

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 1 CHILD POPULATION UPDATE

Diana Switaj, Urban Planner

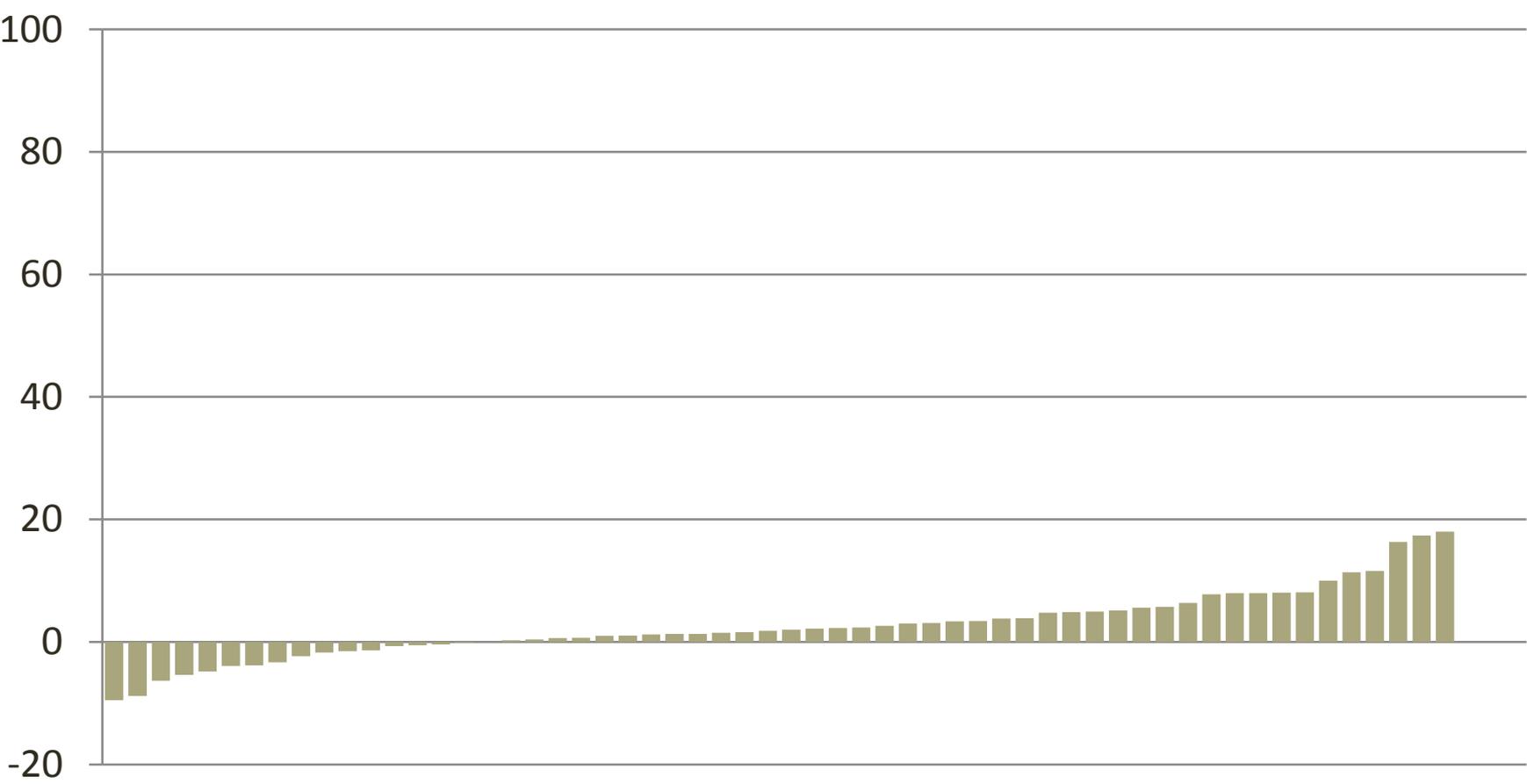
New York City Council

Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment

Oversight: The Effect of Changing Demographics of the
Lower Manhattan Neighborhood

