

District Needs Statement

Community Board 7/Manhattan

FY2019

October 31, 2017



Manhattan Community Board 7 (“MCB7”) serves the residents, institutions, businesses, visitors, and other stakeholders of Manhattan’s Upper West Side. We hold as our guiding context the following core principles:

INCLUSION: valuing diversity, consideration of others, and promotion of the common good.

QUALITY OF LIFE: pursuing the availability and continuous improvement of resources, infrastructure, public space, programs, services, and economic, socio-cultural, and educational opportunities that foster safe and active healthy living for all.

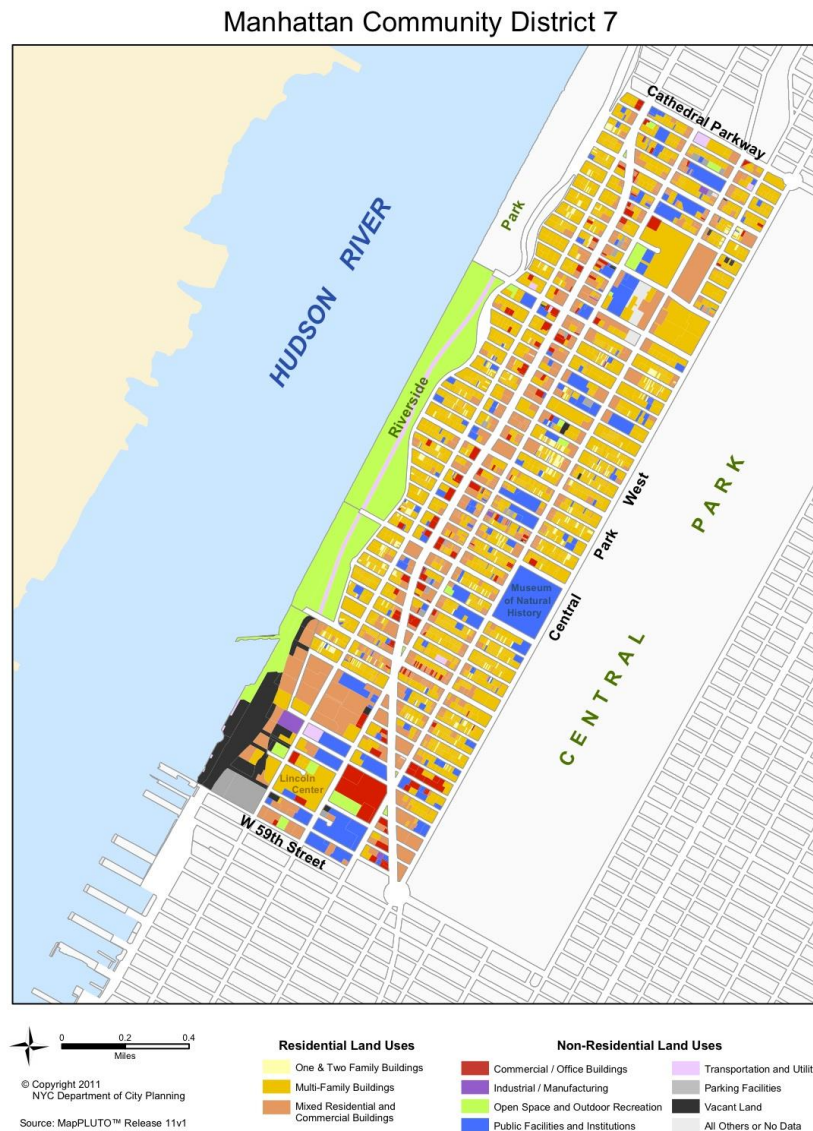
SUSTAINABILITY: respecting those who came before us, and those who have yet to arrive; promoting policies and practices that are economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable for generations to come.

INTERDEPENDENCE: understanding our place in the world, recognizing that our interests, resources, and actions connect us with communities and ecosystems across the globe; embracing policies and practices that allow all communities to thrive.

PARTICIPATION: fostering honest, transparent, responsive, and democratic governance, collaborative engagement, and the right of every person to be informed and heard, even in the context of respectful disagreement.

1.0 Geography and Demographics

Manhattan Community District 7 encompasses Manhattan’s Upper West Side, from 59th Street to 110th Street, Central Park West to the Hudson River, and includes approximately 1.9 square miles (1,222 acres) of prime New York City real estate. According to Census data, which may undercount certain demographic groups among our neighbors, our District is home to 211,073 people, supporting approximately 50% more people per acre than the average for Manhattan, and four times more people per acre than the average for New York City.



In addition to the residents who live in District 7, the Upper West Side attracts millions of visitors each year who come to enjoy its cultural institutions, parks, retail offerings, and architectural diversity. Central Park, the American Museum of Natural History, Lincoln Center, Time Warner Center, New-York Historical Society, and Riverside Park are popular destinations.

Central Park



American Museum of Natural History



Lincoln Center



Time Warner Center



New-York Historical Society



Riverside Park



1.1 Population Density

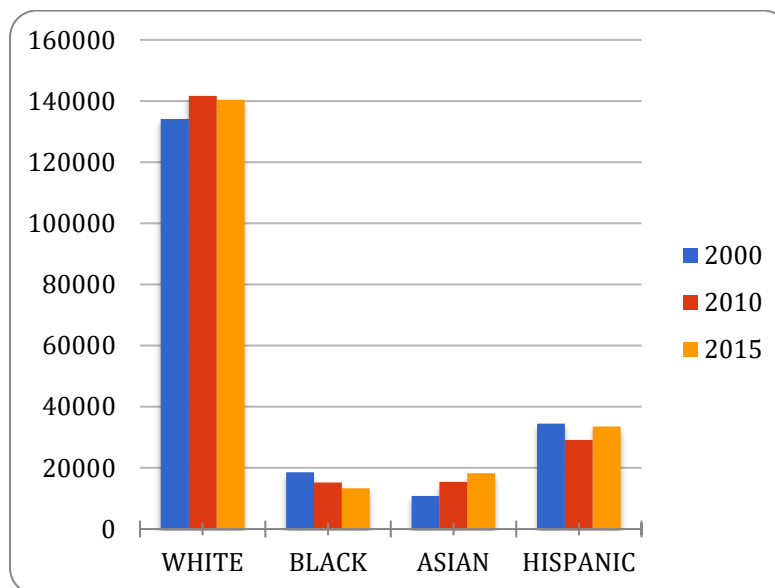
Although population has remained fairly stable over four decades, the geographic distribution of residents has shifted. According to Census tract data, approximately 6% fewer people live in the central part of the district (74th St. to 96th St.), while new development in the southern and northern ends of the district has attracted enough new residents to counter-balance that loss. Reliance on census data carries with it concerns relating to populations traditionally under-counted, which in turn are historically those at the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum, and which correlate with the perceived areas of population claimed to have been lost in the last decennial census. The undercounted populations are a particular concern because the inability to count them can result in a loss of services that are already scarce in a District that is perceived as affluent and where it is already a challenge to demonstrate need. Almost half (49%) of the occupied units in the district are one-person households.

Total Population	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
# of Residents	206,671	210,993	207,699	211,073	211,379
% Change		2.1	-1.6	1.6	1.4

1.2 Population Distribution

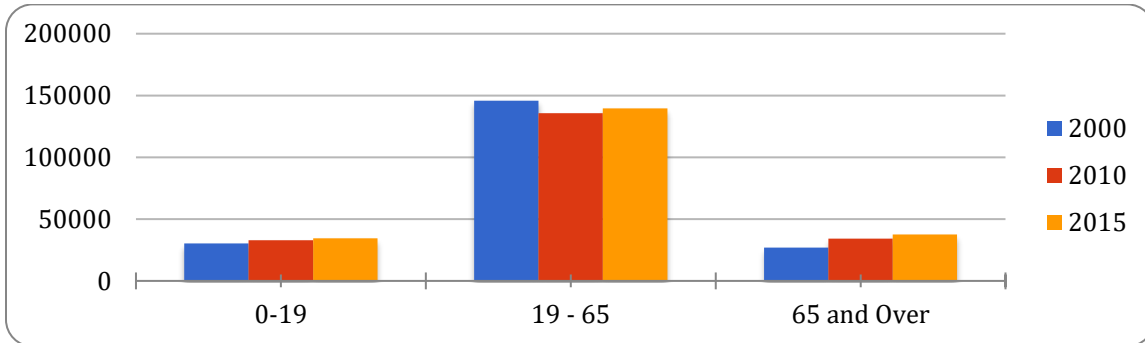
Although population has increased a modest 1.8% over the years 2000-2015, notable shifts occurred in the socioeconomic mix of the neighborhood. Those years saw an increase in the proportion of Caucasian residents (66% to 74%) and Asian residents (5.5% to 8.8%), while the proportion of Black and Latino residents initially decreased but has now rebounded (Black: 9% to 6% to 8.7%; Latino: 16.5% to 13.8% to 15.9%) (note that current demographic data reports Latino heritage in addition to other racial/ethnic groups, so the totals may appear to exceed 100%).

Race



Age

Similarly, there was a significant shift in age distribution. Over the years 2000-2015, adults of working ages 19-65 as a percentage of the overall Upper West Side population decreased by 4% (70.2% to 66.0%), while children and youth under 19 increased by 2% of the overall population (14.5% to 16.3%), and seniors over 65 increased by 4.7% of the overall population (13.0% to 17.7%). In fact, Community District 7 has the second highest concentration of residents over 65 in all of New York City.

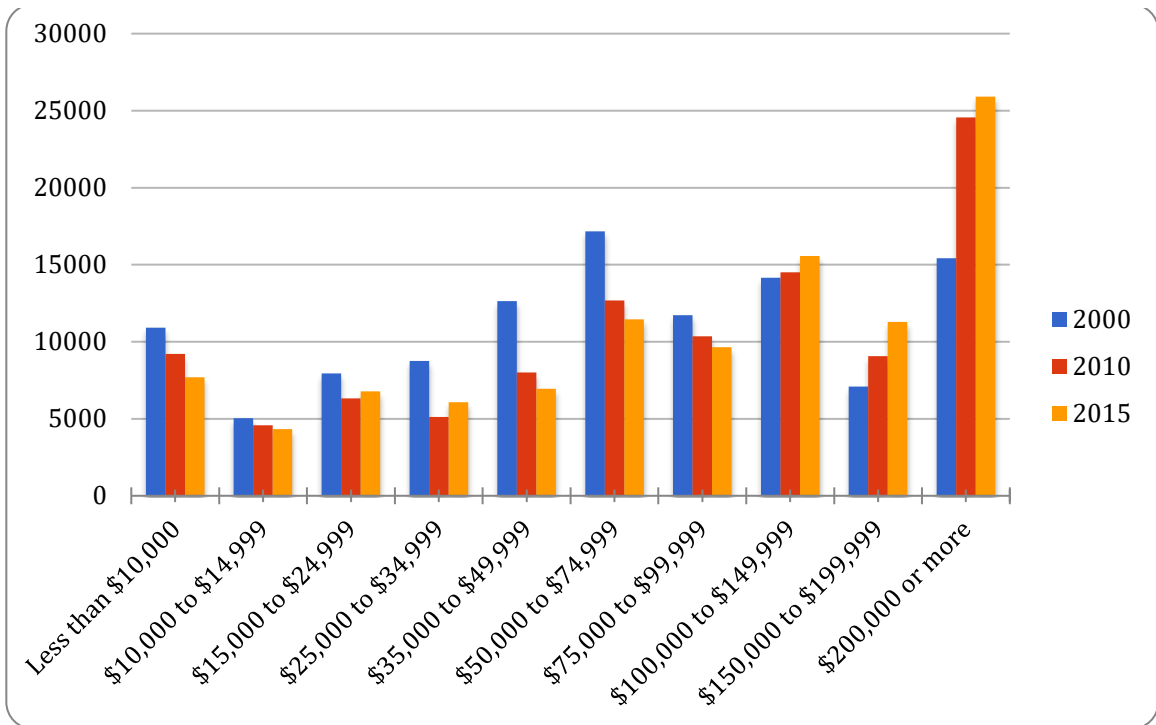


Income

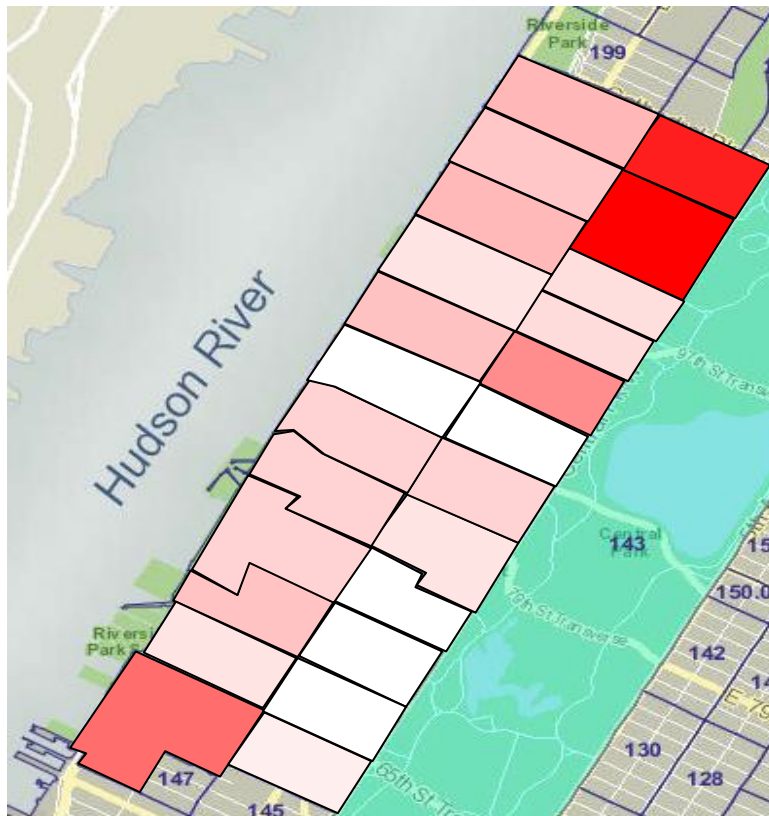
By far the most significant demographic shift occurred in the area of household income. Over the 2000-2010 decade, New York City has seen:

- The largest income gap in the US -- top 20% earn \$371,754, bottom 20% earn \$8,844.
- A 52% increase in homelessness from 31,000 to over 54,600.
- An increase in the poverty rate from 18% in 2007 to 21% in 2012.

In Community District 7, growth in the income gap is even more pronounced, with the proportion of top earning residents nearly doubling over the past decade. In 2012, median household income was estimated at \$99,000 for the Upper West Side, \$68,000 for Manhattan, \$52,000 for New York City, and \$58,000 for New York State.



However, despite a marked increase in average income, most residents would also confirm observable differences in income disparity, homelessness. Moreover, the pockets of poverty amid the affluence of the Upper West Side are increasingly concentrated in a very few areas within the District, as shown on the map below (with the deepest red corresponding to the areas of highest concentration of poverty).



2.0 Countervailing Trends: Rapid Development and Growing Pockets of Need

Since the 1980's, the Upper West Side has seen tremendous economic growth and development. Several factors, including easy access to transit (Subways 1,2,3,A,B,C,D and multiple bus lines), proximity to parks (Central Park and Riverside Park among others), strong public schools, and engaging street life make the district especially attractive to families, seniors, and people who want a short commute to Manhattan's business centers downtown.

