



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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COMMUNITY DISTRICT 12, MANHATTAN STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FY 2016

Executive Summary

Manhattan Community District 12 (CD12M) encompasses the most northern parts of Manhattan, including Washington Heights and Inwood. The district, which is geographically diverse, is bounded by the Harlem River Drive on the east side and by the Hudson River on the west side; and runs from West 155th Street to West 220th Street.

We are a diverse community of 209,617 residents, an increase of 19,000 residents from the last survey (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2012 American Community Survey 3 Year Estimates - Population Division - New York City Department of City Planning (Jan 2014)), including a majority of residents 149,678 (71.4 percent) of Latino or of Hispanic heritage; 34,463 (16.4 percent) of White Non-Hispanic; 16,155 (7.7 percent) of Blacks/African American Non-Hispanic; 5,240 (2.5 percent) of Asian or Pacific Islander Non-Hispanic; 74 (less than 1 percent) of American Indian and Alaska Native Non-Hispanic. The largest group in the district is of Dominican descent. Community District 12 is also an immigrant community: the district has a foreign born population of almost 50% (102K residents), with 55.5% residents not being a citizen yet. The median age in the district is 36, and almost a quarter (20.6%) of our population is under 20 years old and 12.1% of our residents are over the age of 65.

We also have a high poverty and unemployment rate: 21.2% of our residents live on incomes below the federal poverty threshold, with 33.5% of those people being under the age of 18. Our district median household income (\$39,535) and the Manhattan median household income is (\$66,739)¹. In addition, the American Community Survey 3-year estimates for 2010 through 2012 indicates that 10.3% of our residents ages 16 and over were unemployed and 33.6% were not in the labor force. In 2013 49.5% of our residents were one 1 or more forms of public assistance (an increase of 1.5% vs. 2005 when last measured, according to the Dept. of NYC Planning Community District 12 portal page. Notably, 31.5% of our adults over are over the age of 25 and do not have a high school diploma. Community District 12 urgently need employment services to increase the median household income, social/human services that support our working families, vocational training schools to raise resident skill levels to obtain competitive employment, provide more services for immigrant families, and more free ELS courses for non-English speaking residents.

Manhattan Community District 12 Priority

1. Urgently need a Workforce1 Center in the district to help manage the extremely high unemployment rate of 10.3% (*almost 3% higher than the current NYC rate, and 4% higher than the national average*)
2. The preservation and expansion of new permanent affordable housing within our district – significant government responsiveness and investment are needed to ensure that new permanently affordable (low, moderate, and middle-income) housing is built in our community
3. Increase Park Enforcement Officers in Northern Manhattan – 1/3rd of our district is covered in park land

¹ http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2014/01/new_york_city_census_data_manhattan_and_brooklyn_are_much_poorer_than_you.html

4. Public Safety resources are significantly lacking in our community, including the need for additional NYPD officers, closed circuit cameras in parks and troubled areas, expanded and new lighting in certain areas of the community, and other law enforcement tools
5. Community District 12 is in need of additional traffic agents to deal with several dangerous traffic safety situations throughout the district
6. Expanded ESL resources in the district – 74% of our residents speak a language other than English
7. Elevator maintenance at district transit stations (including 181st Street) and flood prevention protection
8. Increased and expanded vendor enforcement of food carts throughout the district
9. Parking priority for community residents

Housing

Community District 12 Manhattan is well known for its pre and post-world war buildings which are in need of much maintenance and repairs. Many of which are not accessible for individuals with disabilities. As well it holds the most rent regulated apartments in all of Manhattan at 56, 173 rent regulated units. Within Community District 12 Manhattan there exist many housing issues where tenants who live in these apartments are faced with deplorable living conditions and serious housing code violations. This is such a problem that in 2010 and 2011 than The New York City Public Advocate Bill De Blasio now Mayor created the Worst Landlords Watch List, reporting s Manhattan's worst-run down buildings are mostly Harlem, Washington Heights, and Inwood. Forty five of the 56 Manhattan buildings on the list are in those areas

The impact of high rent is felt nationwide, the call for affordability is imperative. A report created by Shaun Donovan / Secretary of the U.S Department of housing and Urban Development "Out of Reach 2012" defined affordability as it is consistent with the federal standard that no more than 30% of a household's gross income should be spent on gross housing cost and households paying over 30% of their income are considered cost burdened.

The former Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg's acknowledged the need for 165,000 more affordable housing units to be either built or preserved in New York City. However the Mayor's affordable housing distribution has been grossly uneven, as seen in statistics provided by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development regarding the borough of Manhattan. From 2004 to 2010, 36,271 affordable housing units were built or preserved in Manhattan, but more than two-thirds of this construction was concentrated in just three of Manhattan's twelve community districts.

Residents in this district are faced with rising rents; overcrowding and physical conditions of existing rent-regulated housing units are often in deplorable, conditions with serious housing code violations. This clearly highlights the needs for more funding our existing housing stock in regard to preservation and new construction of affordable housing. Another major concern for our community is the need for affordable and accessible housing, since the median household income of our residents is 38, 320 and 42.3% of our residents, received some form of income support in the form of cash assistance, SSI or Medicaid in 2009.