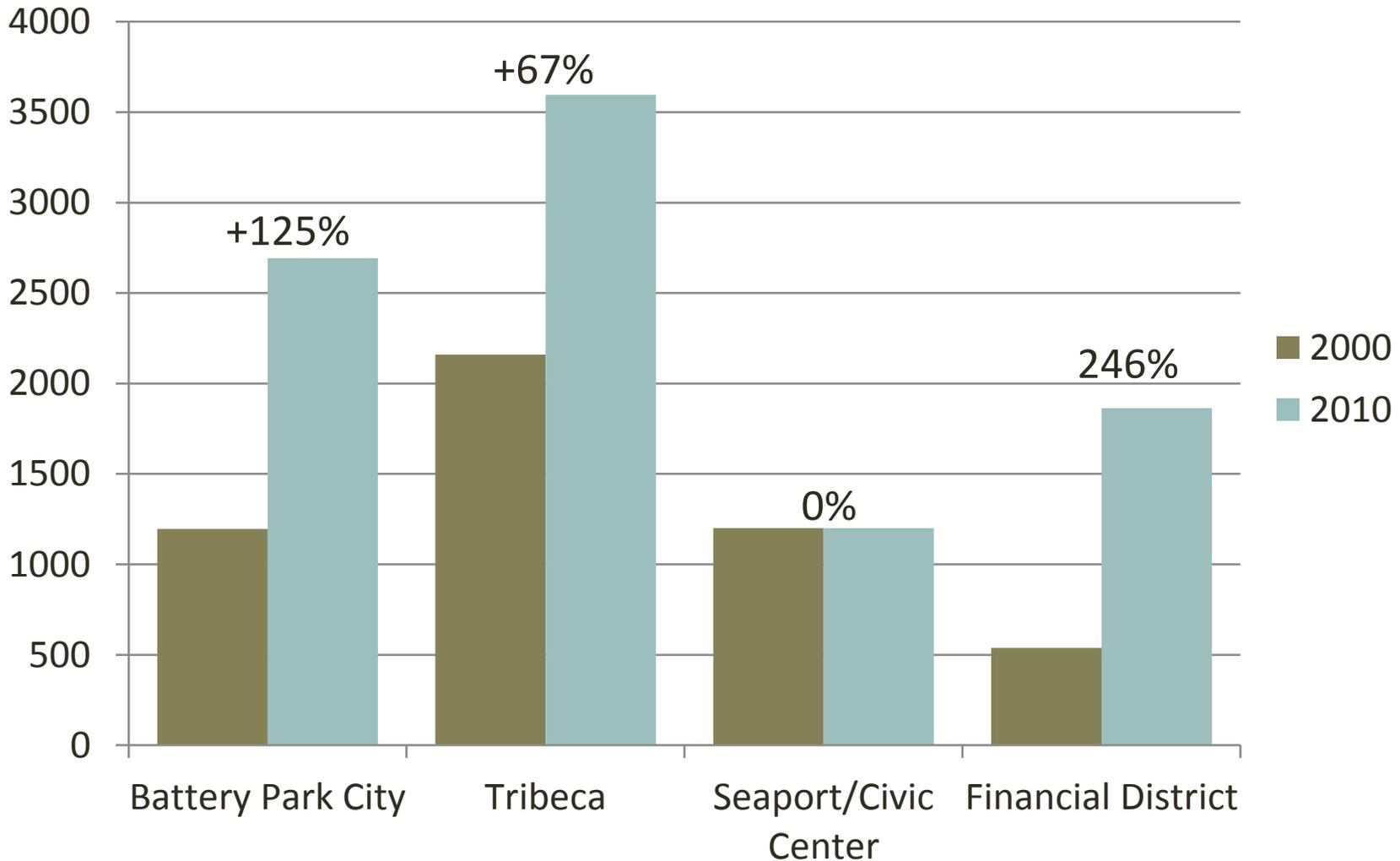
May 7, 2013

Population Growth by Community District in New York City 2000 – 2010 (in percentage)

