loud talking/music/party)	2445	2289	3288	6165	<b>169%</b>
<b>Noncompliance w/ Phased Reopening</b>	..	..	83	2103	<b>..</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6086</b>	<b>5296</b>	<b>5458</b>	<b>11024</b>	<b>108%</b>

These conditions have highlighted the ongoing issues associated with allowing numerous licensed businesses within a small area. Complaints related to nightlife are difficult to resolve because no agency has sole jurisdiction over noisy crowds and loud music, traffic congestion and horn honking outside businesses. The SLA, which issues licenses and has jurisdiction over license compliance, has limited investigation and enforcement abilities and expects the NYPD to document and enforce noise and other quality of life problems caused by licensed businesses. Yet conditions resulting from the saturation of nightlife businesses are often not criminal and are thus not prioritized by police, or the police do not have the resources to adequately address these conditions.

CD 3 needs coordinated and effective oversight and enforcement between City and State agencies to address the high volume of liquor licenses in primarily residential areas which has led to many conflicts between residents and commercial establishments and a diminished quality of life, as well as chronic noncompliant businesses that violate State and local laws and their individual liquor license stipulations.

### **Sidewalk Cafés**

Sidewalk cafés enhance street vitality but also create congestion and noise by extending businesses to otherwise public sidewalks. Sidewalk cafés also push waiting patrons into smaller areas of public sidewalk, often forcing pedestrians navigating around patrons into the street. Permittees often illegally increase the footprint of their cafes and allow wait staff to serve customers from the sidewalk, which also encroaches on public sidewalk space. Licensing has been temporarily suspended until 2023, at which time jurisdiction will transition to DOT with new guidelines. It is hoped that Department of Consumer Affairs and DOT staffing will be adequate to inspect, educate, and enforce new guidelines for public sidewalks and roadbeds.

As the City and State sought to lessen restrictions placed on businesses after the stay-at-home order, eating and

<sup>91</sup> “New York City 311 Service Requests.” (2021). NYC Open Data. <<https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Social-Services/311-Service-Requests-from-2010-to-Present/erm2-nwe9>>

drinking businesses were allowed to open outdoor dining areas contiguous to the businesses and/or on the streets in front of businesses. The City elected to continue this use permanently. This outdoor dining, which has effectively expanded sidewalk seating in areas where sidewalk cafés were permitted and created sidewalk seating in areas where there were no permits, has exacerbated noise and patron crowds on the sidewalks and streets around businesses, as well as further encroached on diminishing public walkways. These conditions have highlighted the need for all-hours enforcement of outdoor dining areas and cafés.

To address sidewalk café issues, CB 3 requests that:

- DOT create rules to distinguish between sidewalk cafes for bars and sidewalk cafes for restaurants. This would allow communities to identify appropriate locations where sidewalk cafes will not conflict with residential living.
- DOT create rules for evaluating sidewalk cafe applications that would examine the clearance needed at the proposed location in relation to the existing sidewalk congestion, as well as the 8- foot sidewalk clearance, including locations near subway entrances or bus stops, to ensure sufficient sidewalk access for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs.
- DOT use flex time, rotating shifts and other creative methods to monitor and enforce existing sidewalk café regulations at times when violations are most often occurring, such as on weekends and in the evenings.
- DCA consider earlier closing hours for sidewalk cafes in residential areas.

## Appendix

### Street Homelessness

There were 16 homeless encampment sweeps on Jan. 19, a week before the start of the HOPE 2021 count, followed by 14 on Jan. 22 and again on Jan. 23. On Jan. 26, the first day of the count, city officials performed 20 sweeps, according to records. In contrast, the city conducted about 3.7 sweeps per day in 2020, more than double the number in 2019.<sup>92</sup>

### Noise Complaints

<b>CD 3 Noise Complaints (311 Calls)</b>					
	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>% Change (FY19 - FY21)</b>
<b>Noise - Commercial</b>	3641	3007	2087	2756	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Noise - Helicopter</b>	57	92	137	459	<b>399%</b>
<b>Noise - Misc, Including Construction After Hours</b>	2210	2045	1528	1522	<b>-26%</b>
<b>Noise - Park</b>	222	186	128	451	<b>142%</b>
<b>Noise - Residential</b>	5636	6032	7945	11293	<b>87%</b>
<b>Noise - Street/Sidewalk</b>	2445	2289	3288	6165	<b>169%</b>
<b>Noise - Vehicle</b>	753	591	595	1375	<b>133%</b>
<b>Noncompliance w/ Phased Reopening</b>	..	..	83	2103	<b>..</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>14964</b>	<b>14242</b>	<b>15791</b>	<b>26124</b>	<b>83%</b>

<sup>92</sup> Br, D. (2021, May 20). *NYC Touts Drop in Street Homelessness, But Advocates Say Count Obscures Extent of Crisis*. City Limits. <https://citylimits.org/2021/05/20/nyc-touts-drop-in-street-homelessness-but-advocates-say-count-obscures-extent-of-crisis/>

<b>311 Noise Complaints - Commercial</b>				
--	--	--	--	--

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>10002</b>	<b>10003</b>	<b>10009</b>	<b>10013</b>
<b>FY 2018</b>	1796	465	1357	22
<b>FY 2019</b>	1396	429	1094	83
<b>FY 2020</b>	810	348	886	40
<b>FY 2021</b>	1215	563	917	58
<b>Pre- to Post-Pandemic Change</b>	-181	+134	-177	-25

<b>311 Noise Complaints – Residential</b>				
---	--	--	--	--

<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>10002</b>	<b>10003</b>	<b>10009</b>	<b>10013</b>
<b>FY 2018</b>	2265	816	2409	29
<b>FY 2019</b>	2319	878	2642	52
<b>FY 2020</b>	2701	1040	3928	88
<b>FY 2021</b>	4028	2722	4104	133
<b>Pre- to Post-Pandemic Change</b>	+1709	+1844	+1462	+81