During the economic upsurge of the mid-90's and early-00's, developers seized the opportunity to develop housing for a seemingly insatiable demand. Low-density buildings were replaced by luxury towers. Townhouses that were long ago divided into multiple units were (and continue to be) consolidated into single-family homes. Vacant lots (what few remained) were purchased and developed into large-scale, mixed-use complexes. Plans were approved in December 2010 to develop the last significant open lot in the district (at 59th and 11th Avenue) into Riverside Center, a 3 Million SF mixed-use complex with 2,500 residential units, commercial storefronts at the ground floor, landscaped open space, and a 100K SF school, which complex when fully occupied will increase district population by approximately 3-4% (not reflected in this report). The first of the five buildings approved for development is in the process of being occupied; a second is nearing completion, and the remaining three are in active construction. Those buildings are a block away from two additional new large-scale luxury residential towers recently completed on Fordham's Lincoln Center campus, as well as many other family-friendly new residential construction projects in the vicinity.

The construction boom continues unabated in the district. A developer is currently proceeding with a proposal to build a residential tower that will exceed 660 feet in height on the former site of the Lincoln Square Synagogue at 200 Amsterdam Avenue, although there are on-going disputes about that project.

Brownstone Conversions



New Construction



In certain areas, the average price per square foot increased from \$300/SF in 1990 to more than \$1000/SF in 2015.

Despite rapid development and related improvements, many areas throughout the district continue to languish. So called "pockets of poverty" make up at least 10% of the population and experience unemployment rates over 10%, high school graduation rates under 10%, high instances of obesity, diabetes, and other health problems, and a disproportionate rate of crime (10% vs. 25%). Historically,

certain City support services for the economically disadvantaged have overlooked pockets of poverty surrounded by affluence, making the experience of this segment of our population all the more heartbreaking as well as increasingly difficult to serve. Recent efforts to more equitably allocate City support services are gaining traction, particularly in support services to infants, children and youth, and constant oversight and vigilance is needed to ensure that these gains are not rescinded in subsequent years' budgets.

3.0 Issues and Opportunities

While rapid economic growth added high-end housing capacity, increased commercial activity, and improved quality of life for many in the district, it has also produced challenges. Resources, support systems, and opportunities for youth, seniors, and low- to middle-class residents have actually declined. Various impacts and related recommendations are outlined below.

3.1 Housing

	Total Units	Occupied	Vacant	% Vacant	Median Price \$M	% Change
1990	125,807	115,703	10,104	8%	\$1.45	333%
2000	121,834	114,262	7,572	6%	\$2.95	103%
2010	122,145	110,246	11,899	10%	\$5.54	84%
2015	144,105	124,897	19,208	13.3%	\$1.02	-79.9%
25-Yr Trend	14.545	7.95%	90.10%		-29.6%	

As of 2010, of 110,246 occupied units, 34,555 (31.3%) are owned and 75,691 (68.7%) are rented, of which 66% (or 50,078 units) are subject to some form of rent regulation. As housing values have increased, so has the income of the occupants. In 2010, median household income had risen to \$93,260, with average household income at \$164,244 (approximately 35% higher than the average for Manhattan, and 116% higher than the average for New York City). Interestingly, despite high incomes, a significant number of both renters and owners spend more than 50% of their income on rent or maintenance fees.

Affordable Housing: New York City’s affordable housing programs recognize that economic diversity brings strength and stability to our community. The broad spectrum of housing stock enhances the character and sustainability of our neighborhoods. In addition to providing housing for the many people who maintain our community, affordable housing increases opportunities for shopkeepers, service providers and employees to live in this community, and reduces traffic congestion, pollution and infrastructure wear and tear. MCB7 calls for the preservation of affordable units, the creation of new affordable units, and the elimination of decontrol of existing units.

The stock of affordable housing in the district has decreased at an alarming rate. Policy changes that introduced “luxury” decontrol (the elimination of rent protection for occupants whose rent reaches \$2,700

and whose incomes reach the threshold amount) make no allowance for the age of the tenants. Once rent control disappears under decontrol the unit is lost to affordable housing forever. Retirees who lost their affordable unit because of higher income levels may have diminished income and be unable to afford market rate units and not be able to find affordable housing.

Luxury decontrol virtually ensures that: 1) regulated rents are unavailable to most new tenants; and 2) that lower and moderate income tenants in rent regulated apartments face escalating rents that will make the apartments increasingly unaffordable. MCB7 urges that housing programs including: Mitchell Lama, Tenant Interim Lease (TIL), 80/20, LISC, HDFC, RAD and other collaborative private/public programs be strengthened and expanded. In addition, MCB7 calls for the repeal of the Urstadt Law, thereby allowing NYC to assume direct responsibility to manage its affordable housing crisis.

SRO Buildings: MCB7 is home to more than 200 single room occupancy (SRO) buildings with 13,364 dwelling units, most of them do not contain a kitchen or bathroom. These units are often the most affordable options for young singles, older veterans, the chronically ill, the formerly homeless and the hardcore poor. Over 25,000 people, over 10% of the district qualify for SRO housing using the low income benefit categories of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. Economic growth has motivated many SRO owners to convert their buildings (often contrary to zoning regulations) from affordable permanent dwellings into transient hotels that serve an increasing number of tourists in search of budget lodgings, depriving those eligible and in need of rent regulated affordable housing of a stock of affordable homes.

Subsidized, Stabilized, and Supportive Housing: Every person who works in the community should be able to afford to live within the community in a safe, secure home which has access to heat, clean running water, sanitation, as well as fresh and healthy food, day care, health care, psychological support, education, cultural enrichment, online resources, and recreational opportunities within a 10-minute walk from their home.

Expanded Affordable Housing: The decline in local affordable housing requires exploration of additional supplemental sources. This can include small-scale apartments and “boarding flats.”

Middle Class Housing: There has been an equally significant reduction in the availability of housing that is accessible to the middle class. Rents are at an all-time high, making our neighborhoods virtually inaccessible to young adults (including those who cannot afford to live in the communities in which they grew up), young families, and retirees. New construction largely creates residential units that sell or rent at luxury rates beyond the reach of the middle class. The lack of housing affordable to the middle class adds to the polarization of our community and society.

Rent-Stabilization Services: Thousands of seniors and residents who are eligible for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption ("SCRIE") and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption ("DRIE") are not currently enrolled in those programs. There are opportunities for community outreach and informational sessions to ensure that every resident is getting the services they need.

Abusive and Law-Breaking Landlords: residents remain unaware of their options for recourse in the event of an abusive or law-breaking landlord. The largest issues are

1. Information deficit—residents lack knowledge of potential services, and enter into contracts with landlords known to be abusive. There are opportunities to create new programs to rate building managers and to inform potential residents of existing problems and services.
2. Resource deficit—if residents require the use of a lawyer, they often can't afford said services.
3. Right to Counsel – thanks to 2017 legislation, tenants facing eviction and who meet certain income tests are eligible to have an attorney represent them in Landlord/Tenant Court free of charge.

Warehousing and Illegal Rentals: affordable housing units are lost due to warehousing and illegal short term rentals.

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)

Public Housing Stock: The district includes three large-scale developments managed by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): Amsterdam Houses, Fredrick Douglass Houses and Wise Towers, with a total of 6,166 units, as well as numerous individual buildings and collections of townhouses also under NYCHA's jurisdiction. NYCHA and its residents face myriad challenges, including: the need for improved security, facility repairs, sanitation resident services, and inadequacies in the programs for youth and seniors. Lack of resources – both for capital needs and operating expenses, as well as a dearth of accessible and accurate data, make it difficult to consistently address problems in a timely manner. Compounding these problems is a convoluted and labyrinthine process for trouble-shooting and redressing on-going maintenance needs.

NYCHA residents on The Upper West Side face several unique challenges and have received limited support. One unexplored opportunity is to develop significantly closer working relationships with tenant leaders, advocates, and non-profit service organizations who work to serve NYCHA residents, such as Community Voices Heard, Make the Road, the Community Service Society, and Good Old Lower East Side.



MCB7 requests that the City develop an effective data collection and response system for NYCHA developments. Funding is critical to sustain programs for 1), DFTA's senior centers and Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), 2) space for after school and child care programs, and 3) community centers. Additionally, MCB7 request that the City convene a federal/state local task force to address NYCHA'S persistent structural deficit. Every effort needs to be made to deal with the looming crisis in funding for NYCHA housing.

A positive development has been the effort to redesign the NYCHA website to be more user-friendly, and to contain links to information that might otherwise be available only after a long wait on telephone hold or at the Management Office of a NYCHA complex.

MCB7 is concerned about recurring proposals for infill on NYCHA campuses (a potential mix of affordable, senior or market rate housing). It is crucial to have unified plan in advance to preserve open space for children and residents, and spaces for programing for children and seniors. Planning must also include looking at the uptick in gang activity and violence in our District centered on youth living in or visiting NYCHA buildings.

RAD and PACT: MCB7 is also closely monitoring the evolution of proposals to convert the management of certain NYCHA buildings, initially on a pilot program basis, under the Rental Assistance Demonstration ("RAD") program for buildings that are funded in part through federal funding, and the Permanent Affordability Commitment Together ("PACT") program for units that were not built or funded with federal dollars. These proposals seek to replace funding streams that the federal government has abandoned with active funding streams under Section 8 to take a small but important step toward reducing the persistent under-funding of public housing at every level of government.

Management and Repairs: Desperately-needed maintenance and renovation has not occurred. In particular, safety and security upgrades (cameras and doors, including broken fire doors which cannot be opened), building upgrades (elevators, electrical, plumbing), and apartment repairs (pipes, leaks, mold, pests) have been ignored and neglected.

Elevator failures, floods, and electrical outages are routine and no investigations are performed. Repairs are left to the residents to fight to obtain on their own. No resident should be forced to live in an apartment with mold, vermin, or consistent long-term repair issues.

NYCHA managers and staff are rarely held accountable. Video camera footage is not being used to improve building safety. City agencies refuse to inspect NYCHA properties or issue violations to protect the status quo. Violation notices should force repairs. This often fails to occur.

Assistance for Residents: Many NYCHA residents are frequently forced to work through Housing Court to get repairs and other assistance. However, many lack the expertise to utilize that system, or don't know about it at all. Families often face difficulties or eviction when working to upsize or downsize their apartment, or when undergoing transitions such as a family member entering a nursing home.

Common and Recreational Areas: Many NYCHA residents have been denied the opportunity to use their common spaces, especially for tenant meetings. Open spaces, including playgrounds, have been closed off or are in disrepair.

Budget Priorities for Housing

Expense:

NYC Housing Authority

Additional funds for skilled trades personnel and resident skilled trades training at Amsterdam Houses, Frederick Douglass Houses, Wise Towers Consolidated and DeHostos.

NYCHA developments in CD7 have a significant backlog of repair requests in residents' apartments. Repairs are made when there are enough of them to warrant the issuance of a contract. Having skilled trades (plumbers, electricians, carpenters) do the work at these developments would result in timely repairs, a reduction of the backlogs and increased well-being for the residents. Furthermore, more resources need to be put into training NYCHA residents to fill the jobs that should be directed at addressing the backlog of repair requests. (FY08#5; FY09#7; FY10#12; FY11#11; FY12#13; FY13#14; FY14#4; FY15#9; FY16#5; FY17#4; FY18#5; FY19#2)

NYC Housing Preservation and Development

Funding for dedicated staff to monitor affordable housing.

The pernicious erosion of the stock of affordable housing in our District and across our City continues apace. Recent efforts to build or preserve affordable housing requires benchmarks and a watchdog equal to the importance of the issue. CB7 calls for HPD to create a dedicated position whose purpose and activities would be dedicated to maintaining an inventory of affordable housing of each type, and to tracking the net addition or loss of units. (FY19#8.)

Capital:

NYC Housing Preservation & Development

Create more affordable permanent supportive housing and prevent evictions due to attrition of affordable units.

Ensuring that services and skilled personnel are available to those in need is essential to preventing homelessness and maintaining the stock of affordable housing so desperately needed in our City. (FY17#12; FY18#13; FY19#11.)

NYC Housing Authority

Plumbing and sewer systems. \$25M

Allocate funding to upgrade plumbing and sewer systems at Wise Consolidation Housing Complexes and Douglass Houses. 38 brownstones at Wise are using outdated Cooper B Union Shower Bodies long past their 60-year expiration. (FY18#19; FY19#21.)

3.2 Public Schools, Libraries, and Resources for Youth

- Estimated that more than 22,000 students are enrolled in public schools in the District, from pre-K through high school
- Public school enrollment in the District in 2016-17 included:
 - 8,172 in elementary grades
 - 3,710 in middle school
 - 8,511 in high school
 - 649 in a co-located Charter School
- More than 7,500 students enrolled in over 35 private/parochial pre-K, elementary and secondary schools
- Six colleges and post-secondary institutions.

Elementary Schools

Overcrowding and Uncertainty Create Instability

Overcrowding of our elementary schools in the southern portion of Community District 7 (which corresponds to the southern portion of Community School District 3) has been a pernicious plague for more than a decade. Five of the seven schools in this portion of the District have been operating near or above capacity since at least 2009, with one school actively controlling its enrollment to squeeze into the inadequate co-located footprint to which it was assigned, and only one school with available capacity. Several of those schools have long had in-zone waiting lists for kindergarten enrollment, and until the current academic year, at least one school in this area had one of the longest waiting lists in the entire City system.

Uncertainty as to the location and nature of the elementary school which young children will attend is a destabilizing force on the sustainability and cohesiveness of the community. Frustration with the inability to plan, and with the lack of assurance that residing in a particular area will result in enrollment at the nearest public school, and without adequate access to information or assistance in the process, creates ripple effects ranging from families leaving the public school system for private school or the suburbs to a lack of involvement or engagement among those who decide or have no option but to remain in the system.

Diversity and Inequity of Access

CSD3 includes the Upper West Side section of Community District 7, and continues to the southern portion of Central Harlem. Taken as a whole, CSD3 is among the most diverse districts in the public school system, whether measured by race, ethnicity, socio-economic status or other relevant measures. Yet few if any individual schools in CSD3 mirror that diversity.

One of the direct results of the segregation of CSD3 schools is a wide and growing disparity in resources available among schools. This gulf in funding is a result of several factors, including (a) since funding follows enrollment, the schools with highest enrollment have greater funding; (b) Title I funding, which is intended to address the effects on achievement due to poverty, is administered in the City of New York in a way that leaves many schools, including schools in CSD3 and District 7, with significant populations of low-income students but no corresponding funding; (c) many of the schools in the southern portion of the District that enjoy relatively affluent parent bodies are able to raise significant

funds to supplement the educational experiences in their schools; and (d) charter school co-location creates downward pressure on the ability to expand enrollment in certain schools in CSD3, primarily in Central Harlem, that inhibit the ability to attract and retain public school students and thus attain a critical enrollment mass that would optimize the school's budget.

The Community Education Council for CSD3 initiated a rezoning process, to which the Department of Education responded, in January 2015. The DoE initially envisioned the rezoning solely as aimed at solving the perennial overcrowding and in-zone waiting list problems at the schools in the southern portion of CSD3 most affected by overcrowding.

Expanding the Rezoning Conversation

Through a robust community engagement process, coupled with progressive leadership from the CEC members, the conversation regarding rezoning was expanded to include efforts to address the lack of diversity in the schools in the southern portion of the District. The CEC3 Zoning Committee met dozens of times between January 2015 and November 2017, including many months with multiple meetings.

Community Controlled Choice

The Zoning Committee devoted two evening meetings to hearing presentations concerning Community Controlled Choice, an admissions program used in other communities around the country that makes all schools in a region available to all families (not just those within a prescribed geographic zone), and weights access to the school by a variety of factors including the even distribution of students based on socio-economic status, individual education plans for special education services, and English language learners.

The CEC Defines for the DoE the Rezoning Plan to be Implemented

After nearly 18 months of Zoning Committee and full Council meetings, the CEC summarized the issues presented, the competing concerns and interests, and its working understanding of the optimal plan to achieve the difficult and competing goals interwoven into the rezoning process through a letter to the DoE.

The plan eventually adopted by the CEC and implemented by the DoE included adjusting the catchment zone lines of 11 schools to attempt to address the overcrowding in one school without simply shifting it north to the next proximate school, and to re-arrange enrollment patterns so that the enrollment from areas in the District traditionally associated with families at the lower end of the socio-economic status spectrum were not all concentrated in one school.