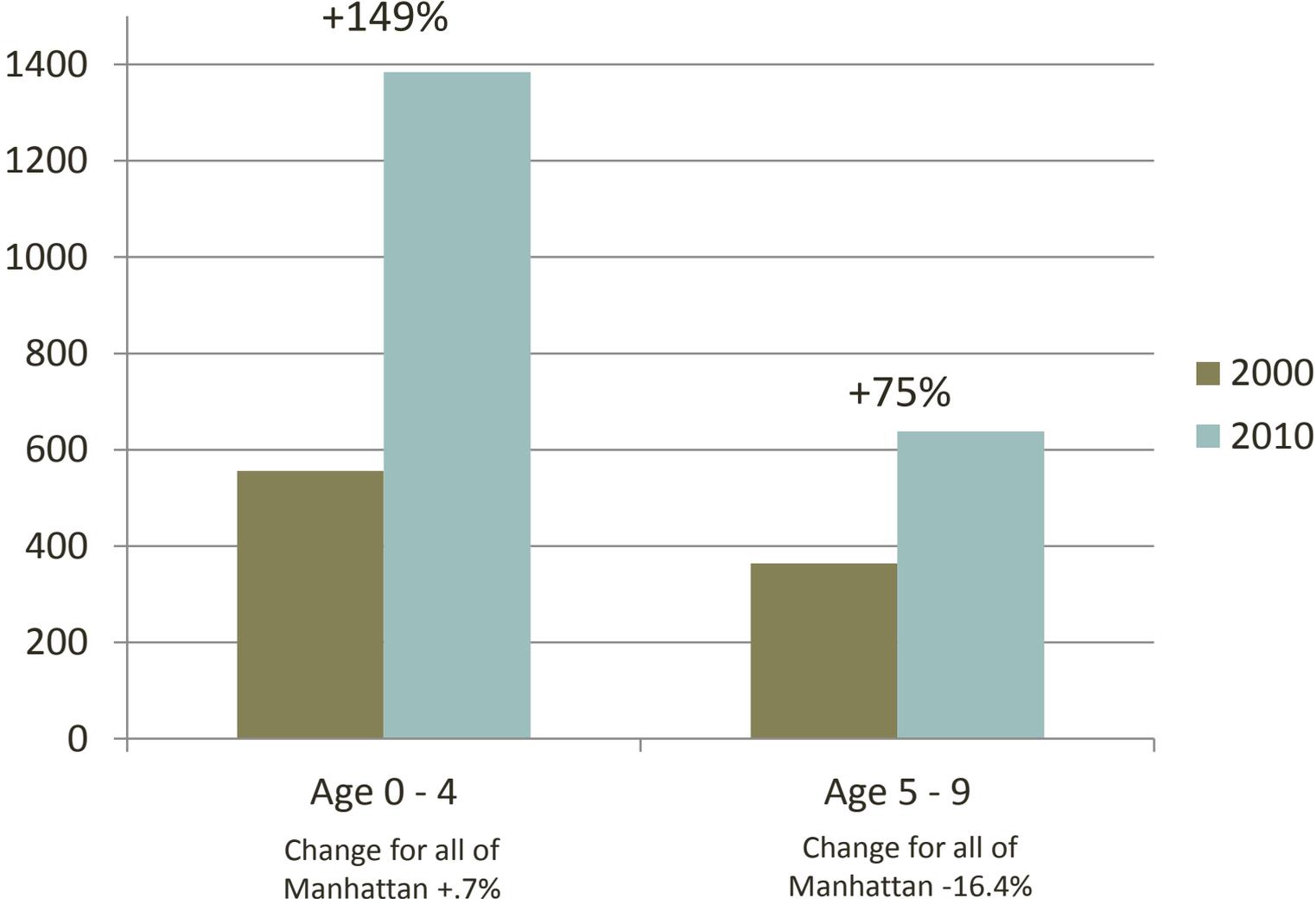


SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS

LOWER MANHATTAN 0-19 POPULATION CHANGE BY NEIGHBORHOOD, 2000 - 2010