311 Noise Complaints - Street/Sidewalk				
Zip Code	10002	10003	10009	10013
FY 2018	1120	294	967	33
FY 2019	1026	300	879	30
FY 2020	1491	301	1315	47
FY 2021	2426	645	2883	79
Pre- to Post-Pandemic Change	+1400	+345	+2004	+49

### Health Impacts of Pollution

This appendix explains in more detail the health impacts of various types of pollution mentioned in the body of the District Needs statement:

#### Airborne particulate matter

PM2.5 (Fine Particulate Matter) is the most harmful urban air pollutant, worsening respiratory and cardiovascular disease, and causing hospital admissions and deaths.<sup>93</sup>

Up to 20 percent of PM2.5 is BC (Black Carbon), which is associated with cancer and birth defects.<sup>94</sup>

#### Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) - Nitric Oxide, and Nitrogen Dioxide

NOx are linked to increased emergency department visits and hospitalizations for respiratory conditions, particularly asthma.<sup>95</sup>

NOx also reacts with other compounds in the atmosphere to form PM2.5 and ozone.<sup>96</sup>

#### Noise Pollution

Noise pollution in the community, even at levels that are too low to cause hearing loss, can affect mental and physical health.<sup>97</sup> In young children, exposure to noise can cause problems with reading comprehension, concentration, memory and attention span.<sup>98</sup> Extended exposure to noise can increase the risk of high blood pressure, and stress related illnesses.<sup>99</sup>

<sup>93</sup> New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS) - *Neighborhood Air Quality 2008-2018* <<https://nyc-ehs.net/nyccas2020/web/report>>

<sup>94</sup> Ibid

<sup>95</sup> New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS) - *Neighborhood Air Quality 2008-2018* <<https://nyc-ehs.net/nyccas2020/web/report>>

<sup>96</sup> Ibid

<sup>97</sup> NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) - <<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/noise.page>>

<sup>98</sup> EPA – *Noise and Its Effect on Children* <[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/ochp\\_noise\\_fs\\_rev1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-07/documents/ochp_noise_fs_rev1.pdf)>

<sup>99</sup> EPA - *Clean Air Act Overview* <<https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-title-iv-noise-pollution>>

### Park Inspections & Rat Burrow Counts for the Manhattan Rat Mitigation Zone – Spring 2021

Park	Jul 2019 burrow count	Aug 2019 burrow count	Sep 2019 burrow count	Oct 2019 burrow count	Nov 2019 burrow count	Dec 2019 burrow count	Mar/April 2021 burrow count	May 2021 burrow count
ABC Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abe Lebewohl Park	2	3	2	0	0	3	1	0
Ahearn Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen Mall One	19	44	11	14	0	22	No data	No data
Baruch Playground	2	10	0	0	31	no access	0	2
Captain Jacob Joseph Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbus Park	5	18	4	6	12	2	4	19
Cooper Triangle	0	0	0	0	1	1	13	2
Dry Dock Playground	2		2	0	0	0	3	7
First Park	11	6	8	4	11	6	11	10
Gustave Hartman Square	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton Fish Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry M. Jackson Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
James Madison Plaza	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	2
John V. Lindsay East River Park	72	46	40	50	23	39	18	37
Joseph C. Sauer Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kimlau Square	3	9	0	2	3	5	0	0
Lower East Side Playground	4	2	4	0	5	0	0	0
Luther Gulick Playground	0	3	5	0	1	4	0	0
McKinley Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nathan Straus Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peretz Square	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	2
Playground One	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sara D. Roosevelt Park	40	43	44	7	3	11	19	29
Seward Park	33	35	10	8	2	5	2	15
Sidney Hillman Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sol Lain Plgd	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Sophie Irene Loeb	0	4	0	1	4	3	0	6
St. James Triangle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Straus Square	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15
Tompkins Square Park	16	25	26	49	58	4	26	11
Wald Playground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### NORCs in Community District 3

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
VILLAGE VIEW	UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK	189 ALLEN STREET	10002
HAMILTON MADISON KNICKERBOCKER NORC	HAMILTON MADISON HOUSE INC	36 MONROE STREET	10002
EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE CO OP VILLAGE NORC	THE EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE INC	465 GRAND STREET	10002
GRAND STREET SETTLEMENT Elder Services - NORC Program	GRAND STREET SETTLEMENT	72 Columbia Street	10002
HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT – VLADECK CARES NORC	HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT	265 Henry Street	10002
HAMILTON MADISON ALFRED SMITH HOUSE NORC	HAMILTON MADISON INC	50 Madison Street	10038

**Crime in Community District 3 (January – June 2021)<sup>100</sup>**

CRIME	Precinct 5			Precinct 7			Precinct 9		
	YTD 2020	YTD 2021	% Change	YTD 2020	YTD 2021	% Change	YTD 2020	YTD 2021	% Change
Murder	0	2	+200%	0	0	--	1	2	+100%
Rape	6	9	+50%	3	5	+67%	3	10	+233%
Robbery	29	24	-17%	51	26	-49%	38	54	+42%
Felony Assault	68	54	-20%	49	71	+45%	76	68	-11%
Burglary	99	36	-64%	70	45	-36%	124	137	+11%
Grand Larceny	124	154	+24%	168	194	+16%	216	248	+15%
Grand Larceny Auto	6	15	+150%	14	30	+114%	15	32	+113%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>+5%</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>+17%</b>

<sup>100</sup> NYPD CompStat2.0 < <https://compstat.nypdonline.org/2e5c3f4b-85c1-4635-83c6-22b27fe7c75c/view/89>>