The New Home of PS 191 – The Riverside School for Makers and Artists

The plan also included the re-siting of PS 191, the school serving the lowest SES population in the southern portion of the District, to the new facility about to open in Riverside Center (which has adequate capacity thanks to the results of the land use process as negotiated by then Council-Member Gale Brewer, then Borough President Scott Stringer, and CB7), and the re-siting of PS 452 (created in 2010 as a result of joint action by CEC3 and CB7) to the building being vacated by PS 191.

Early indications from the “K-Connect” kindergarten enrollment process for September 2017 admissions suggest that the active resistance of certain segments of the District population to the rezoning and re-siting plan have not translated into a refusal to enroll in the schools affected by the plan, and only one school (PS9) has an in-zone waiting list that is of a size that may require a directed effort to clear. A clearer picture of the effects of the rezoning plan will emerge after October 31, 2017, when the DoE closes its registers and a final enrollment picture for the 2017-18 year can be assessed.

Inequitable Distribution and Access to Resources

The issue of disparate resources remains an elusive issue. The increase in enrollment in PS 191 and PS 452 due to the rezoning to expand PS 191’s catchment, and the re-siting of PS 452 so that it can grow to three or four sections per grade (from its current two in grades 1-5) should provide additional resources to both schools. Structural disparities remain, especially between under-enrolled schools in Central Harlem and schools below West 110th Street that do not have access to parent funding at a scale that the southernmost schools enjoy.

The impact of disparate resources include the inability of some schools to offer enrichment or remedial help as needed; the repurposing of dedicated space for art, science or music to classroom space; and the ability to offer afterschool programming which is essential for many working families.

The process by which the physical plant and the technology and other equipment available at schools can be upgraded can be fraught with complexity and delay. Even if capital funding as identified as needed by the CEC were allocated, the procurement and supervision of such materials or work can take years to accomplish. In addition, since the capital funding is stretched thin, only the most dire needs of a school’s physical plant will be slated for replacement, and the balance of such needs would at best be the subject of interim repairs.

Data that could help inform meeting the dual goals of ensuring schools are enrolled at the right capacity and that all schools have equitable distributions of resources and of students that reflect the diversity of the overall District 3 community include detailed demographic information about the students in the District, including their eligibility for free or reduced lunch (the driver of a school's eligibility for Title I federal funds), the initial size of each school's in-zone waiting list for Kindergarten, the percentage of children in the community that do (or do not) use public schools, or who use public schools outside the District, and a breakdown within systems of the functionality of each public school building. In addition, very few of the public schools in District 3 are fully accessible by physically handicapped students, and there is no known timeline for addressing this inaccessibility.

Schools Threatened By Construction

At least two schools in our District are facing the consequences of proximity to enormous construction projects that are expected to interfere materially with their enrolment, programming and ultimately the sustainability of their respective unique identities. PS 163 is less than 30 feet away from the proposed site for the construction of a 275-foot tall nursing home facility, which the developer seeks to build on a former parking lot that both an Environmental Impact Statement and independent testing has confirmed is riddled with lead and other toxins. PS 75 is across the street from a proposed project seeking to build a 10-story luxury building directly on top of an existing 6-story structure most of whose apartments are subject to rent regulation. In both cases, the schools front some of the most heavily trafficked and dangerous roadways in Manhattan; the block for each was the scene of a driver killing at least one pedestrian in the last few years year. Each school has been left virtually to fend for itself against airborne toxins, the impending non-stop construction noise levels that will rival that of an airport for several years, and the release of dust and particulate matter that will exacerbate asthma and respiratory distress levels in student populations already greatly above the national and City averages.

Until the prospect of disruptive construction, both schools enjoyed robust enrolment from families zoned for other schools but who choose these schools due to their unique mixes of enrichment and remedial course offerings (for example, the highly successful ICE program at PS 75 which creates heterogeneous groupings of students with and without special needs, and the sought-after dual language immersion program at PS 163). The threat of the destruction of the learning environment especially for those who chose these schools has already resulted in families leaving the schools and enrolling elsewhere. The loss of the choice enrolment will threaten the economic and social viability of these valued programs, as well as the rich racial, economic and social diversity the schools seek through those programs.

While there is no currently available evidence that the same dangerous conditions that threaten PS 163 or 75 will similarly plague MS 54 in connection with the proposed redevelopment of three City-owned parcels on West 108th Street into affordable senior housing, MCB7 is seeking to provide both the school communities and the greater residential and business communities surrounding the site with complete information and opportunities to understand and be heard before any decisions relating to those proposals are made.

Middle Schools

The trend toward overcrowding in middle school grades appears to be abating or leveling off after years of projections showing it to be approaching the crisis proportions of the elementary school grades. DoE previously admitted that demand for middle school seats would soon eclipse capacity overall, and demand for certain types of middle school programs already far exceeds supply. DoE now claims that

this scarcity of middle school seats has not materialized. The change in this trend is partially explained by the opening of West End Secondary School (“WESS”), which will phase in to be a 6-12 middle and high school located in the former home of Beacon High School on West 61st Street across from the former home of PS 191.



West End Secondary School

While WESS conducted exhaustive outreach to the entirety of District 3, its ability to attract a student population that reflects the overall diversity of the District is the subject of on-going discussion and analysis.

The claimed reversal of the overcrowding trend at the middle school level may well be a reflection of the pernicious yearly uncertainty and exasperation over access to their zoned elementary schools, leading parents, especially those who have or can create other options, to leave the public school system and possibly the City altogether. This is actually further evidence of a crisis and not of any meaningful solution to the problems. The 2016 rezoning adopted by CEC3 is intended to restore certainty and predictability to this process. It is too early to tell whether the 2016 rezoning will provide these collateral benefits to middle school enrollment.

As with elementary schools in District 3 (especially those in the portion of District 3 above West 110th Street in Central Harlem and beyond the borders of Community District 7), middle schools face competition for space and students from co-located charter schools which admits students from outside District 3, and which have access to a host of resources (financial and in-kind) far beyond the reach of virtually any public school in the area.

High Schools

The impression that there is a scarcity of high school seats in our District is a function not of diminished capacity, although the repurposing of a portion of the former Brandeis High School to house a charter elementary school did reduce the inventory somewhat. Rather, that impression is a result of recent experience with students from our District being effectively foreclosed from five non-specialized public high schools in neighboring Community School District 2 who have admissions policies favoring students from that District. Since 2004, no public high school in Community School District 3 that

serves a general education population has such a geographic preference. The admissions preference that WESS will offer students who continue from its middle to high school grades will be the only, extremely limited exception to this experience when WESS phases in to those grades.

Two high schools in our District, the former Louis Brandeis and Martin Luther King High Schools, were once large schools that were closed and their space used to house several smaller high schools serving distinct populations. Ten of the 13 high schools in the District are housed in those two sites. Apart from the charter co-location noted above, this does not itself create a resource drain, although it does create a need for additional support and coordination of resources so they can enjoy the economies of scale experienced by larger schools.

The co-location of a charter elementary school in the Brandeis High School building has prevented the placement of additional high school seats in the district, and has physically segregated high school students within their own building.

Pre-K

Given the overcrowding in public school buildings in our District, the Mayor's signature program to expand pre-K in our District has not materially expanded access to pre-K seats housed within public school buildings. In fact, the need to accommodate elementary and middle school enrollment has necessitated repurposing pre-K classrooms at many schools and the reduction or elimination of pre-K programs or their relocation, leaving parents at a loss for pre-K seats in local schools precisely at the time that pre-K funding and awareness are at an all-time high.

The 2016 rezoning adopted by CEC3 together with the re-siting of PS 191 and PS 452 that are a part of that plan should create additional opportunities for pre-K at both schools.

For schools in parts of Community School District 3 that lie outside Community District 7, pre-K is an effective draw for enrollment, and the elimination of pre-K seats has been used as one of several means to create space then seized for co-locations of charter and other schools. While it is not reasonable to expect all pre-K seats needed for our District to be in public schools, forging a positive connection with families of young children builds community from the ground up and should be maximized to the extent possible.

The Mayor's announced priority for "3-K" – preschool for 3-year-olds, while welcome as a means to level playing fields among demographics and achievement, will struggle to find space for the number of seats that are anticipated to be needed. The UPK "Pre-K For All" initiative can barely keep pace with the demand for space in the current program.

Vulnerable Students

Changes made in the last five years to the funding streams targeting students with special needs have reduced resources available to schools, including zoned schools that are increasingly called upon to create inclusionary models that require additional staffing. One of the net results of the funding and curriculum changes whose implementation is nearing completion is the increase in class sizes for students for whom more individualized instruction is essential.

An assessment of the program is required to know whether its goal of placing special needs children in their zoned school is successful for those children, their families, and the overall school community.

Day Care and Head Start

The need for early childhood care beyond UPK continues to grow, and is crucial for working families. The Mayor's initiative to expand all-day pre-K and now to initiate "3-K" for three-year-olds, together with expanded Head Start programming, is funded under the Early Learn initiative, are proven drivers of achievement in school for years to come as well as stability for working families.

It is essential that the funding for these programs, baselined in FY15, continue at least at the current programming levels to deliver both the services families need as well as certainty essential to good planning by service providers, families and ancillary services.

In addition, many of ACS's programs are funded on a district-wide allocation based on indicia of need on a Census tract or zip code basis that continues to leave pockets of significant unmet need in our District for publicly-funded child care, pre-K and Head Start. Either an overall funding increase to the baseline, or reform of the allocation system, is needed to ensure those with equivalent needs have equivalent access to programs and services.

In addition, added vigilance will be needed to ensure that needs continue to be met as the responsibility for Early Learn programs transitions from ACS to the DoE.

The consequences of living in the shadow of wealth for day care and Head Start can mean diminished opportunities for employment or independence as well as a lag in school readiness. Local community agencies are often the best equipped to understand local families' issues. The new RFP process for early childcare agencies should give weighted consideration to a community agency with a history of delivering service in that area.

After-School Programs

After-school programs provide a range of educational, social and recreational services in a supervised community-based setting, and are essential for many working families who need to work well past dismissal time at most schools.

Afterschool programs ensure that children are safe in the hours between the end of school and the end of their families' workday, when they would otherwise be most vulnerable, and provide opportunities for remedial instruction, enrichment, and safe play. Certain of these same programs continue to provide these same safe and affirming environments during school breaks in the summer. Education and NYPD specialists have advised CB7 that an effective means to address increased gang and "crew" activity, especially in NYCHA campuses and adjacent parks and playgrounds, would be to have safe places for youth and teens to meet and spend time outside the influence of gang activity. DYCD has indicated that the most effective way to meet those needs would be through "Beacon" and similar afterschool programs.

The FY18 Budget as adopted provides substantial funding for afterschool and OST programs. In many cases, the funding allocations in certain districts has seen a net increase over prior years.

Creating a sustainable offerings to serve those most in need of afterschool and OST programs requires a multi-year approach, as additional capacity created in a single year may take time to fill notwithstanding waiting lists of underserved families and children. Among other things, some populations most in need of these services may not have immediate access to information about the availability of such

placements, and it may take time for a sense of reliability in planning for families to embrace these offerings.

It is therefore essential that the increased funding reflected in the FY18 Budget be continued and baselined into FY19 and beyond.

Youth Employment

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a significant resource for teens living at or near the poverty level, offering both a financial incentive as well as access to job-readiness skills, bankable work history, a sense of accomplishment and self-esteem, and relief from inactivity and doldrums (and the mischief to which idle hands can become prey). It has also been shown to improve school outcomes both in terms of attendance rates and grades the following year. In addition, without the availability of this work force, community-based organizations serving children and youth cannot meet their adult-to-child ratios, making those programs less effective.

SYEP has finally emerged from a 5-year period in which serial budget cuts all but decimated the program. Thanks to renewed and baselined funding, a record of over 70,000 youth were included in SYEP in the summer of 2017.



While such restorations still leave tens of thousands of applicants without a placement, DYCD estimates that it has exhausted the supply of host employers who can provide a meaningful experience.

Thus, the priority is to maintain baselined funding at the 70,000 position level, and to seek to innovate additional programs and means productively to occupy the youth who do not win placements in SYEP.

Public Libraries

CD7 is home to three NYPL branches and the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center. Local demand is increasing for a variety of library services, and our libraries have become even more important community centers, providing internet access for communications, job-search resources, and self-improvement and skill-building.



Bloomingdale Branch



St. Agnes Branch



Riverside Branch



Performing Arts Branch

The recent infrastructure repairs at the Bloomingdale branch, which have stabilized this aging structure, will still leave this branch in need additional significant investment for teen use, bathroom renovations, and a greater number of computers for public use, all desperately needed in a community that has experienced increased demand from successful outreach and from increased residential construction nearby. New carpeting and lighting are also still needed, as are dedicated computers and separate spaces for teens, children and older adult users.

In addition, the Bloomingdale Branch has recently reclaimed a large basement space that is ripe for investment and development into the types of uses such as programming, computer access and support for those using the branch libraries as conduits for job searches and understanding benefits and rights that this mixed-income community needs. Seizing this space and converting it to productive community use must be a priority, although the NYPL has no direct funding available for such a project.

Continuing current funding adequate to sustain a fully staffed 6-day schedule is essential, especially for providing vital resources to low-income residents. This funding is not baselined, and must be renewed annually. Moreover, the branch libraries in our district and beyond are still struggling with staffing levels that were set during the period of fiscal retraction after the economic downturn nearly a decade ago. The increased demand for a plethora of library and community services should be reflected in enhanced funding sufficient to reclaim the staffing lost to a previous era.

The Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center is a City-wide treasure of singular expertise and importance. Its facility is showing the wear of its frequent use and the demands that new technologies and new preservation techniques demand of its diverse collection. While the entire City that benefits from this extraordinary facility should likewise share in its restoration and upkeep, MCB7 is proud to take leadership roles in ensuring these needs are met for the present and future.

Budget Priorities for Schools, Libraries, and Youth

Expense:

New York Public Library

Increase Staff and Operating Budget. appx \$43M

While the operation of branch and research libraries have been stabilized, and 6-day service at most locations has been restored, after the drastic cuts to the NYPL operating budget in prior years, those restorations were made by the City Council, and were not baselined. In addition, only in the last one- to two years have branches begun to have sufficient budget room to begin to replace the professional staff lost to reductions and attrition during the lean years. In addition, with branch libraries increasingly serving as a lifeline to vulnerable constituents for services as varied as access to jobs and computer resources to research and recreational reading to safe havens for teens and youth, there is a palpable need for 7-day branch library service in our District. It is therefore critical that the lifeline that branch libraries represent to the entire community, from early childhood, struggling students, teens needing a safe environment outside school time, and adults learning skills or looking for work, that this funding be expanded to accommodate 7-day service, and be fully restored and baselined so that effective long-term planning can ensure these essential services are available to all. (FY14#23; FY15 #22; FY16 #16; FY17#12; FY18#13; FY19#4)

Department of Youth & Community Development

Maintain Funding for the number of Positions Available through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Summer Youth Employment Programs serve several compelling needs. They provide alternatives to gang influence for at-risk youth; provide models and pathways to employment; develop positive work habits and self-esteem; and virtually every dollar earned is spent in the community. In addition, without the availability of this work force, community-based organizations serving children and youth cannot meet their adult-to-child ratios, making those programs less effective. SYEP has finally emerged from a 5-year period in which serial budget cuts all but decimated the program. Thanks to renewed and baselined funding, a record of over 70,000 youth were included in SYEP in the summer of 2017.

While such restorations still leave tens of thousands of applicants without a placement, DYCD estimates that it has exhausted the supply of host employers who can provide a meaningful experience. Thus, the priority is to maintain baselined funding at the 70,000 position level, and to seek to innovate additional programs and means productively to occupy the youth who do not win placements in SYEP. (FY08#6; FY09#1; FY10 #6; FY11#13; FY12#6; FY13#7; FY14#18; FY15 #12; FY16#7; FY17#13; FY18#14; FY19#12.)