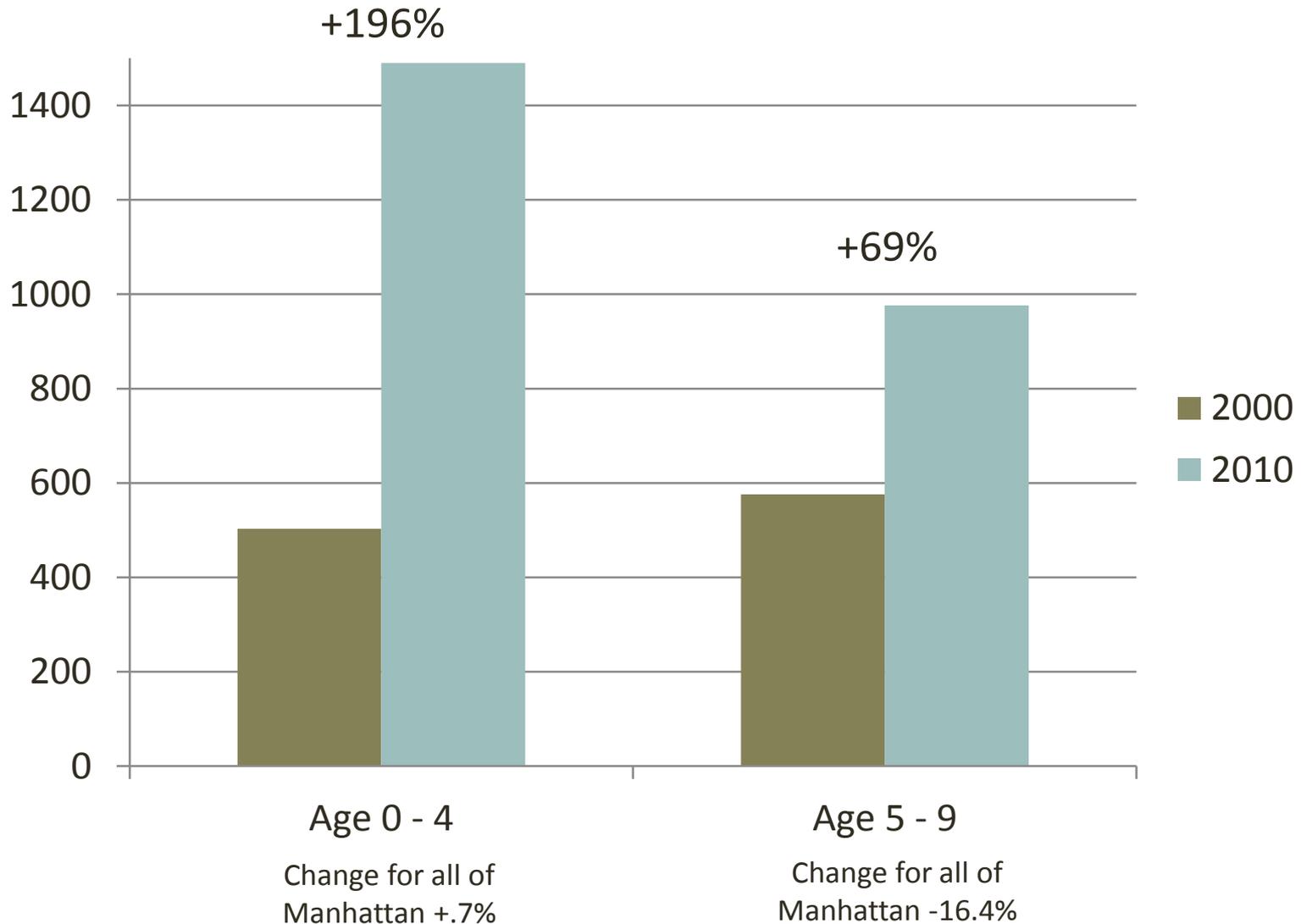


BATTERY PARK CITY CHILD POPULATION 9 YEARS AND UNDER

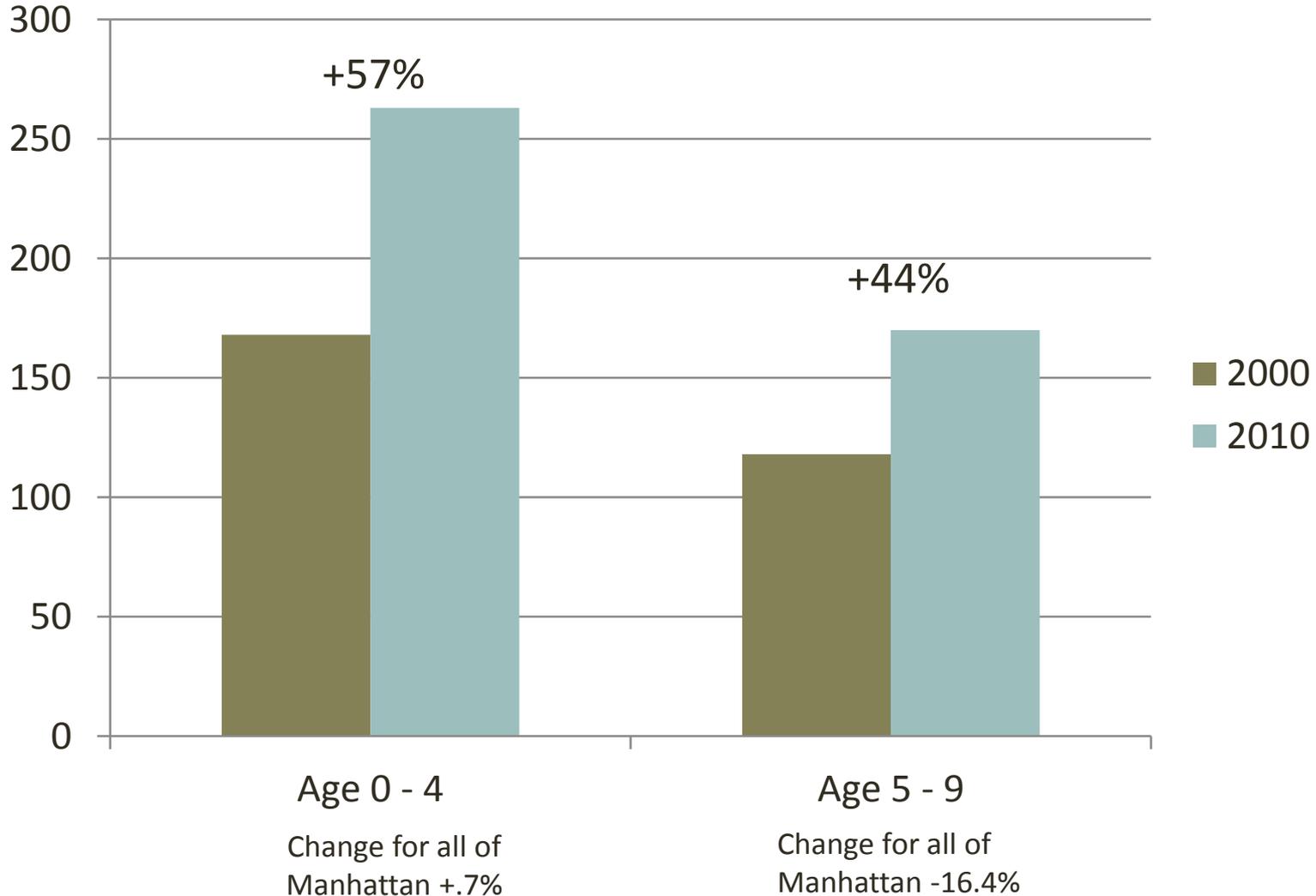


SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS

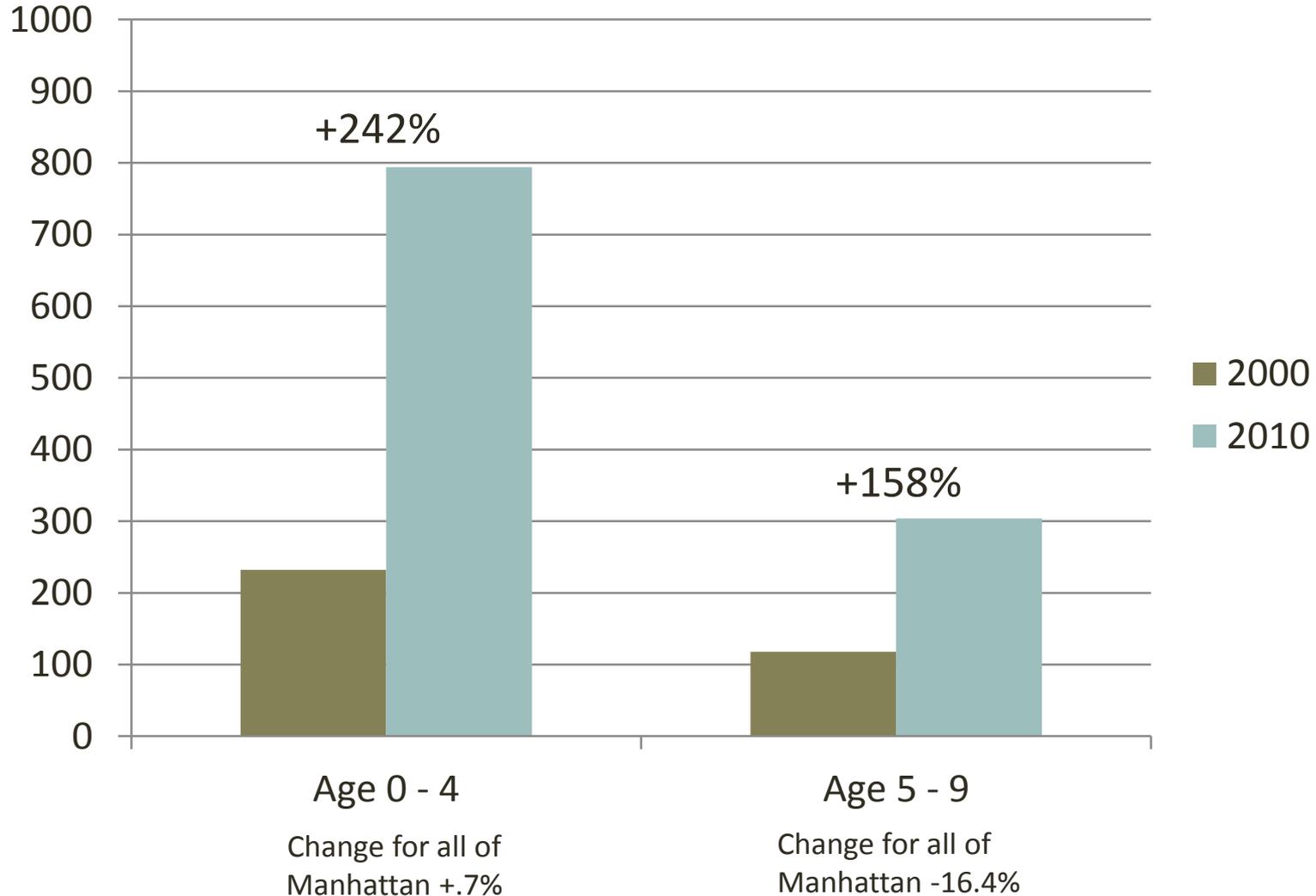
TRIBECA CHILD POPULATION 9 YEARS AND UNDER



