



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

November 8, 2007

Mark Page, Director
Office of Management and Budget
75 Park Place
New York, NY 10007

Re: Expense & Capital Budget Requests, Fiscal Year 2009

Dear Mr. Page:

At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on November 7, 2006, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 approved the following Expense and Capital Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2008.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

1. Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Increase funding to preserve and create housing in CD4 for low, moderate and middle income people using the following programs: Supportive Housing Programs; New Housing Marketplace Programs; 8A and Participation Loan Program; New HOP; and other new loan initiatives, including potential federal and state aid programs. Where applicable, new sources of funding should be identified and used for site acquisition toward the creation of affordable housing. For example, studio city needs a public subsidy for affordable housing of they property will be sold for a higher amount and have to include condos at market rate to finance the affordable units.

Such actions should include supportive housing for people with AIDS; affordable housing in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area for residents with low, moderate and middle incomes and in accordance with the community plan for the area; and affordable housing in appropriate sites to fulfill the vision of the Chelsea 197-a Plan and to realize the community's goals for the City's Hudson Yards and West Chelsea rezonings.

We have been pleased that the Mayor's plan focus' on the provision of permanent housing. We believe that, whenever possible, such projects should mix supportive housing units with other low and moderate-income units. Community Boards must be given an opportunity to assess any proposal for residential facilities in terms of the needs for specific facilities, the adequacy of the plan, and the quality of the provider. The City should work with the community to determine the size, site and design of each facility. Any facility must provide adequate and essential social services as well as access to health services and other necessary support services.

2. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): increased capital funding needed to maintain present developments.

3. Hudson River Park Trust/NYC (DPR): Fund the following portions of Hudson River Park: the western portion of Chelsea Waterside Park including Piers 62, 63 and 64, remove the heliport and complete the esplanade and park from about 28th street north to Pier 76, negotiate with Circle Line/World Yacht to move the parking in front of Piers 81 and 83 to a new garage on Pier 81 so as to permit completion of the park and esplanade in front of these 2 piers, and complete the long planned amenities in the eastern portion of Chelsea Waterside.

4. Department of Transportation (DOT): Provide traffic calming and pedestrian safety features at identified locations, including a speed bump on 25th street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, sidewalk repairs and ramps replacement around Holy Cross to complete the safe route to school recommendations; neck downs and speed bumps on 17th street; a crosswalk across Ramp C of the Lincoln Tunnel (on the western side of Ninth Avenue between 36th and 37th streets), neck downs on 15th street. Provide additional funding as needed to calm the traffic around all schools, playgrounds and parks in the district and on dangerous turns. Install improved and additional electronic signage along the pedestrian/bicycle path of the Hudson River.

5. Department of Transportation (DOT): With community input, complete permanent redesign and construction of the 14th to 16th Street plaza, and reconstructing if warranted 15th Street between 6th Avenue and 9th Avenue.

6. Department of Transportation (DOT): Construct/renovate street crossings and audible signals to be usable by blind, low vision, and hearing impaired pedestrians, and, those traveling in wheel chairs or using walking aids. Each end of every crosswalk should have a curb ramp which meets federal standards for accessibility, including minimal vertical deflection at its junction with the street surface, and a detectible warning strip with truncated domes and high visual contrast. Every crosswalk should be free of destabilizing pot holes and other vertical deflections. Every crosswalk at signalized intersections should be equipped with accessible pedestrian signals ["A.P.S."], providing WALK phase information audibly and tactually as well as visually.

7. Department of Transportation (EDC/DOT): Given the recent development on parking lots once used for bus parking and storage, and the continued displacement of such parking facilities expected under the Hudson Yards and other redevelopment plans, provide new parking facilities for commuter vans and charter bus vehicles.

8. Department of Parks & Recreation: Continue renovation of DeWitt Clinton Park including provisions for a potential physical connection (pedestrian overpass) to Hudson River Park. The Park is in need of major renovation. The two western staircases are in need of repair and have been taken out of service for safety reasons. Funding is also needed to complete the expansion of irrigation to the exterior gardens, repave the pathways, and correct drainage problems.

9. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide funds for site acquisition of new parks, specifically for the DEP property on Tenth Avenue between 48th and 49th streets and the network

of privately and public owned properties along Dyer Avenue between 35th and 41st streets. In addition, provide funds for the expansion and/or creation of greenstreets.

10. Department of Sanitation (DOS) – Explore the alternative plan endorsed by the Coalition to Protect Our Parks (CPOP) for a combined commercial and recyclables transfer station at Pier 76, replacing the existing transfer station at Pier 99 and making it available for park or park-compatible water-dependant use, also replacing the proposed transfer station at Gansevoort Peninsula, making it 100% available for park use. The plan as proposed includes no conjunction between bicycle/pedestrian traffic (the bikeway/esplanade crosses overhead at a very gentle rise), the ability to keep both the tow pound and mounted unit at the pier, and provides for nearly 100% park coverage with a gradual rise from the raised esplanade. The propose plan also comes closer to fulfilling the Mayor’s SWMP goal for Manhattan’s to be able to dispose of its own garbage with least impact on other boroughs.

11. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) – Allocate sufficient additional funding as needed to insure that the “front door” to the Passenger Ship Terminals (Piers 88 and 90) have a open, welcome, and friendly feeling, compatible with Hudson River Park which surrounds it, and with open views to the ships that dock, while still providing for needed security.

12. Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA): Provide funding and assistance in obtaining funding for Ensemble Studio Theater, INTAR theater, the 52nd Street Project, The Irish Arts Center and ART/New York to realize development plans for new or refurbished performing and studio spaces in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area.

13. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): provide for reconstruction of catch basin to prevent water overflow and pedestrian accidents.

CONTINUING SUPPORT: CAPITAL

1. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR): Continue support of the renovation of the 59th Street Recreation Center to carry out the recommendations contained in the 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force Report of June 6, 2001.

2. New York Police Department (NYPD): Continue renovations of the 10th Precinct House.

EXPENSE PRIORITIES

1. New York Police Department (NYPD) and Department of Transportation (DOT): Provide funding for additional traffic enforcement officers, especially for areas impacted by the Lincoln Tunnel, and particularly at 41st and 43rd and Ninth Avenue and on week ends , 34th and dyer, 37th and 9th , 39th and 9th , 41st and 9th 42nd and 9th , 43rd and 9th . During peak hours and weekend, peak hours. And crossing guards for Holy Cross on 9th Avenue, (per Holy Cross study).

2. Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): Enhance funding for prevention services related to HIV/AIDS and substance abuse through appropriate local medical and social service institutions, with a special priority on addressing the growing problem of new alternative/boutique drugs, including but not limited to crystal meth. Provide appropriate "way-finding" signage for the Chelsea Health Clinic. Increase funding for community-based AIDS programs funded through the DOHMH.

3. Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement: Provide funding for an Interagency Construction Task Force for Midtown Manhattan that will include but not limited to DOB, DOT, NYPD, and DEP. This Task Force could work out of the Enforcement Office and will be needed given the future development of Hudson Yards, Moynihan Station, Javits Convention Center, and the west side of Manhattan in general.

4. Department Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide sufficient DPR personnel including park maintenance workers, personnel for street tree maintenance, rat abatement and opening and closing fenced parks, and for adequately trained playground associates for programming. In addition, an increased presence of PEP officers is needed to reduce the ongoing problem of crime in parks, particularly DeWitt-Clinton. In addition, the sidewalk in front of the McCaffrey Playground on West 43rd Street is extremely deteriorated and unsafe, and needs immediate attention.

5. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): Increase funding for community-based AIDS Education Programs funded through the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. With all expert indicators predicting a catastrophic spread of AIDS and prevention being the only tool in the fight against it, the AIDS education and outreach budget should be increased so that its message reaches every New Yorker.

6. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): Increase the number of DEP inspectors and provide them with proper specialized equipment and training, including sound-level meters and training to detect low frequency noise generated by nightclubs.

7. Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC): Provide sufficient personnel to perform the essential duties of designation and regulation. Increases in both designated properties and in development pressures have led to excessive demands on a Commission staff that not too long ago numbered not much more than two-thirds of those in place at an earlier peak when demands were lower. Recent temporary staff increases have enabled the Commission for the first time in years to keep up with its workload in timely fashion, to begin to meet the demand for designation of threatened buildings and districts, and to undertake surveys of a few areas threatened by indiscriminate development. At a minimum these increases must be incorporated in the baseline budget of the Commission. Further increases are required to meet the continuing threats to historic resources.

8. Department of City Planning (DCP): Provide funding for increased staff to review and process land use applications. Current staffing levels, particularly in Land Use and Environmental review, are inadequate to meet the demands of the current development environment.

9. Department of Buildings (DOB): Increase the number of properly trained DOB examiners and inspectors; in particular, we need inspectors familiar with and dedicated solely to the enforcement of the rules pertaining to the Special Clinton District, the Special Hudson Yards District, and the Special West Chelsea District, and S.R.O. buildings throughout the CD4.

Plus, maintain the baseline funding in last years budget for inspectors who enforce the law against illegal hotel conversions.

Monitoring compliance of the building code is essential for tenant safety. Detecting abuses of the regulations also protects tenants from abusive landlords who withhold maintenance services either to save money or to intimidate tenants into vacating apartments which can then be rehabilitated and let at higher rents. The recent audit of self-certified applications makes it clear that a major increase in reviews by examiners and inspectors will be required to ensure the integrity of the process and that applications and construction are actually consistent with essential regulations such as zoning and the building code.

10. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) and Department of Buildings (DOB): Increase the number of properly trained code enforcement inspectors and coordinate inspection services with all affected City agencies to report code violations, ensure compliance with special district regulations, and to halt the illegal conversion of residential apartments and single room occupancy rooms for use as tourist accommodations. Regular code inspections are essential to maintain housing stock and to protect residents against both natural deterioration and deliberate neglect by owners seeking to empty units for higher profits.

11. New York Police Department (NYPD): Fund the Purchase of Sufficient Hand-Held Noise Meters for Police Officers and provide training in their use. Noise has become a serious quality of life problem in our community and throughout the City. Since the Department of Environmental Protection's noise inspectors are available on only a very limited basis, and since many of the noise problems occur in the small hours of the morning, it is essential that the police be able to monitor noise conditions independently.

12. Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Youth and Community Development: Provide full funding for after school programs at Public Schools 11, 33, 35, 51, 58 and 111, the Upper Lab and Museum Schools. Restore funding for essential community based youth services, especially in response to the needs of low-income and disaffiliated youth who live, work or go to school in CD4. Restore funding for affordable after-school care for low-income working families.

13. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Expand funding for anti-displacement and housing improvement programs, such as the Community Consultant Program in the CB4 area. With community consultants playing an increasingly significant role in delivering technical, legal, organizing and management services to low-income tenants, funding for contracts should be increased to allow all viable groups to continue operating.

14. New York Public Library (NYPL): Maintain sufficient professional and clerical positions at Muhlenberg, Columbus and Central Libraries in order that libraries can remain open six days a week.

15. Department of Sanitation (DOS): Provide additional litter baskets of the new design with a larger capacity. Regulations state there should be litter baskets on every corner south of 96th Street. As pedestrian traffic continues to increase, the Sanitation Department should increase its litter basket purchases to comply with the regulations.

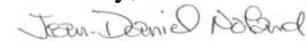
16. New York Public Library (NYPL): Increase funding for books and materials at the Columbus and Muhlenberg Branch Libraries to reflect higher acquisition costs (prices).

17. Department for the Aging (DFTA): Expand funding for senior social programs and case management programs, including escort and home care services and further increase the eligible income for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE).

18. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR): Provide additional funding for Greenthumb projects in City parks. City parks need more Greenthumb projects.

19. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene provide funding specifically for additional horse inspectors.

Sincerely,



Jean-Daniel Noland

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

The information contained in this document has been submitted also electronically via Office of Management and Budget's Budget Request Submission process.

cc: Borough President
Electeds