Department of Youth & Community Development

Maintain baseline funding for after-school and OST programs in public schools and in neighborhood CBOs in MCD7.

Afterschool programs ensure that children are safe in the hours between the end of school and the end of their families' work day, when they would otherwise be most vulnerable, and provide opportunities for

remedial instruction, enrichment, and safe play. Certain of these same programs continue to provide these same safe and affirming environments during school breaks in the summer. Education and NYPD specialists have advised CB7 that an effective means to address increased gang and “crew” activity, especially in NYCHA campuses and adjacent parks and playgrounds, would be to have safe places for youth and teens to meet and spend time outside the influence of gang activity. DYCD has indicated that the most effective way to meet those needs would be through “Beacon” and similar afterschool programs.

The FY18 Budget as adopted provides substantial funding for afterschool and OST programs. In many cases, the funding allocations in certain districts has seen a net increase over prior years. Creating a sustainable offerings to serve those most in need of afterschool and OST programs requires a multiyear approach, as additional capacity created in a single year may take time to fill notwithstanding waiting lists of underserved families and children. Among other things, some populations most in need of these services may not have immediate access to information about the availability of such placements, and it may take time for a sense of reliability in planning for families to embrace these offerings. It is therefore essential that the increased funding reflected in the FY18 Budget be continued and baselined into FY19 and beyond. (FY05#2; FY06#2; FY07#1; FY08#2; FY09#10; FY10 #3; FY11 #6; FY12# 8; FY13#10; FY14#7; FY15 #16; FY16 #11;FY17#6;FY18#7; FY19#15.)

Department of Education and Administration for Children's Services

Maintain Funding for Baselined Early Learn Programs, including UPK and Head Start.

Adequate child care is a necessity for working families. The Mayor's initiative to expand all-day pre-K, together with expanded Head Start programming, is funded under the Early Learn initiative, are proven drivers of achievement in school for years to come as well as stability for working families. It is essential that the funding for these programs, baselined in FY15, continue at least at the current programming levels to deliver both the services families need as well as certainty essential to good planning by service providers, families and ancillary services.

In addition, many of ACS's programs are funded on a district-wide allocation based on indicia of need on a Census tract or zip code basis that continues to leave pockets of significant unmet need in our District for publicly-funded child care, pre-K and Head Start. Either an overall funding increase to the baseline, or reform of the allocation system, is needed to ensure those with equivalent needs have equivalent access to programs and services. (FY05#3; FY06#1; FY07#2; FY08#9; FY09#4; FY10 #4; FY11 #19; FY12#10; FY13#12; FY14#15; FY15 #4; FY16 #25;FY17#9;FY18#9; FY19#16.)

Department of Education

Physical Fitness. \$110K

Regular physical fitness is acknowledged as necessary for both physical and mental well-being. Due to overcrowding and scheduling changes around curriculum pressures and testing, schools have reduced gym classes and recess time. Most school playgrounds operated by the Dept. of Education are locked after the school day because there is no staff to supervise them. It is recommended that two school playgrounds in the MCD7 receive funding of \$55K for personnel allowing the playgrounds to remain open. (FY14#23; FY15 #18; FY16 #21; FY17#22; FY18#22; FY19#24.)

Capital:

New York Public Library

Renovation of the Basement of the Bloomingdale Branch Library appx \$4M

The basement of the Bloomingdale branch library (on West 100th Street between Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues) was rescued from moribund dead storage of useless items during FY 2016, and has been laying fallow (apart from use as a staging area for maintenance efforts and supplies) ever since. The raw space presents an unprecedented opportunity to meet a variety of needs of the community that the Bloomingdale branch library serves. Among other things, it is served by a working elevator, and is thus fully handicap-accessible. Without limiting the scope of potential uses, or the results of more direct community outreach and feedback which CB7 intends to include in this process, the basement space could be configured to accommodate computer resources, programming space for health, wellness and fitness programs, additions to the hard copy collections, and community meetings and outreach efforts by the NYPL and by local community groups. The initial concept for design and renovation would be to configure the space to have modular or flexible dividers to enable a larger space to be subdivided depending on the size and needs of various programs, potentially with dedicated space for computer resources in one wing of the space, and potentially with additional fixed facilities such as rest rooms. (FY19#1.)

New York Public Library

Renovation of the Performing Arts Library (Lincoln Center) \$5.5M

The Performing Arts Library serves both local and City-wide needs. It is ideally located within the Lincoln Center campus, an easy walk from Carnegie Hall, LaGuardia High School and the Special Music School among many other public schools, and Fordham; is a short commute from the Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, and other colleges and conservatories. The Performing Arts Library boasts a vigorous circulation and is heavily used, and enhances the cultural identity and resources of our Upper West Side community. The building is in need of extensive need of system-wide structural renovation, including foundation waterproofing; sidewalk replacement and drainage management; safety and security upgrades such as improved exterior lighting, replacement of exterior doors and security cameras; as well as replacement of the HVAC systems including steam pressure stations, air compressors and steam heaters. The A/C component (a \$350K upgrade) is critical both to meet the needs of library users as well as to promote the preservation of fragile manuscripts, scores and original ephemera. (FY14#12; FY15#18; FY16#14;FY17#14;FY18-#15; FY19#12.)

3.3 Health and Human Services

- 8 food pantries
- 27 programs for seniors, including 9 senior centers
- 2 nursing homes; 15 ambulatory health facilities; 10 chemical dependency services
- 20 mental health programs; 10 programs for people with disabilities
- 16 residential facilities/supportive housing for adults and families

Hunger: Too many residents in MCB7 are food insecure. Low- and fixed-income neighbors struggle to pay for food, and prices keep rising. Healthy foods are more expensive and not readily available in many areas. Meal programs and food pantries face increased demand and a corresponding decrease in government funds for donated food. Furthermore, critically-placed grocery stores have closed and are closing, often due to luxury residential development, leaving food deserts for multiple blocks, a major issue for seniors and disabled residents.

- **Citymeals on Wheels** delivers 200,750 daily meals to frail elderly residents in MCB7 each year. It also provides volunteer visits to combat isolation. Seniors who do not receive delivered meals are 50% food insecure, and 13% of those who receive delivered meals are also food insecure
- **Westside Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH)** provides clients with food for only three days each month. It also provides screening for eligibility to services including; health insurance, eviction prevention legal assistance, financial education and counseling. It advocates for emergency food assistance and universal free lunch in schools.

Homelessness: The homeless population continues to increase in MCB7. The lack of funds for supportive services for those living with mental health issues, addiction and other health problems, increases the risk that people with these problems will become homeless. Cuts in Section 8 vouchers create a need for non-profit agencies to seek alternative sources of funds to cover over 60% of tenants' rent.

The use of single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings as transitional shelters has reduced the number of available permeant units for low-income people. Rising rental costs and conversions of buildings and units into luxury housing is also a cause of homelessness. The increase in homeless older women is continuing problem.

The integration of shelters and supportive housing into the community has also been poorly-executed. Oversight and community engagement are currently weak, and Community Advisory Boards (CABs) have been declawed or disbanded. The lack of community input leads to worse outcomes for both the transitioning homeless population as well as local residents, and foments long-term discontent which will hurt transitional populations.

Finally, in several instances, service-resistant homeless individuals have remained in encampments for months or even years in the district, requiring alternative strategies for outreach and support.

Seniors: MCB7 continues to be home to Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) which receive funds targeted for aging populations. The Academy of Medicine initiated a pilot project to help make the city friendlier to those growing old. Seniors made recommendations to improve their safety and comfort. Benches need to be strategically placed to encourage those who can't walk far to be able to go out and socialize. Stores and other facilities that are accessible to walkers and wheelchairs also helpful.

Older members of the community continue to face challenges:

- Senior Centers have had to cut offerings of food, fitness programs and transportation
- Complaints about Access-a-Ride continue
- Extended In-Home Service to the Elderly Program, which provides homemaking for vulnerable homebound seniors not eligible for Medicaid, has seen drastic budget cuts
- The Adult Social Day Services Program, which provides therapeutic programs for disable seniors (many with dementia) was eliminated.
- Funds for Elder Abuse Prevention Programs and Geriatric Mental Health Initiatives have been reduced.
- The United Neighborhood Houses funding remains stagnant. Volunteers and funds are needed to fill in many gaps
- Contracts for services from the Department of the Aging (DFTA) no longer include fringe benefits for employees. DFTA senior center funding is not baselined; therefore City Council restoration funding is needed
- Lack of these services contributes to the institutional placement of many seniors who otherwise would have been able to stay in their home

Hoarding: Hoarding is an issue for a subset of seniors and others in MCB7. Landlords evict people because of hoarding. Mice, rats, bedbugs and roaches are rampant where there is hoarding. Emergency services are often blocked. Case managers require special training. Cross-sector and interagency collaborations are needed to address the problem

Accessibility: Universal access to schools, transportation and recreation is a challenge in MCB7. The Department of Education's (DOE) website lists schools with accessible programs, however it does not indicate whether students with physical challenges will be able to enter the front door, go to the main office, use the bathroom, or get to the nurse's station. This information needs to be published on the website. The DOE needs to provide training for parents, teachers and children for the children who require special equipment. Complaints continue about Access-a-Ride.

Further, numerous curb cuts and sidewalks across the district require repair and are currently either dangerous or fully inaccessible for disabled residents. A full survey of these issues would be helpful.

The new Bloomingdale Playground accommodates users of all abilities thanks to efforts of a multiyear Task Force of MCB7. Other playgrounds need to be updated to ensure that those with special needs are included.

Health: New York State is reorganizing Medicaid to move providers into integrated systems with the goal to reduce hospitalizations and provide better coordinated care. There is a new system to access electronic

records and provide regional interoperable systems that preserve privacy and optimize care. Real reform requires a system that rewards quality over quantity and quality must be measured.

Child Health: Childhood obesity is pronounced in areas where children have limited opportunities to exercise and limited access to healthy food. Many schools do not have gymnasiums. Playing fields are scarce and often leased to adult teams to generate revenue. MCB7 continues to advocate for maximum allocation of public facilities for public school students and universal free lunch for all public school students.

Childhood asthma is a major concern in parts of MCB7 and needs to be addressed, especially in areas where there is no mitigation of mold, pollution and other triggers.

Domestic Violence: Survivors of domestic assault referred by the emergency room at Mt. Sinai West and St Luke receive crisis counseling within 20 minutes. If the survivor becomes a client they receive free confidential trauma treatment that may last 6 months to 2 years. Families that survive domestic violence need additional support, including:

- Mentoring programs
- Coordinated efforts by the District Attorney's office, and appropriate City agencies to address abuse and prevent homelessness
- Easily accessible information including the Manhattan Prevention Services Directory

However, unreported domestic violence remains prolific and is a major contributor to homelessness. The homeless population, as well as the population at large, requires increased outreach to ensure that available services are known and used. This is an opportunity to work with NYPD and local health organizations to coordinate programming.

Rats and other Pests: The Upper West Side has experienced a big increased in rat, bed bug and mosquito infestations over the past few years, and recently raccoons emerging from Central Park. MCB7 works with the Department of Health to offer resources including clinics on pest control.

Hoarding and open garbage exacerbate infestations. Continued education and collaboration with tenant associations, building managers, block associations and the Departments of Health, Environmental Protection and Sanitation are essential to controlling pest populations in a safe and effective manner.

In addition to current initiatives (such as expansion of rat-proof trash cans by the Department of Sanitation), possible approaches to the rat issue include new dry ice control use to kill rats in their burrows, investment in food scrap and organic waste recycling (including a signal system for immediate pickup), working with businesses to eliminate rat-friendly conditions, shifting pickup times to make sure trash isn't left out overnight, expanding education programs like Rat Academy, and prioritize high-risk areas using GIS and data tracking to target trouble spots and pinpoint rat dens. The mosquito issue will require further study and elimination of breeding areas. Local residents have reported that mosquitos are able to access homes, potentially through underground pathways.

Budget Priorities for Health and Human Services

Expense:

Department of Health & Mental Hygiene/ NYC Police Department **Mental Health Training.**

William F. Ryan Community Health Center has offered Mental Health First Aid training for community to learn how to listen and lead people with emotional problems to help. Training would be useful for the officers in the District 7 precincts. (Similar: FY17#15;FY18#16; FY19#11.)

Department of Homeless Services **NY/NY4.**

City and State need to fund together NY/NY4 to provide more supportive housing, especially permanent supportive housing, with long term funding for support services. People are homeless due to disabilities requiring support services or financial difficulties that require monetary and employment help. Supportive housing is by far the most successful way to end homelessness for individuals and families living with physical and mental disabilities and other challenges. Providing housing first, gets homeless people back on their feet and allows them to pull their lives together more quickly. Research has shown a 50% decrease in alcoholism when homeless are housed. However, there is not nearly enough supply to meet the record need, and the current City-State supportive housing production initiative, the New York/New York III Agreement (NY/NY III), is expiring. (FY17#19; FY18#20; FY19#22.)

NYC Human Rights Commission **Accessibility.**

Compliance with the ADA needs to be monitored. All West Side residents should be able to enjoy its resources. All agencies should have staff insuring that:

- Traffic lights should reflect the pace at which the elderly and disabled are able to move. They should also alert the visually handicapped to red lights. DOT
- Stores and public buildings should be accessible to wheelchairs. CHR
- ADA compliance needs to be enforced. DOB
- Resources for seniors and the disabled should be widely publicized. DFTA DOH
- Playgrounds in schools and parks should include facilities for the disabled. DOE

(FY15#20; FY16#15;FY17#24;FY18#23; FY19#24.)

Capital:

Department for the Aging

Frederick Douglass Houses Senior Center.

Space and funding for renovation of the senior center at Douglass Houses to be run by DFTA, especially the outside perimeter. This could be the seed of a NORC in a community where there are more than 1000 underserved seniors. (FY17#3;FY18#5; FY19#14.)

3.4 Transportation

- 193.6 lane miles of paved roads
- 6 North-South Bound Avenues + Broadway Boulevard
- 51 East-West Bound Streets

- 7 Bike paths, including 2 protected bike lanes
- 40 Citibike Stations
- 14 NYC Transit bus routes
- 7 MTA subway routes, 14 stations
- 70% of MCB7 workers travel by mass transit
- 197 Motorist injured in 2016,
- 71 cyclists injured in 2016,
- 145 pedestrians injured in 2016

Street Safety: There is an urgent need for safe streets and avenues for all users. MCB7 continues to focus attention on the ongoing dangers on our streets. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has implemented safety upgrade at many intersections including the West End Avenue Corridor. MCB7 has proposed additional corridors for improvements to DOT in 2016-17.

Several years ago 4 pedestrian deaths within a short period of time underscored the necessity for DOT to proactively redesign streets and intersections throughout our district to prevent future tragedies. While the number of deaths and serious injuries has diminished, we need to do better in our efforts to achieve Vision Zero. MCB7 recommends the use of tools that will improve safety, including: curb extensions, pedestrian islands, protected bike lanes, mid-block bulb-outs, split-phase signals, leading pedestrian intervals, raised crosswalks, left turn bans, Barnes Dances, narrowed lanes, abrupt changes in road surface, and lower speed limits. The DOT needs to consider deploying these tools district-wide to prevent two leading causes of pedestrian deaths - **speeding and failure to yield.**

MCB7 welcomes a **comprehensive district-wide analysis of traffic safety**, with immediate consideration given to:

- The corridor between 95th and 100th Streets, west of Central Park West.
- Continued monitoring of **Commercial Loading Zones** along the redesigned **Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues** to support the need for delivery use while reducing and hopefully eliminating the blockage of travel lanes by double parked vehicles.
- **Narrow the travel lanes on West 66th Street** between Amsterdam and West End Avenues, along with curb extensions in order to discourage speeding on the wide street. (a similar design was implemented on 70th Street.) Change the timing on the traffic signal at 66th Street and West End Ave to discourage speeding to make the light.
- Install a **96th Street exit** option for southbound traffic on the **Henry Hudson Parkway**. This will relieve the intense traffic on the narrower and residential 95th Street. Allowing traffic to exit onto 96th Street will provide direct travel to the Central Park transverse and provide a safer pedestrian experience on 95th Street.