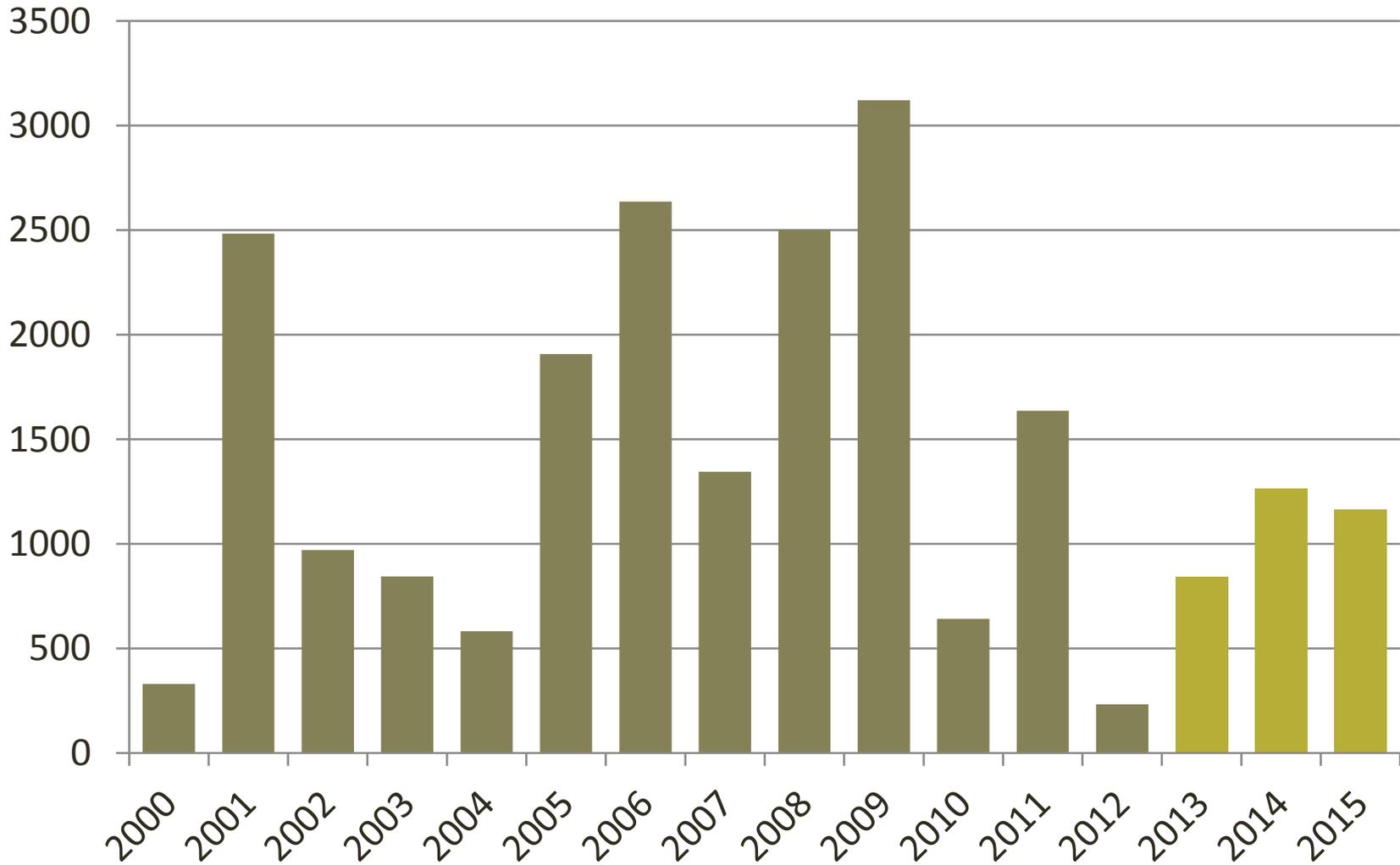
SEAPORT/CIVIC CENTER CHILD POPULATION 9 YEARS AND UNDER



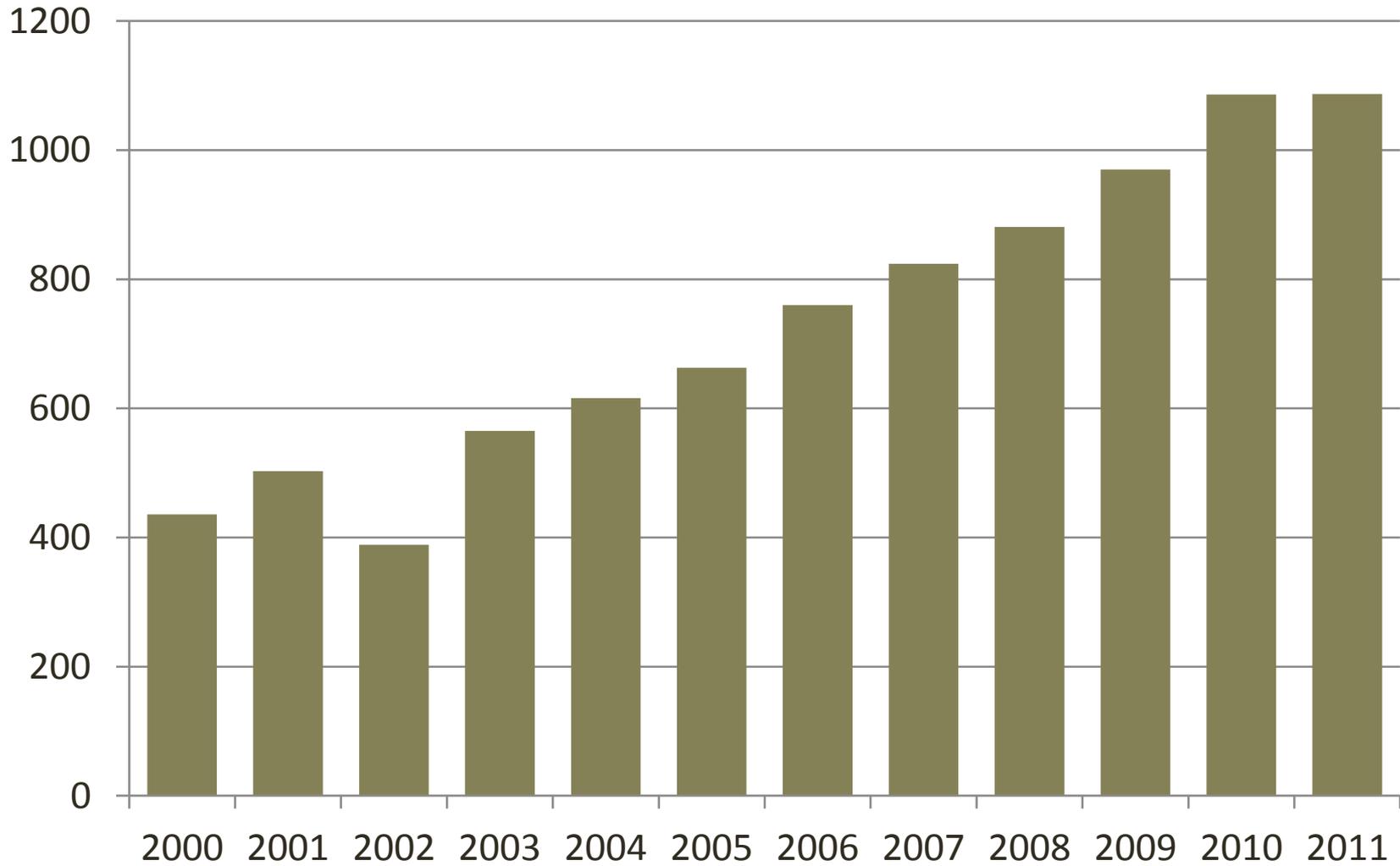
FINANCIAL DISTRICT CHILD POPULATION 9 YEARS AND UNDER



RESIDENTIAL UNITS ADDED IN CD1 2000 - 2015



BIRTHS IN CD 1 2000 - 2011



APPENDIX

BATTERY PARK CITY CHILD POPULATION 2000 - 2010

	2000	2010	# Increase	% Increase
Age 0-4	556	1384	828	149%
Age 5-9	364	638	274	75%
Age 10-14	167	381	214	128%
Age 15-19	108	290	182	169%
Total	1195	2693	1498	125%

TRIBECA CHILD POPULATION 2000 - 2010

	2000	2010	# Increase	% Increase
Age 0-4	503	1490	987	196%
Age 5-9	576	976	400	69%
Age 10-14	502	562	60	12%
Age 15-19	578	568	-10	-2%
Total	2159	3596	1437	67%