Concurrently MCB7 encourages continued measure to ensure pedestrian safety throughout the district, including:

- **A 20 mile per hour speed limit** around all schools which will improve pedestrian and student safety. In addition add noticeable striping, signage and neck-downs which alert motorists that they are entering a school block and will improve safety for students traveling to and from school.
- **Countdown timers** at all intersection to alert pedestrians to the amount of time they have for a safe crossing of the street. This is especially important for people with disabilities and seniors.
- **“Stop Here on Red” Signs** for turns on Broadway Malls to ensure that motorist know they must stop in the median and wait for a green light before proceeding.
- **Red Light Cameras** to discourage drivers from running the lights, especially at Central Park West and 63rd Street, West End Avenue at 66, 72, 79 and 96th Streets.
- **Speed Cameras** to reduce speeding on our streets to reduce serious crashes and injuries
- **Left Turn Calming measures** - more pedestrians are injured by left turning vehicles
- **Safety improvements for Columbus Circle** to enable pedestrians and bicyclists to safely navigate the circle including traffic calming measures, signage and striping
- **Continuation of the Amsterdam Avenue Complete Street** from 72nd to Columbus Circle
- **Traffic light mid-block on 106th Street** between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue to enable seniors and those with disabilities to safely cross the street mid-block
- **Enforcement of traffic violations** especially speeding, failure to yield and running red lights. Motor vehicles parked illegally in bike lanes is also a concern
- **Protected Bike Lane** on 110th Street and safety improvements for Fredrick Douglass Circle

Shared Streets:

The **“Complete Streets”** on Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues create new challenges for MCB7 to balance the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and local businesses. **Loading Zones** are a serious concern for local businesses and residents, because it reduces curbside parking. Some have argued that raising the price and timing of metered parking would increase turn over at available curbside spaces.



Double Parking has become a problem on all the Avenues in MCB7

The **Mixing Zones** which allow motor vehicles to safely turn left from the bike lane have reduced the number of available parking spaces. There have been suggestions to raise the price and timing of metered parking in order to increase turnover.

The Mixing Zones increase the risk for bike riders who often cannot be seen by the driver of the motor vehicle and there have been some serious injuries.

The **Pedestrian Islands** provide refuge and shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and thrill gardeners who enjoy tending the tree pits.

Cyclists using the protected bike lanes need to **bike safely** and respect the rights of pedestrians. The mixing zones where motor vehicles enter the bike lanes to turn create a danger for cyclists who are often in the blind spot for the driver of the vehicle.

Shared Sidewalks: The increased congestion on sidewalks of local residents, tourists and visitors has emboldened **street vendors** to take advantage of new markets. The proliferation of food trucks and sidewalk vendors frustrates Upper West Siders because of the lack of enforcement and/or licensing. Additionally, **street furniture** (newsstands, bus shelters, bike rack, news boxes, pay phones, mail boxes, benches, etc.) and **sidewalk cafes** overcrowd the sidewalks. MCB7 encourages a comprehensive approach to optimizing shared use and management of sidewalks to eliminate obstructions and visual clutter.



MCB7 encourages minimizing permanently **enclosed sidewalk cafes** especially after they have become vacant. Except in rare circumstances, enclosed cafes unduly narrow the sidewalk and cause pedestrian congestion. Perhaps a mechanism could be created to guarantee the removal of structures when they become vacant.

Parking: While car ownership by residents of MCB7 is down, the issue of how much parking is needed continues to vex the community. Questions about the needs for free street parking and paid private garage space are not easily answered. Is there an increased number of drivers looking for free parking? That would contribute to increased pollution, congestion, frustration, etc. The goal is to facilitate the need for access to motor vehicles while minimizing the negative aspects.

Residential Permits for street parking might mitigate pollution while making it easier for residents to find parking.

Alternative to Private Motor Vehicles:

Car sharing.

Car Rentals are available in numerous locations on the Upper West Side and there are a variety of possible ways to rent cars from one hour to long terms.

Taxis, Car Services and Ride Hailing Apps

Public Transportation:

Subways: MCB7 has the 3rd highest numbers of subway commuters in New York City. It is served by two major subway lines with 7 routes. Along Broadway the #1 serves local and the #2,3 serve express stations. Along Central Park West the B/C lines serve local and express stations and the A/D serve express stations. On the Central Park West Line more trains after rush hour (“shoulder” periods) are urgently needed to alleviate long wait times and overcrowding. Service cuts have caused most off-peak trains to be overcrowded. While additional cars are being added to the C line, more frequent service is needed.

Buses: Bus service district-wide needs to improve. MCB7 supports on-street supervision to improve NYC Transit’s response of actual operating conditions, especially on weekends.

M104 truncated at Times Square continues to impact thousands of riders who relied on one-seat ride to Grand Central and the United Nations

M11 service levels are insufficient to handle growing demand, especially among the elderly

M60 which connects the Upper West Side to Central Harlem and La Guardia Airport, a major success for the MTA, needs to be extended further south to Broadway/96th Street area

Select Bus Service, which is now on the M79 and M86 routes, needs to be added to the M96 route

Bicycles: Bike ridership has increased with the new Citibike stations in MCB7, the protected bike lanes on Columbus and Amsterdam Avenue and additional bike paths. There is an increase in the number of people riding to and from work, on errands and for recreational purposes. Educating cyclists to obey the rules of the road and bike safely is an ongoing concern.

Street and Sidewalk Conditions: Heavy use by motor vehicles, combined with a high number of utility cuts and the high volume of sleet and snow over the past few years have created poor street conditions in MCB7. Many of our blocks are riddled with ruts, potholes, faded striping and bad curbs. These conditions unsafe conditions for both vehicles and pedestrians. Significant resurfacing of the streets are needed.



Sidewalks are also in need of repair especially at street corners where water ponds. Many sidewalks have violations near sidewalk vaults on Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway. The replacement of a sidewalk vault requires special engineering and is costly. MCB7 recommends that other methods be looked at to skim-coat existing sidewalk surfaces over vaulted areas, when replacement is not feasible.

Budget Priorities for Transportation

Expense:

Department of Transportation

Funding & placement of "NYC Law-no right on red", "NYC Speed Limit 25mph unless otherwise posted" signs.

There is a lack of signage where the Henry Hudson Parkway exits on to West Side streets, at the 79th Street and 95th -96th Street exits. As this may be the first place vehicles are actually on NYC streets from their point of origin, it is essential that New York City's rules & regulations be visible to motorists who may not be aware of them. Additionally, there is a paucity of speed limit signage throughout the West Side. (FY16#28; FY17#28; FY18#26; FY19#29.)

Capital:

Department of Transportation

Fund street-scape safety improvements. \$1M

Safety at many street intersections could be helped by simple- to- build street improvements. Locations include the northbound service road on Riverside Drive, the 95th St exit from the Henry Hudson Pkwy, 97th & Riverside Drive, 95th & Riverside Drive, 96th & West End Ave, 66th St between Amsterdam & West End Aves. Bulb-outs with sidewalk extensions help decrease the turning radius to slow turning vehicles and shorten the crossing distance for the pedestrian. Starting with those improvements identified in CB7's Nelson-Nygaard study of the West 90's, and reviewed and approved by CB7- traffic islands, curb extensions, and simple traffic guiding changes should be implemented to make this area safer. Beginning with the corners in CB7 identified as the most dangerous to cross - those reported with failure to yield crashes, violations, and those reported with vehicles turning with excessive speed - corner curb extensions should be implemented to slow turning vehicles and shorten the pedestrian crossing. In the most dangerous intersections overall, directed lane treatments, islands, signal changes, countdown signals, and raised crosswalks should all be considered, reviewed, and implemented for what would effectively improve safety. (FY14#23; FY15#8; FY16#10; FY17#1; FY18#3; FY19#2.)

Department of Transportation.

Fund speed and red light cameras (including dummy cameras) throughout MCD7.

Speed Cameras: Speeding near schools continues to be a problem throughout the district, with some areas, such as West 95th/West 96th Street-with nearby entrances/exits to the Henry Hudson Parkway, a particular concern. Strategically placed speed cameras would make the areas close to schools much safer for children and all pedestrians. (FY14#19; FY15#5; FY16#9; FY17#17; FY18#18; FY19#5.)

Red Light Cameras: Failure to yield & running red/amber lights with the resultant vehicular/pedestrian accidents resulting in serious injury and/or loss of life - continues to be a serious concern throughout the district. The placement of red light cameras - particularly in areas known to be at a high risk for vehicular/pedestrian conflicts - would send a strong message to operators of vehicles that speeding and improper/illegal movements will not be tolerated, and violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. (FY14#19; FY15#24; FY16#15; FY17#19; FY18#21; FY19#5.)

Department of Transportation

Visually Handicapped - Accessibility.

Those of our community with handicaps, are frequently unable to share in a quality of life open to others and a free access to the world outside their homes. Moving along the streets, the visually handicapped have no way of knowing if it is safe to cross the street We are recommending that audible signals be developed by DOT to indicate red lights. (FY15#12; FY16#26;FY17#9;FY18#11; FY19#6.)

Department of Transportation

Replacement of curb-cuts.

DOT does not have funding to repair existing curb-cuts/pedestrian ramps. CB7 is conducting a survey of all curbcuts in the district. Phase One of the survey covering 57 curb-cuts from West 60th-89th Streets identified the following conditions: 10 super-bad; i.e.: basically impassable, require immediate fix; 23 severe cases; definitely high-priority and should be repaired as soon as possible; 15 bad but not yet terrible, yet if allowed to deteriorate would probably become severe cases; 9 not great but not good; bear watching. (FY13#3; FY14#9; FY15#21; FY16#8;FY17#16;FY18#17; FY19#9.)

Department of Transportation

Increase funding for street and curb lane resurfacing. \$200K/lane mile

There are 193.6 lane miles of paved streets in CD7, slightly more than 10% of the lane mileage of all of Manhattan. The huge increase in street cuts for utility work, including fiber optics and cable, and construction has left CD7's streets in dire shape. Side streets and intersections are particularly rutted. Many blocks on Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue and Columbus Avenue have ruts as deep as 6 inches in the parking lanes near the curbs. (FY05#14; FY06#11; FY08#12; FY08#13; FY09#18; FY10#9; FY11#15; FY12#4; FY13#2; FY14#14; FY15#15; FY16#18;FY17#7;FY18#8; FY19#15.)

Department of Transportation/Department of Environmental Protection

Reconstruct Riverside Drive, West 104th-110th Streets. \$2.95M

Funding to build the sidewalk along Riverside Drive for better bus access for pedestrians. (FY18#12; FY19#18.)

Department of Transportation

Pedestrian-initiated traffic crossings in Central Park.

Electric and other infrastructure, and programming capacity, to coordinate traffic signals in Central Park electronically, including providing the ability for pedestrian walk signals to be activated by "push buttons" when pedestrians want to cross the Drives. The traffic signals in Central Park were installed decades ago, essentially to govern private motor vehicle traffic, which has increasingly been prohibited in the Park. CB7 supports, at a minimum, a trial period during which all private motor vehicles would be prohibited from using the Drives at all times. But currently, regardless of time of day and the amount of motor traffic and other conditions in the Park, the signals on the Drives can only be governed manually. The confusion among cyclists as to whether they must to stop at red lights when no pedestrians are crossing, and the failure of many cyclists to do so – among other factors -- has highlighted the need to provide up to date functionality to the traffic signal system in Central Park, so that the thousands of recreational users -- pedestrians (including runners), cyclists, skaters, etc. – can be made as safe as possible from collisions on the Drives. (FY16#12; FY17#13; FY18#14; FY19#19.)

Department of Transportation

Funding for an Upper West Side pilot for variable traffic signal timing.

Many intersections have variable crowd conditions depending on time of day - for instance, when schools let out, the PM rush hour, the AM rush, etc. DOT has said they cannot at this time program traffic signals by time of day. We believe this technology is important for safety, and must be pursued. (FY14#7; FY15#25; FY16#17; FY17#21; FY18#22; FY19#23.)

Department of Transportation

Fund a speed/red light camera pilot to enforce TLC (only) violations.

Pending a check of the legality of such a program, this would catch TLC-licensed vehicles who are speeding or running red lights, or other illegal movements. (FY16#30;FY17#27;FY18#30; FY19#30.)

NYC Transit

Elevators and escalators in subways.

Funding for elevators and escalators in all subway renovations. (FY17#30; FY18#33; FY19#33.)

3.5 Local Commerce

Empty Storefronts: The Upper West Side has upwards of 130 empty storefronts, many of which have remained unfilled for years.

Commercial Rent Tax: The City of New York continues to impose a tax on commercial tenants in portions of the Manhattan Central Business District who pay in excess of approximately \$250,000 per year in rent. While the logic of taxing a business based on the rent it pays rather than its profits or sales is elusive, the threshold for the imposition of the tax has not been adjusted in over a decade. In the intervening years, Manhattan store rents have climbed to a point where a modest mom-and-pop neighborhood business as well as businesses that are necessary to a sustainable community such as grocery stores and local services, are subject to the tax. CB7 in the short term supports legislation to adjust the threshold to a more reasonable level, and welcomes a broader conversation as to the proper means to impose taxes on local businesses in the long term.

Business Networking: Many businesses owners feel that they're on their own, even if their needs are similar or identical to those of neighboring businesses. MCB7 has an opportunity to work with local landlords and businesses to build partnerships and advocate for their common needs.

Information for Startups: Most new businesses close in the first year, often due to New York City's maze of red tape and bureaucracy. Furthermore, most new businesses are owned by immigrants, sometimes with imperfect English skills. Increased access to educational programs and teams to help local businesses with permit and license applications may help small businesses survive this first-year hurdle.

Street Maintenance: Along with empty storefronts come stretches of sidewalks which are uncleaned, dark after nightfall and sites for dumping and homeless individuals. This degrades quality of life for neighbors and pedestrians and lowers the value of neighboring businesses.

Small-Business Zoning: MCB7 previously succeeded in creating storefront zoning rules which protected 500 businesses along Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues against the tide of banks and large chains. This policy has seen only partial success and it due for study and potential revision or expansion.

Non-Profits are Homeless: The escalation of rents for virtually all commercial and office space makes it increasingly difficult for local not-for-profit organizations to find affordable space in the community they serve. CB7 welcomes a broader planning discussion that would lead to solutions to ensure that our district is home to service and innovation as well as the finest in culture and the arts for the next generation.

Budget Priorities for Local Commerce

Coordinate City Regulations/Services for Small Businesses (\$2M)

Small businesses face myriad regulatory inspections each year, all managed by different city departments. Fees and fines are inconsistent. Schedules are not coordinated, so businesses are often interrupted by random visits. Coordination of these regulations would go a long way to improving NYC as a fertile environment for small business to grow.

3.6 Public Safety

- 3 NYC Police Precincts (20th, 24th, and Central Park), PSA6, and Transit Districts #1 and #3
- In 2012, 1028 reported crimes; 1081 in the 24.
- Uniformed police officers: 134 in the 20th; 126 in the 24th; 85 in CP.
- Civilian Employees: 15 in the 20th; 22 in the 24th; 13 in CP.
- 5 Fire Stations: In 2012, 728 fires, 9400 emergencies, response time of 4:38 minutes.
- 24.8% recycling diversion rate.

New York Police Department. NYPD tracks seven major crimes as a primary indicator. Overall, major crime statistics in CD7's precincts, PSA6 (public housing division), and Transit show a continuing downward trend. Six officers of the 20th Precinct are dedicated NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses and Addition. MCB7 encourages NYPD to implement this approach at Frederick Douglass Houses and Wise Towers.

Staffing: NYPD has moved to a data-based deployment and response system that utilizes specialized units and task forces. Consequently, the number of uniformed officers in precincts has declined over the past 5 years. In the 20th and 24th Precincts, the number of uniformed officers (134 and 126, respectively) and civilian personnel (15 and 22) have continued to decline. PSA6, whose officers are responsible for NYCHA developments in eight precincts, has 127 uniformed officers. However, actual staffing levels are lower, due to homeland security assignments, military service, and sick leave. Recruiting, retention and civilianization are essential.

Fire Department. CD7 is located in the 9th and 11th Battalions and has 3 Engine and 2 Ladder Companies. In FY12, the Department responded to 10,128 incidents: 9,400 medical and non-medical emergencies, and 531 structural and 197 non-structural fires. The number and size of fires has decreased because of new construction and renovations of occupied and vacant buildings. It does take more time to get to a fire in the new high rise buildings. Average response time to structural fires was 4:17 minutes; ambulance response time to life-threatening emergencies was 6:54 minutes.

Engine Company 74 on West 83rd Street needs a complete renovation. So far, it has not been included in the FDNY capital projects. Several houses do not have emergency electric generators, which are needed to charge radios among other things. The houses that do have generators find they are often not maintained and may not function in a blackout.

Department of Sanitation. MCB7 supports the goals of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), including that Manhattan should assume as much responsibility as possible for its waste. MCB7 looks forward to working on plans for West 59th Street Marine Transfer Station.

In FY2012, DSNY collected, on average, 205 tons of household garbage per day. CD7's residential garbage continue to be transported to New Jersey by truck, which has a negative impact on air quality, roadways, vehicles, and worker productivity. Annually, MW7 collects 14,600 tons of paper and 7,781 tons of metal, glass and plastic, for a diversion rate of 24.8% of the waste stream. Over 2,464 recycling summonses were issued. More effective outreach and education could increase the diversion percentage and further reduce residential tonnage.

In addition to the use of barge transfer at the MTSs, MCB7 believes Manhattan's commercial waste could also be addressed through (1) expanded commercial waste source separation, (2) use of anaerobic digesters, (3) a targeted lifting of the ban on commercial waste food waste disposers, and (4) a rapid conversion of the commercial carting fleet to less polluting and quieter alternatives.



The Columbus Avenue BID installs a Big Belly solar-powered trash can

DSNY plays an important role in keeping sidewalks and streets clean. In FY12, 94.8% of the streets and 99.5% of the sidewalks were rated 'acceptably clean'. Enforcement agents issued over 4,715 health and administrative summonses, most for dirty sidewalks and failure to clean 18 inches from the curb. MCB7 recommends funding for 7-day enforcement coverage, which would also support rat control.

DSNY completed 99.9% of its mechanical broom routes on 93.6 miles of roadways and serviced over 1,000 street litter baskets with two pick-ups per day. The three business improvement districts and the Doe Fund help by removing and replacing bags while many local businesses and residents misuse baskets meant for litter by discarding their garbage in them. MCB7 finds enforcement of rules prohibiting household and business use of baskets and more frequent service, especially on weekends and holidays, are needed.

Budget Priorities for Public Safety

Expense:

Department of Sanitation

Funding for additional basket service at night and on weekends and holidays.

CD7's 1,000 litter baskets are never empty – and often they are overflowing. DSNY cut a Sunday basket truck, making it impossible to service all of the district's baskets. Additional basket service is needed from 4PM to midnight on Sundays and from midnight to 8AM on weekdays. The current service helps keep streets and sidewalks clean, with fewer incidents of rodent infestation and clogged catch basins and street drains, and reduces floatables in the Hudson River. Additional service on the night shift, weekends and holidays would improve conditions when thousands of tourists are in the district (FY07#6; FY08#10; FY09#19; FY10#23; FY11#8; FY12#3; FY13#4; FY14#13; FY15#7; FY16#26; FY17#16; FY18#17; FY19#7.)

NYC Police Department

Increased funding to train officers in the 20 and 24 Precincts in use of radar guns.

Too few precinct officers are trained on the use of radar guns for speed enforcement. As a result, there is a finite limit to the speed enforcement available in our precincts. A key element of the Vision Zero initiatives is ensuring motor vehicles travel at acceptable speeds. Dedicated funding for this effort should pay for itself and save lives. (FY19#9.)

Department of Sanitation

Funding for a dedicated collection truck to service the street recycling cans.

Green and blue recycling cans have been added to street corners in MCD7. DSNY services them once a week. In budget consultations, DSNY said they do not have funds for additional service. The recycling is overflowing and the cans are left open by people collecting cans. MCD7 is the pilot for this program, which is not working well given the lack of service. Service is needed at least 3 times a week, if not daily. (FY16#2; FY17#2; FY18#3; FY19#13.)

NYC Police Department

Restoration of the number of police officers in precincts and PSAs.

The number of uniformed officers in our precincts and housing developments was modestly increased in FY2016. CB7 seeks 15 uniformed patrol officers to enforce traffic regulations in CD7 and restoration of the overall headcount to 50,000 and the number of uniformed patrol officers to 40,000, which would fully staff Vision Zero, community policing, sector patrols, enforcement of traffic and bicycle regulations, and special units. (FY09#17; FY10#14; FY11#7; FY12#2; FY13#3; FY14#9; FY15#19; FY16#13; FY17#3; FY18#4; FY19#14.)

3.7 Parks and Open Space

Major Public Parks

- Riverside Park - 267 acres
- Riverside Park South – 23 acres
- Theodore Roosevelt Park – 17.5 acres
- Central Park (shared with CB 8, 10, 11 and 5)
- 11 Public Playgrounds
- 59th Street Recreation Center (Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center)
- 6 Small Parks and Broadway Malls

Parks Serving Community District 7



Riverside Park



Central Park



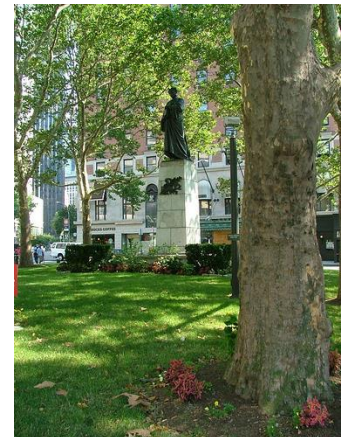
Straus Park



Theodore Roosevelt Park



Verdi Square Park



Dante Park

Community District 7 boasts access to two of Manhattan's (and New York City's) most revered parks: Central Park, which forms the entire eastern border of CD7, and Riverside Park and Riverside Park South, which forms the entire western border. Both of these parks were initially laid out by the seminal landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Calbert Vaux, although both show the effects of subsequent revisions and renovations. These two parks provide space for both active and passive recreation. In addition, CD7 is home to 11 playgrounds under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"), as well as a host of playgrounds appurtenant to public schools and under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Department of Education ("DoE").

An additional 35.5 acres of parkland in smaller parks, including Straus Park at West 106th Street; Theodore Roosevelt Park at West 77-81 Street; Verdi Square Park at West 72nd Street; Dante Park at West 63rd Street; Tucker Square Park at West 66th Street; and the system of Broadway Malls.

Central Park is administered through a contract with the Central Park Conservancy. DPR maintains the remaining parkland with 10 full-time workers, including a full-time horticulturist, as well as with seasonal workers and job-training participants, all of whom are essential to maintaining this parkland and running programs in these spaces to serve the public's needs.

Issues Confronting DPR's Ability to Serve the Community's Needs

- Structural Funding Challenges

Parks funding, especially for capital requirements, is an inadequate percentage of the overall City budget. For example, Chicago spends more on parks than does New York City, even though Chicago's population is one-third the size.

In addition, critical funding for both operating expenses and capital improvements for parks is left to year-by-year negotiations between the offices of the Mayor and City Council, and relies heavily on ad-hoc funding from Council Member items, the portion of the City budget under the discretion of the Borough President, and other one-off and non-baselined funding streams. Funding is not driven by an integrated needs assessment or long-term vision, but rather is frequently provided, if at all, on a project-by-project basis.

- Equity and Inclusiveness

Equity and inclusion are increasingly recognized as issues in park funding and management. Certain parks, most notably Central Park through the Central Park Conservancy, and to a more modest extent Riverside Park through the Riverside Park Conservancy (f/k/a the Riverside Park Fund), enjoy unprecedented access to private donations and independent fundraising.

Smaller neighborhood parks in CD7, like many similar spaces throughout our City, have no or limited access to such funding. Within CD7, the disparity in access to funding and its impact on the experience in public open space can readily be demonstrated by a comparison of the overall conditions of playgrounds north of West 96th Street vs those to the south.

The Community Parks Initiative instituted by the Parks Department is a first step in addressing this disparity. Like many long-term solutions, the first step is to recognize the existence of the problem. The Community Parks Initiative decentralizes the task of meeting local needs by inquiring directly of local users and neighbors of parks and playgrounds what resources they most value, and in what priority certain investments should be made. While the funding disparity of our most storied and popular urban parks will remain, this Initiative creates a mechanism for responsiveness.

- Accessibility 2.0

Inclusion issues are not limited to funding disparities. CB7 has led an effort to introduce a broader approach to accessibility beyond the obligation to make open space reachable to those with mobility challenges. Through a dedicated Task Force, CB7 has spearheaded a successful effort to envision a truly inclusive Bloomingdale Playground, where children of varying degrees of mobility can not only gain entry to a common space, but can actually participate in shared activities. The principles of Universal Design that informed the Task Force's work are a model for future playground renovations in our District and beyond.

- The Need for a Broader Vision

The experiences of seeking one-off funding streams for individual projects, and the effort to re-imagine how play spaces can be organized and built to include the entire population, highlights the need for proactive creativity in visioning park usage and funding. Too often park funding finds projects that continue existing programs or uses without any consideration of new opportunities or potentially unmet needs. One example is the highly successful, volunteer-staffed free kayaking program operating in Riverside Park (and its companion facility in Hudson River Park to the south), which was created by users and enthusiasts, and must struggle for in-kind support.

The potential for such visioning can be found through the Summer on the Hudson initiative, which brings exercise classes, cultural programs, movies, and innovative active and passive recreation opportunities to Riverside Park during the warmer months.

Engaging in a visioning effort to capture evolving needs and the potential for our existing open space to meet them may also spawn as-yet untapped funding sources.

- Competing Needs and Users

A separate set of issues confronting our parks and open spaces concerns competing uses that are at times at odds or even mutually exclusive. In bottleneck areas in Riverside and Central Parks, the confluence of pedestrians, cyclists, skaters, runners and others can create conflicts not easily solved with the limited funding for infrastructure changes or staffing. In parkland used for public plazas such as Columbus Circle, Frederick Douglass Circle, and Lincoln Center, the use of spaces for skateboarding can compete with the more passive recreation uses for which this plazas were intended.

- The Impact of Climate Change

Re-envisioning the use of parkland and the funding to support it should include starting now to plan for the effects of climate change. Every scientific study confirms the inevitability of sea-level rises in the foreseeable future, and the entirety of CD7 is bordered to the west by the Hudson River. The vulnerability of Riverside Park to frequent storm surges and violent storms, as well as the erosion those phenomena leave behind, must be a part of our forward-looking planning.

Climate change also brings with it a much longer season for park usage, requiring a new vision for staffing and an altered maintenance schedule.

Budget Priorities for Parks and Open Space

Expense:

Department of Parks & Recreation

Solar trash compactors for Verdi Park, 72nd -73rd Streets at Broadway/Amsterdam Avenue, Straus Park at Broadway/West End Avenue, 106th Street, and at playgrounds. \$3500 per compactor.

Verdi Park is overrun with rats. It has an extremely high ratio of food consumption to square footage. Its benches attract a large number of homeless people, and its current plantings facilitate the establishment of rat burrows. The installation of solar trash compactors has been successful in, for example, Theodore Roosevelt Park. Council Member Rosenthal recently provided funds for three solar compactors that have been installed in Verdi Park. At least three more are needed in Verdi Park. Additionally, two compactors are needed for Straus Park, and approximately 13-16 compactors deployed at various playgrounds in District 7 could substantially help to reduce the rat population. (FY18#2 with regard to Verdi Park; FY19#5)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Pest control personnel. \$75-80K

Parks has only two exterminators for all of Manhattan. The rodent population in parks has exploded in recent years. In District 7, Verdi Square, Straus, Theodore Roosevelt and Riverside Parks, the Broadway Malls, and several playgrounds have had extreme rodent infestations. A dedicated exterminator for District 7 and Riverside Park would allow Parks to address infestations through a variety of systematic and sustainable measures, including the newly available dry ice method, which, like more traditional methods, requires a licensed exterminator. (Similar: FY14#10; FY15#10; FY16#6; FY17#5; FY18#5; FY19#6.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP officers) for Riverside Park and District 7. \$625K

Community District 7 is covered by the 16city funded PEP that report out of North Meadow in Central Park. These PEP cover both the east and west sides of Manhattan from 59th Street to 125th Streets, and Riverside Park. They also help cover other calls that fixed post officers (there are ten fixed post officers in Central Park funded by the Central Park Conservancy) in Central Park cannot cover. In addition four fixed-post officers, who are paid for under dedicated funding, patrol Riverside Park South and are available in Riverside Park only for emergency conditions. PEP officers generally do not have regular beats in our District parks for quality of life and other offenses. An additional eight officers and a sergeant (\$60K per officer, more for a sergeant) for Manhattan would increase safety and help address graffiti and other vandalism, littering, skateboarding, homeless, alcohol, off-leash, smoking, motor idling and other conditions throughout Riverside Park and in district parks and playgrounds on a steady basis. (FY05#11; FY06#20; FY07#24; FY08#24; FY09#16; FY10#17; FY11#27; FY12#15; FY13#10; FY14#16; FY15#11; FY16#12; FY17#10; FY18#10; FY10#10.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Permanent staffing for Districts #7 and #14 (Riverside Park).

Parks full-time workforce is responsible for park maintenance and cleanliness: (Associate Park Service Workers, City Parks Workers, and Gardeners). Additional funds are needed to rebuild the agency's

permanent, year-round workforce. (FY12#5; FY13#8; FY14#5; FY15#5; FY16#20; FY17#11; FY18#12; FY19#17.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Playground Associates. appx \$9,350 per assistant

Six playground assistants would provide valuable programming and supervision for children, assist with park maintenance and provide a safety presence from July through Labor Day in Bloomingdale Playground (West 104th/Amsterdam), Frederick Douglass Playground (West 100th/Amsterdam), Happy Warrior Playground (West 98th/Amsterdam), Sol Bloom Playground (West 91st/Columbus), Tecumseh Playground (West 77th/Amsterdam), Bennerson Playground (West 64th/Amsterdam Houses), Neufeld Playground (West 76th/Riverside Park), and Dinosaur Playground (West 97th/Riverside Park). (FY10 #18; FY11 #24; FY12 #14; FY13 #9; FY14 #19; FY15#16; FY16#17; FY17#14; FY18#15; FY19#18.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Street Tree Pruning and Stump Removal. \$ TBD

DPR has more than 8,400 street trees in District 7. This does not include the trees in Central and Riverside Parks. Many of these street trees have dead branches; most have not been trimmed for a long time. When stumps remain in place, trees cannot be replanted. Funding for emergency pruning and stump removal and a 10-year pruning cycle would make it possible for Parks to respond more rapidly to requests for tree pruning and stump removal, would reduce safety concerns, and would allow replacement of trees that have been removed. (FY13#21; FY14#21; FY15#17; FY16#24; FY17#27; FY18#21; FY19#19.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Street Tree Bed Maintenance. \$ TBD

DPR has more than 8,400 street trees in District 7. This does not include the trees in Central and Riverside Parks. While DPR looks to adjacent building owners to maintain, including voluntary plantings, the beds of street trees, DPR itself does not have any service to maintain the tree beds. In many tree beds, the soil becomes so compacted that water and air cannot reach the tree roots. Parks it should have a service that assures that the trees planted under the major investment of “One Million Trees”, and other newly planted trees, will thrive. A program in MCD7 addressed, at a minimum, to maximizing the DPR partnership with private neighbors, would demonstrate the importance of tree stewardship; the diversion of rain water away from sidewalks and sewers; and the value of disruption of rat burrows. (FY17#17; FY18#22; FY19#20.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Vehicle Maintenance.