SEAPORT/CIVIC CENTER CHILD POPULATION 2000 - 2010

	2000	2010	# Increase	% Increase
Age 0-4	168	263	95	57%
Age 5-9	118	170	52	44%
Age 10-14	120	132	12	10%
Age 15-19	794	635	-159	-20%
Total	1200	1200	0	0.00%

FINANCIAL DISTRICT CHILD POPULATION 2000 - 2010

	2000	2010	# Increase	% Increase
Age 0-4	232	794	562	242%
Age 5-9	118	304	186	158%
Age 10-14	80	231	151	189%
Age 15-19	108	535	427	395%
Total	538	1864	1326	246%



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

New York City Council Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment

Oversight: The Effect of Changing Demographics of the Lower Manhattan Neighborhood

Testimony by Catherine McVay Hughes, Chair Manhattan Community Board 1

**Tuesday, May 7, 2013
250 Broadway, 14th Floor Committee Room, NY
1:00 PM**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Margaret Chin and members of the Committee on Lower Manhattan Redevelopment. I am Catherine McVay Hughes, Chair of Manhattan Community Board One (CB1). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the effect of changing demographics on the Lower Manhattan neighborhood.

As illustrated by the presentation by Community Board 1's Urban Planner, Lower Manhattan's population has increased dramatically since 2000. Community Board 1 is very concerned about this atypical growth. While the numbers depict the incredible growth in our district, there have been major demographic shifts within our population that have major implications for community infrastructure from school seats to active recreation space.

Lower Manhattan originally attracted residents because of its reasonable rents and close proximity to high quality jobs. The residential population of Lower Manhattan used to be primarily composed of non-family individuals living in joint quarters. Now, Lower Manhattan has many more families. During the late 1990s, Lower Manhattan was already on its way in transforming from a mostly commercial area to a mixed commercial/residential area. This trend was temporarily disrupted due to the events of 9/11, and then accelerated by incentivizing programs and residential rezoning.

During the immediate aftermath of September 11th, the return of residents to Lower Manhattan was greatly aided by a federally funded Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) *Residential Grant Program* that aimed to maintain the existing population and draw new residents to the area by offering up to \$14,500 towards rent.¹ This program was incredibly successful in drawing in new residents -- by 2004, data collected by the Downtown Alliance showed that almost half of the residents had moved to Lower Manhattan after 9/11.² This influx of new residents to Lower Manhattan was further aided by the 421-g and 421-a tax incentive programs as well as Liberty Bonds which added thousands

¹ Romano, Jay. "Aid Plans for Areas Hurt on 9/11." *New York Times*, 25 August 2002, J5.

² Alliance for Downtown New York. *Lower Manhattan Residents: A Community in Transition*. 2004

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of residential units to the neighborhood. These programs aided in manifesting the City's vision for Lower Manhattan as an attractive, family-friendly 24/7 residential neighborhood.

Today, over a decade after 9/11, our neighborhood has gained that family population but is severely lacking in community infrastructure to support this subsidized and incentivized residential population. This problem will only continue to grow without immediate and substantial improvements to our community facilities.

One of the biggest problems facing Lower Manhattan as a product of our changing demographics is school overcrowding. Currently, there are nearly 150 students that are waitlisted for zoned schools in Lower Manhattan for September 2013. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that all schools in Community District 1 have endured budget cuts for at least the last three fiscal years. For the past three years, Community Board 1 has listed additional school facilities as its #1 Capital Budget Request.

Another major concern for Community Board 1 is the lack of active recreation space to accommodate our residents, and especially our growing child population. There is currently a severe shortage of ball fields in our district which creates significant strain and conflict for sports leagues in our neighborhoods from soccer to baseball to football. This issue remains a top priority for our Community Board, and with so little active recreation space available in Lower Manhattan, we are forced to search for any available ball fields outside of our district to accommodate our growing child population and the subsequent growth in sports leagues. Community sports are important for the education of our youth and sense of community.

Since 2000, Lower Manhattan has drawn in many young couples and families. Community Board 1 has heard frustrations from many residents who were drawn to our neighborhoods because of its excellent reputation for schools, amenities, and overall quality of life – and high quality jobs within an easy commute either by foot or by public transit. These residents now have children who are waitlisted from their zoned schools and often must travel to different neighborhoods for active recreation space and other facilities. Community Board 1 is concerned that without improvements to our community facilities and amenities, we will begin to lose the residents we worked so hard to attract.

For years, our residents have endured many negative effects of the massive effort to rebuild and revitalize Lower Manhattan. We believe it is time that the City provides us with the adequate community facilities needed to support downtown's growing population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.