DPR has no budgeted funds for maintenance of its vehicles. Its vehicles are maintained by DSNY, which results in long delays and inefficiencies, severely hampering DPR operations. A dedicated maintenance budget would vastly improve DPR’s ability to maintain the parks in the District. (FY17#18; FY18#19; FY19#21.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Staff for Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center (West 60th Street.) \$216,000

Replace two playground associates and two recreation specialists (\$54,000 each) to run various programs, including programs for teens and adult fitness. Attrition policies resulted in the elimination of these staff lines after the Center reopened following substantial renovations, and cuts in programming. It is essential that this new and thriving center be fully staffed. (FY16#14; FY17#21; FY18#17; FY19#23.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Synthetic Turf Field Maintenance Crew. \$330K

Establish a crew to repair and maintain the six synthetic turf fields in Community District 7. DPR's synthetic turf installations experience heavy use throughout the year, as well as the effects of severe winters. These funds would allow DPR to contract for regular service to repair and maintain these synthetic surfaces, in order to extend their useful lives and prevent injuries to the youth and adults who use them. \$50,000-\$55,000 for OTPS costs. (FY16 #23; FY17#23; FY18#25; FY19#25.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Synthetic Turf Field Installations. \$250K

Provide funds to purchase materials so that Parks staff can install synthetic turf fields, as was done last year at the Lions Gate Field in Sara D. Roosevelt Park. Installation by Parks staff has the potential to cost significantly less than installation by private contractors. (FY18#26; FY19#26.)

Department of Parks & Recreation

Inclusive Playgrounds Design.

Playgrounds in schools and parks should consider children with disabilities in planning and building. Funding is needed to design play space that is inclusive, not just accessible. (FY17#25; FY18#24; FY19#27.)

Capital:

Department of Parks and Recreation

Frederick Douglass Playground, West 100nd Street-102nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

Replace the synthetic turf field (\$2.2M), which has outlived its life span; repave the handball courts (\$325K). (FY16#27; FY17#24; FY18#26; FY19#3.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Cherry Walk, Riverside Park, 100th to 129th Streets, at the Hudson River. Path illumination only. \$1.2M

The Cherry Walk is the section of the Hudson River Greenway that runs from 100th Street to 129th Street along the river in Riverside Park. Unlike other parts of the Greenway, this 30-block section, built in 2000, has never had lighting, creating grave hazards for nighttime users. In non-daylight hours, the outline of the path is difficult to discern, and it is often impossible for users to see one another. Conditions are particularly challenging for those traveling north, who are blinded by the headlights of oncoming cars on the Henry Hudson Parkway. Making matters worse, the path splits around trees or patches of grass at some points, and the pavement overall is deteriorating, with numerous cracks, tree-root protrusions, making the lack of lighting all the more dangerous. The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) recently indicated an intent to install B-pole lighting along the length of the Cherry Walk in the near future and has identified funds available to do it. However, the agency is looking for approximately \$200,000 from elected officials – specifically, Council Members Rosenthal and Levine and/or Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer -- to supplement its contribution. (FY18#1; FY19#4.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Kayak Dock, 72nd Street at Hudson River. \$350K

The kayak dock at 72nd Street and the Hudson in Riverside Park needs to be repaired in order to restore the free kayaking program that it serves. Non-profit volunteer groups conducted a free kayaking program throughout each summer at the 72nd Street location since the dock was installed there in 2003 through 2015. Over 90,000 people participated in the free kayaking program during that time. The program encourages New Yorkers to engage with the river, is a great source of free active recreation and is a natural site for education about safe boating and waterfront ecology. In the spring of 2016, one of the dock's pilings failed, making the launching site unusable, and the free kayaking program had to be suspended pending restoration of the dock and its underwater infrastructure. Borough President Brewer and Council Member Helen Rosenthal allocated \$195,000 and \$210,000 respectively for FY18, but the project is now determined to cost more than previously anticipated. An additional \$350,000 is needed. (FY18#2; FY19#7.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Reconstruct basketball courts, active recreation and ramped stairs at W102nd Street in Riverside Park. \$1.8M

Work will include the reconfiguration of the area of existing active recreation located at W102nd Street. The existing basketball courts will be resurfaced and additional areas of active recreation will be added to complement the pending completion of the 102nd Street Field House and Riverside Park Conservancy Sports Camp. The existing ramped stairs, connecting the Promenade with the 102nd Street soccer field and Field House, have been closed to the public because of a significant deterioration in the condition resulting in extremely hazardous conditions. Park users, many of them young children, now have to take a much longer route to reach the recreation area. The stair requires major structural improvements and a total reconstruction. Substantial recent allocations by Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and Council Member Helen Rosenthal have proved insufficient to fund this project at the current estimated cost of \$1.8 million, so additional funds are sought. (FY15#16; FY16#6; FY17#7; FY18#7; FY19#8.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Equipment for District #7 and Riverside Park. \$345K

Purchase a mini-packer for garbage collection (\$110,000), a pickup truck with snow plow, salt spreader and Tommy lift gate (\$55,000); and a Toolcat multi-purpose vehicle, including snow plow, snow brush, cleaning brush and front-end loader bucket (\$90,000) for CD7; and a similar multi-purpose vehicle for Riverside Park. These vehicles are necessary for the park operations. They will permit far more efficient deployment of the limited number of staff personnel, reduce or eliminate waiting times for existing shared vehicles to become available and/or to be repaired, and reduce unnecessary use of fuel. Council Member Helen Rosenthal has allocated funds for several vehicles in the recent past, but heavy use, additional wear and tear on existing vehicles and other factors result in these additional vehicles being highly important to park operations. (Similar: FY12#3; FY13#4; FY14#4; FY15#3; FY16#4; FY17#5, FY18#6; FY19#10.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Cherry Walk, Riverside Park, 100th to 129th Streets, at the Hudson River. \$5M

Full reconstruction of the existing bicycle and pedestrian path to the extent still needed after potential "resurfacing to state of good repair" by DPR under a Borough-wide contract, including repaving the existing asphalt path, installing new park security lighting, and reconstructing sections of the existing rip rap edge and the landscape between the Henry Hudson Parkway and Hudson River. The Cherry Walk is part of the Hudson River Greenway. Since it was constructed nearly two decades ago, and particularly as other sections of the Greenway to the north and south of this segment have been opened, the number of cyclists using the Cherry Walk, both commuters and recreational cyclists, has exploded. The Cherry Walk is also heavily used by walkers and runners. It was built without lighting, which makes it

dangerous after dark. Furthermore, it has suffered substantial deterioration because of its vulnerable location, unusual storms and its heavy use. It is subject to increasing flooding and deterioration with rising sea levels unless it is substantially reconstructed and partially relocated, generally per the 2016 Riverside Park Master Plan. (FY16#2; FY17#3; FY18#4; FY19#13.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Soldiers and Sailors Monument, West 89th Street on Riverside Drive. \$30M

Restore the interior and exterior of the Monument, provide ADA access to the terrace and restore the plaza areas. A recent engineering study commissioned by OMB concluded that this 115-year old monument dedicated to the Union Army is in an advanced state of deterioration and may have to be fenced off to protect the public from falling stonework. It is literally falling apart, with loosened joints, chipped stone and various other types of damage from the passage of time and from vandalism. (Expense/Study Only: FY05#13; FY06#18; FY07#23; Capital: FY08#17; FY09#19; FY10#17; FY11#7; FY12#9; FY13#7; FY14#20; FY15#22; FY16#13; FY17#8; FY18#9; FY19#16.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Renovation of Anibal Aviles Playground, West 108th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. \$4.3M

Renovate the playground, including new play equipment, safety surface, drinking fountain, lighting, fencing and landscaping. (FY13#16; FY14#18; FY15#20; FY16#21; FY17#11; FY18#10; FY19#17.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Dinosaur Playground, West 97th Street, Riverside Park \$2.5M

Reconstruct the playground, including new play equipment and swings, safety surface, update of bathrooms in the adjacent comfort station, which would be made accessible for people with disabilities. (FY10#23; FY11#14; FY12#13; FY13#12; FY14#22; FY15#23; FY16#22; FY17#15; FY18#16; FY19#20.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Green Outlook, Riverside Park \$4M

Build the "Green Outlook" facility on the no longer needed south parking lot near the 96th Street tennis courts, including a landscaped overlook, a solar-powered comfort station using state-of-the-art compost technology and a sustainable parks maintenance building. This project would serve thousands of Greenway users, tennis players and other park users. This project would "green" a currently paved space and dedicate it to park users. Total cost: \$5.5M (The Riverside Clay Tennis Assn. plans to raise \$2 million, including \$500,000 for a maintenance endowment, but has thus far raised very little.) Then-Council Member Brewer allocated \$1.2M for this project several years ago, but, given the apparently intractable and very large funding shortfall, that money was recently re-allocated to another project in Riverside Park for which bids had come in over the budgeted amount. (FY15#17; FY16#19; FY17#20; FY18#22; FY19#22.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Sol Bloom Playground (West 91st-92nd Streets, CPW-Columbus Avenue.) \$1.7M

Renovate the schoolyard, which serves P.S. 84 and the adjacent community, into a multi-purpose play area with synthetic turf that can be fully utilized by the students during the school day and neighborhood youths after school and on weekends. Council Member Helen Rosenthal has allocated \$750,000, which has been assigned to DOE. A decision is pending as to whether DOE should handle this project. (FY14#17; FY15#19; FY16#20; FY17#23; FY18#24; FY19#24.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, West 60th Street. \$500K

Replace skylight over the multi-purpose room, built in the early 1900's, in the old portion of the building. During heavy rains, activities currently have to be suspended because of leaking, which is damaging the rubber floor. (FY16#23; FY17#23; FY18#25; FY19#25.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Booker T. Washington Playground, West 107th Street to West 108th Street, between Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue. \$1.6M

Replacement of synthetic turf and hand ball court. (Similar: FY18#27; FY19#26.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Verdi Park, West 72nd-73rd Streets at Broadway/Amsterdam Avenue. \$TBD for renovation; \$3500 each for additional solar trash compactors.

Verdi Park is overrun with rats. It has an extremely high ratio of food consumption to square footage. Its benches attract a large number of homeless people, and its current plantings facilitate the establishment of rat burrows. Then-Council Member Brewer allocated \$50,000 several years ago for the purchase of 10 solar trash compactors for Verdi Park, but those funds were never deployed and could not be deployed for trash compactors. Rather, they were held to be deployed as partial funding for a reconstruction of Verdi Park that would address the problems leading, among other things, to the heavy rat infestation. Meanwhile, Council Member Helen Rosenthal provided funds for three solar trash compactors, which have been installed. Several more are needed; see also CB7's FY19 Expense Budget priorities. (FY18#28; FY19#27.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Happy Warrior Playground, West 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, PS163. \$2.55M

Repave the multi-purpose play area; rebuild and expand the parkhouse as a district headquarters for M&O, eliminating the need for DPR staff to use a trailer; and add a storage facility. (FY16#28; FY17#25; FY18#28; FY19#28.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Matthew Sapolin Playground, West 70th Street, PS199.

Upgrade the playground, including resurfacing the pavement around spray shower, replacing the safety surface, and replacing the backboards. (FY16#29; FY17#26; FY18#29; FY19#29.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Restoration of the perimeter sidewalk along Central Park West. \$400K/block

The Park's perimeter sidewalks along Central Park West have buckled and present tripping hazards. Hex pavers, curbs and benches would be replaced. Columbus Circle has been reconstructed, and the CPW sidewalks in its immediate vicinity have been restored. The section of the sidewalk between 86th and 90th Streets was recently reconstructed through a project of the Central Park Conservancy that is restoring the adjacent landscape within the park. The remaining sections of the CPW sidewalk along Central Park from 77th Street to 109th Street still need funding for restoration. (FY07#10; FY08#20; FY09#25; FY10#26; FY11#19; FY12#17; FY13#17; FY14#25; FY15#26; FY16#31; FY17#29; FY18#32; FY19#31.)

Department of Parks and Recreation

Phase 3 of Restoration of West 69th Street Transfer Bridge in Riverside Park.

The West 69th Street Transfer Bridge in Riverside Park off of West 69th Street is a unique relic of the industrial history of the Riverside Park South area as a major freight rail yard. The plans for Riverside

Park South have always included restoration of the Transfer Bridge. Phase 2 of the restoration is fully funded and is in the final design phase. Phase 3 would connect the Transfer Bridge with the adjacent Esplanade, allowing members of the public to access the Transfer Bridge itself for recreational and educational uses. (FY17#29; FY18#32; FY19#32.)

3.8 Environmental Sustainability

Recognition of an Inconvenient Problem

Our Upper West Side community and our City beyond are woefully unprepared for the accelerating environmental challenges before us, and are falling farther behind with each year. Many of the obstacles to achieving environmental sustainability are not strictly speaking budgetary issues, except perhaps insofar as budget decisions can have an impact on individual and collective behavior.

While many of the obstacles to environmental sustainability are also not unique to our Upper West Side District, local communities are at the heart of efforts to address those obstacles. The federal government's decision to "withdraw" from prior commitments enshrined in the Paris Accords has been met by corresponding pledges by the City of New York and many other cities, towns and States within our country to take up the cause on their own, albeit without a unified and cohesive national vision or the funding and strategic leadership that a national policy could summon. Marshaling localities and States to address climate change will be even more complicated by the federal government's open contempt for the scientific consensus concerning the role of human hands in creating and perpetuating the climate change crisis. The Environmental Protection Agency's own website buries any recognition for the man-made drivers of climate change, eroding both the funding for and the urgency of the call for overdue remedial actions.

Bolder action is needed at every level (from activists to government) to halt and begin to reverse the march to irreversible environmental destruction. Championing a respect for the role of science and systems engineering as a means to that end would be a welcome start, and one that can be modeled locally.

- Preparing for Climate Change

The overwhelming consensus of experts, buttressed by empirical data, establishes that the global climate is under stress and already evinces marked change. Local anecdotal evidence of annual storms and other weather conditions that were once considered once-a-century phenomena reinforce the scientific conclusions.

Policy on a local level is slow to respond. Few material changes to the New York City Zoning Resolution, and only a handful of changes to the Building Code in a handful of coastal zones, even mention let alone provide for the effects of rising sea levels from climate change. In our District, whose entire western border is composed of Riverside Park (but for one sea-level building complex now under construction), the effects of rising sea levels will be felt in the loss of active and passive recreation spaces. One need look no further than 2012 and Superstorm Sandy for the combined impact of rising sea levels and severe storm surges on residential and commercial communities. The experience of Coney Island, Staten Island and other communities in our City demonstrate that many of such impacts

that are among the hardest to mitigate or recover from are visited on our poorest and most vulnerable neighbors.

- Infrastructure Challenges

Inadequacies in the infrastructure of our City make addressing the reality of climate change a herculean struggle. For example, one effect of rising sea levels and more frequent catastrophic storms is the potential that the storm sewers and drainage runoff system will be overwhelmed. Since New York City has a "common" sewer system, the dual impact of rising sea levels and violent storms is not only to back up storm drains and turn roadways and open spaces into lakes, but to cause the solid waste treatment facilities either to back up or be overwhelmed and discharge human and solid waste in the Hudson River and other bodies of water. At a minimum, reducing storm water runoff and separating it from the common sewer stream is a health as well as urban planning necessity.

- Addressing the Impact of Human Activity

Not all examples of the impact of human activity on the environment are at the macro level. The failure of our State Legislature to allow home rule in the case of erecting economic disincentives to the use of flimsy plastic bags means that our parks and public spaces will continue to have such non-recyclable bags as detritus befouling our trees and waterways, and clogging the already-burdened storm sewers.

Human impacts on the environment also include the invisible but pernicious desposit into our common sewer system of a host of plastics and microscopic fibers, mostly man-made and with an excessively long half-life, that in turn becomes part of our water supply and is ingested by land and marine animals, including humans and our pets. Some of these microfibers are dangerous if not toxic.

The common sewer system makes weather-related storm runoff and the management of waste water more difficult when human solid waste is added to the equation. For example, the absence of a ubiquitous and easy-to-follow program for separating organic food-related matter from the storm and waste water system renders that common system more vulnerable. A system that facilitates organic material recycling and composting not only could yield benefits for urban gardeners and farmers, but would eliminate such waste from the management docket.

- The Need To Revisit the Consequences of Urban Planning

Complicating factors affecting efforts to address the impact of climate change on our District and City include our system which allows certain development activities to proceed as-of-right, while others must undergo discretionary review and approval – especially since the determination of whether a development project requires a discretionary approval is not driven by the scale of the project's potential impacts on the environment or community. Some of the largest scale development projects now underway in our City are being pursued as-of-right, thus evading the robust environmental review and other inquiries that are a part of our City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure when discretionary approvals are required. Conversely, more modest projects may be stymied by the cost and intensity of scrutiny required to obtain approval. It is a given that greater height and density adds immeasurably to the value of development projects, and there is evidence to establish that the same height and density makes environmental sustainability more difficult to achieve and less likely to be realized. The time is come for a careful look at how and when the types of review and analysis currently associated with discretionary approvals should be required.

- The Role of Energy Sources

One of the key elements of the Paris Accords and of similar measures to rein in the runaway effects of human enterprise on long-term environmental conditions is the goal of achieving defined reductions in the release of carbon and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

In our City, where public transit already contributes to reducing our collective carbon footprint, the richest vein for mining for reducing carbon emissions is reform of our HVAC systems and related residential and commercial building management techniques.

A all-too-often overlooked solution to the release of carbon for HVAC needs is thermal exchangers in ground-source heat pump systems. By using the Earth's own internal temperature gradients with heat exchangers, technology is already providing developers and the governments to whom they are accountable with a means to reduce, possibly drastically, the energy needed to heat and cool and protect our living environments, and with it the greenhouse and other toxins released into our air and water.

- Pursuing Solutions

Tackling the consequences of human impact on environmental sustainability, particularly given the lack of leadership on this issue at a national level, requires reform of the Zoning Resolution and the Building Code to embrace the difficult steps required to import the scientific consensus on the issue into doable steps.

Those solutions must also include funding for these initiatives, recognizing that research and development must be made available to those whose means barely allow them to conform to current regulations let alone a new vision for individual and collective action.

Additional Specific Issues and Trends

- Transportation Emissions.

Many Upper West Siders feel overwhelmed by traffic congestion, especially in terms of truck traffic and emissions. There is an increasing desire to reduce road traffic, including idling trucks and buses, and to create more access to energy-friendly transportation alternatives such as walking, biking, and mass transit. Many groups are interested in limiting parking both on-street and off-street to reduce the number of private cars in our District, adding protected bike lanes, and redesigning intersections to make the pedestrian experience more inviting and safer. Many have also sought more frequent transit service on busy routes.

- Building Efficiency

New residential construction in the District creates opportunities to implement sustainable building systems, but as noted above existing zoning and building codes are limited and difficult to enforce. Most new buildings have glass facades, which constrict natural airflow and afford little room for energy-saving insulation, and typically depend on HVAC heating and cooling even when ambient temperatures are comfortable. Few new buildings take advantage of solar or other renewable energy sources, which CB7 encourages and believes should be incentivized.

- Building Emissions

With strong early support from CB7, our City has eliminated the use of the highly toxic "No. 6" heating oil in most buildings (other than, shamefully, New York City school buildings). A large portion of those buildings which have eliminated the use of No. 6 oil have switched to systems that can use No. 4 oil, which is nothing more than a blend of cleaner No. 2 oil and the toxic No. 6. In effect, the new regulations have only cut No. 6 use in half. CB7 encourages the completion of the effort begun with the elimination of No. 6 oil by immediately requiring the phase-out of No. 4 oil on an accelerated timetable and rid our air of the particulate matter that still befouls our air.



Budget Priorities for Environmental Sustainability

Expense:

Department of Environmental Protection

Dedicated enforcement staff for anti-idling law.

There is currently no routine enforcement of the anti-idling law, and only spotty and largely unsuccessful enforcement of specific targeted violations. Drivers of commercial and individual private motor vehicles park at our curbs and run their motors continuously with impunity. The NYC idling law is intended to reduce pollution that harms our health. It also is addressed to limiting the use of non-renewable fossil fuels. The Upper West Side is particularly vulnerable to asthma and other health problems from pollution because of our high population density and the continued use of polluting fossil fuels for heating our buildings. DEP has no funds budgeted for enforcement of the anti-idling law, and similarly neither the NYPD nor Traffic Enforcement engages in routine enforcement nor responds to individual, specific complaints. 311 complaints are not followed up on, and the 311 system is not suited to addressing this problem. (FY16#10; FY17#8; FY18#8; FY19#3.)

3.9 Land Use and Preservation

- Nine Historic Districts, including 1100 Buildings
- Seventy Four Individual Designated Buildings
- Four Interior Landmarks
- Four Scenic Park Landmarks

Land Use

BSA Reform: During the past year several proposed amendments to the City Charter were reviewed by the Land Use Committee. In general the committee believes that BSA procedures need to be rationalized, made more efficient and made more transparent. The Committee will continue to follow up on the status the proposed amendments and offer testimony where appropriate.

Super-Tall Buildings: Liberal rules for transfer of development rights (TDR's) and a lack of height limitations in non-contextual districts have contributed to a proliferation of super tall buildings. These have occurred primarily in the 57th Street corridor, but at least two are on the drawing board in Community District 7. Super tall buildings are generally jarring additions to the skyline, interfere with light and air, and cast unwanted shadows, primarily on Central Park.

Rules regarding TDRs should be tightened and/or height limitations need to be explored and the Zoning Resolution amended accordingly. Opportunities include expansion of disclosure rules include community review of all high-density developments, and potential required public disclosure of all transfers of development rights.

Proliferation of Multiple Construction Projects: Building or rehabilitating structures in a crowded urban environment, of necessity, impedes traffic, is noisy and may attract rodents. These inconveniences are multiplied where more than one such project is ongoing on a single block. Special rules need to be developed to avoid such multiple projects or, at a minimum, provide additional safeguards so as to ensure minimum disruption.

DOB Enforcement and Permitted Construction Work Hours: Many construction projects find it advantageous to engage in construction activities after permitted hours or on Sundays, in violation of city rules pertaining to hours of work. Enhanced DOB enforcement is required to police these projects and to impose meaningful penalties in the event of violations, particularly repeat violations. Additionally, DOB should enforce restrictions contained in BSA variances, the Zoning Resolution and restrictive covenants. Copies of the documents related to permitted construction bulk, materials and other features should be readily available to the public at construction sites. [CHECK NEW COUNCIL LAWS for tenant protection]

Affordable Housing: Community Board 7 places emphasis on the availability of affordable housing alongside luxury housing, and seeks to encourage new construction and preservation of affordable housing in the district. The Community Board should proactively communicate with HPD and City Planning to

ensure that funds which are available for affordable housing are leveraged to the extent possible and as quickly as possible to bring about an increase in affordable units. Where affordable housing is planned in luxury buildings, Community Board 7 insists that there can be no discrimination in terms of amenities, entrances, or apartment sizes against tenants occupying affordable units.

Sidewalk Bridges and Scaffolding: Scaffolds, while a necessary evil, should be is reasonably necessary to allow for timely completion of work. Too often, scaffolds are left in place for unreasonably long periods during which no work is done. Whether this results from poor planning or a desire not to spend money on repairs, the proliferation of scaffolds and sidewalk bridges represents a blight on our sidewalks.

Environmental Impact of Construction: Residents have complained that construction-related refuse, including hazardous materials, is not being disposed of properly within the district. MCB7 requires additional investigation on the impact of construction and the need for additional enforcement, especially demolition and disposal of refuse from construction sites.

Columbus Avenue Beautification: Columbus Avenue is a major commercial thoroughfare. In the 60's and 70's its stores, restaurants and cafes brighten and enliven the street and pedestrian traffic is heavy. North of about 83d Street, the streetscape changes visibly. There are more vacant stores or storefronts with temporary occupants who pay little or no attention to their external appearance. In the old West Side Urban Renewal area (from 86th to 96th street buildings are set back and building walls are bleak and uninviting. North of 97th Street, the Avenue is marked by construction of new buildings which impart an air of sterility. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the problems posed by Columbus Avenue, but Community Board 7 believes that an imaginative and collaborative approach might yield a more inviting streetscape.

Inadequate Public Trash/Recycling Receptacles: Inadequate street receptacles for trash lead either to overflowing garbage or disposal of garbage on the street. This is a quality of life issue of high importance. No matter how vibrant our neighborhood and its residents, a dirty and trash-ridden sidewalk is unattractive and depressing. It is unclear whether the problem results from too few receptacles, too infrequent collection, or citizen neglect, but the problem appears to be remediable with relatively little additional expenditure.

Preservation

Historic Districts and Individual Landmarks. Community Board 7 is located between 2 historic parks, Central Park and Riverside Park, both of which are designated scenic landmarks (check RSP). The avenues and side streets are filled with a variety of buildings of diverse architectural styles. In scores of blocks, rows of brownstone townhouses line the side streets, and elegant apartment buildings cap the blocks at the avenues. Many of these buildings were designed by the most outstanding architects of their times.

More than 11,000 buildings have been included as part of nine historic districts, but many significant buildings are still unprotected and threatened with demolition or inappropriate changes. While not immediately threatened, the Con Edison Power Plant on 59th Street and West End Avenue, designed by McKim, Meade and White, is vastly underutilized, as only a portion is actively used for steam

production. It would make an ideal candidate for creative reuse as an integral part of the Riverside Park cultural area.

The District also boasts many outstanding individual landmarks, from the iconic Dakota apartments to the Ansonia Hotel to the Marseilles apartment building among residential structures, as well as the American Museum of Natural History campus, St. Michael's, West End Collegiate and West End Presbyterian churches, and the Broadway Fashion Building, not name but a few.

Rear Yards. One area of concern with respect to Preservation is of the incursions into and treatment of the open space in the so-called "donuts," the rear yards of townhouses located throughout the area. Greenery and open space - part of the individual residents' property enjoyed by all who face these open areas. Businesses, schools and other not-for-profit users are developing these areas, reducing the amount of greenery and open space, and changing the character of neighborhood. Others seeking more space are building up and out without regard for their neighbors and to the light and air they are altering. A committee of preservationists, land use experts and environmental advocates with the help of public officials are working to address this issue. Some of the solutions may include tax incentives, currently offered for green roofs, and the need for DOB permits for installation of concrete. PlanNYC emphasizes the importance of sustainability and we are working toward that end.

Maintenance of designated buildings. An on-going challenge is the maintenance of non-profit designated buildings such as churches and synagogues, who are frequently faced with the dilemma of how to avoid draining their limited resources without resorting to redevelopment either by modifying the existing structures or abandoning them altogether to generate funds. MCB7 encourages efforts to identify the needs of these designated buildings and provide support to maintain them.

West End Avenue Preservation. MCB7 was an early supporter of the creation of a West End Avenue Historic District to protect the rich architectural fabric of buildings from 70th to 107th Streets west of Broadway. The effort, led by the West End Preservation Society in collaboration with many other preservation organizations, succeeded in securing designation of many of the buildings sought to be protected through a series of extensions of existing historic districts. The new zone of historic preservation captures a relatively short window of time in early 20th Century architecture when economic and social forces – largely a result of the introduction of service on the revolutionary Inter-Borough Rapid Transit Subway line beneath Broadway in 1904 – contributed to the avenue's redevelopment from low-rise row-houses to the current grand apartment buildings.

There remain buildings left unprotected by the West End Avenue initiative – mostly structures on the west side of Broadway above West 96th Street, which were withdrawn from consideration at the last minute prior to designation. These worthy structures are the subject of continuing advocacy.

3.10 NYC Administration and Finance

Tools for public access and action. Community Board 7 maintains a strong commitment to informing residents, businesses, and organizations about community actions, municipal applications, and evolving regulations. Often times, software and hardware resources are not sufficient to keep pace with the growing availability of data relevant to the community. In particular, CB7 requires software and hardware to make use of available data and to analyze statistical trends for engagement and planning purposes.

Communications. Communication is the conduit of community engagement. It is a top priority of MCB7 to apprise the community about meetings and to inform the public of issues pertaining to the Upper West side. The forms MCB7 uses to reach our constituents are: nyc.gov/mcb7.org website, email, local media, paper flyer postings when possible, and social media including: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Many potential participants are not reached by these methods or are unaware of how MCB7 can impact them. As such, the goal of the Communications Committee is to develop ways that extend the Board's outreach to make it as inclusive and informative as possible. Under-engaged groups which require direct outreach include seniors, immigrants, low wage earners, homeless and those without internet or computer access.

Flyers are the primary means for micro-communities to learn about applications for: liquor licenses, outdoor cafe, landmark questions, and other similarly-themed meetings. Flyers are produced by the MCB7 office and posted according to New York City's criteria. MCB7 committee members voluntarily implement site review to ensure the flyers have been correctly posted. This is marginally effective, and fliers are either ignored or not seen due to weather, vandalism or poor posting. It will be helpful to have names of contacts that will print and post flyers for display for its constituents.

In addition, the committee should work with local media, including print community-based broadcast network, such as Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN), in order to provide regular updates of MCB7 meetings and events. This content should focus on items of direct consequence to the community, and be presented (especially in the case of local media) in a simple and regularly-formatted digest which can serve as a "first stop" resource for the community and local press.

Most importantly, MCB7 should update its lists of contacts for individuals, community centers, institutions, buildings, schools, libraries, and businesses. In particular, MCB7 should cultivate a list of partners—including tenant leaders, block association presidents, NYCHA representatives, and senior center administrators—who will actively publicize meetings relevant to their respective communities, and serve as a conduit for important issues.

Budget Priority for NYC Administration and Finance

Expense:

Office of Management and Budget

Increase Community Board budgets.

Community boards have not received a budget increase for non-personnel costs in more than fifteen years. Meanwhile, costs and demands for services have increased dramatically. In 2014, DC37 agreed to a contract that modestly increases salaries of its members. Following the usual pattern, salaries of other unions and management will increase by the same amounts as DC37's. Board budgets, which are currently baselined at \$233,911, must be increased to reflect increasing OTPS costs. (FY08#4; FY09#6; FY10#1; FY11#1, FY12#1; FY13#1; FY14#1; FY15#1; FY16#1;FY17#1;FY18#1; FY19#1)

Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications

Data Integration/Accessibility. \$2M

Since passage of the open data law in 2012, New York City agencies are now required to make data relevant to the public available online. The potential to use this data to inform public policy is enormous. However, much of the data is not in searchable format, nor can it be combined effectively with data from other departments. CB7 would like funds allocated to update and integrate data so it is searchable and useful in identifying trends and analyzing city policy. (FY16#22; FY17#26; FY18#25; FY19#28.)

Community Board 7 welcomes comments and recommendations. Please visit www.nyc.gov/mcb7 for more information. Special thanks to the standing committees and members of MCB7 for their contributions.

Roberta Semer

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Mel Wymore

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