Many tenants who are faced with these conditions cannot afford to pay for a lawyer and are fearful of taking their landlord to housing court to advocate for repairs. Tenants are fearful of retaliation tactics by landlords and of frivolous evictions from their apartment. This is why it is so vital to have legal services for tenants and to continue funding for our local CBO's who provide legal services for tenants.

Community Board 12 Manhattan supports the following actions

- The creation of affordable and accessible housing within community district 12 that takes into account resident's AM

- Fund additional subsidies to local food pantries and soup kitchens
- Higher more HPD inspectors
- Continue funding for DHS,ACS and HRA services
- Continue funding for our local community based organizations who provide vital services in; housing, benefits advisement, addictions, mental health, domestic violence, behavior modification, harm reduction, immigrant services and legal services for tenants,

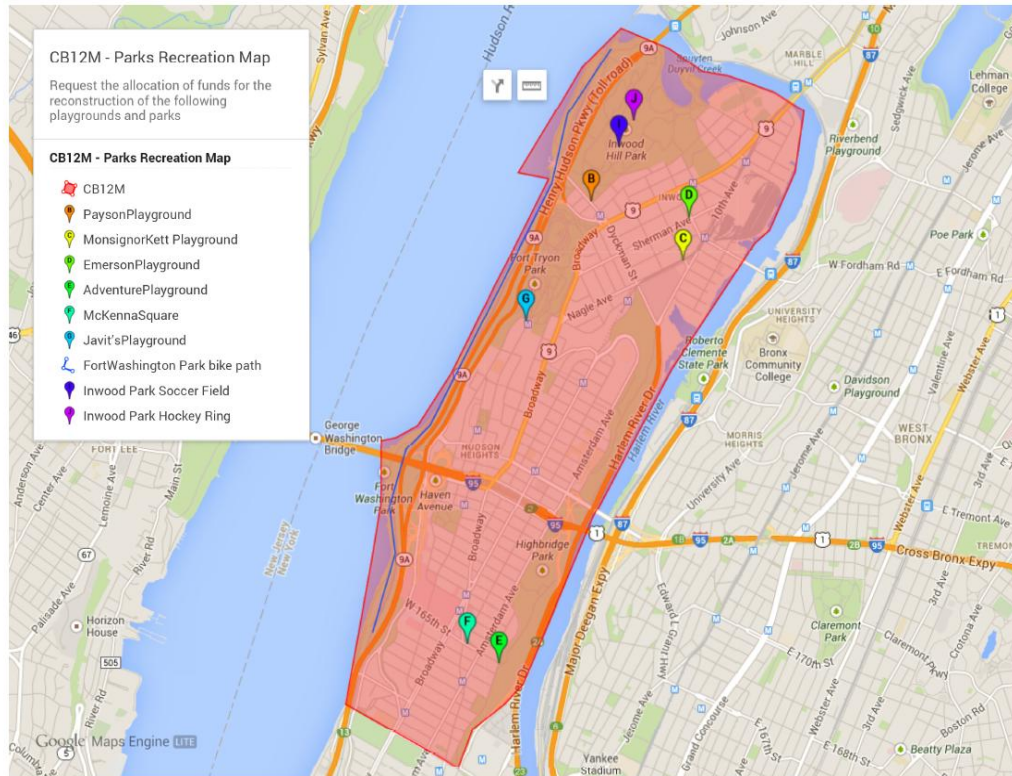
Parkland

Infrastructure

Community District 12 has a total of 1,790 acres and features over 600 acres of parkland; approximately 1/3 of the district is parkland. However, parkland is not well utilized by the residents due to lack of accessibility. The bulk of community district 12 parkland is adjacent to the Hudson River and the Harlem River Drive. Access to the parkland adjacent to Hudson River is by West 155th Street by the Henry Hudson Parkway; and the access to the parkland adjacent to the Harlem River is by Dyckman Street and the Harlem River Drive, this parkland also has access by West 155th Street and the FDR Drive. There is no access to parkland adjacent to the either river due to from the middle of the district. The lack of access to the parkland adjacent to the Hudson River and the Harlem River Drive triggers an overuse of the parkland and playgrounds that have access in the middle of the district. The overuse of smaller parks and other playgrounds in the middle of the district are subject to an increase in wear and tear due to lack of accessibility to the other parks and playgrounds along the river. Due to the increase in park goers this requires additional equipment and repairs. Therefore, we request the allocation of funds for the reconstruction of the following playgrounds and parks:

1. Payson Playground located at Dyckman Street and Payson Ave.
2. Monsignor Kett Playground located at West 204th Street and Nagle Ave.
3. Emerson Playground located at West 207th Street and Seaman Ave.
4. Adventure Playground located West 165th Street and Edgecombe Ave.
5. McKenna Square located on West 165th Street between Amsterdam Ave and St. Nicholas Ave.
6. Javit's Playground located at Fort Washington Ave and Margaret Cabrini Blvd.
7. Fort Washington Park bike path
8. Reconstruction of the Inwood Park Soccer field
9. Reconstruction of the Inwood Park Hockey ring
10. Construction of more picnic areas; the district actual has two picnic areas.
11. Reconstruction of the sidewalk adjacent to Payson Park located on Payson Ave between Seaman Ave and Dyckman Street.
12. Reconstruction of the Hockey Ring in the Dyckman Field and make it a multipurpose court.

(See attached map and photos)



Payson Playground located at Dyckman Street and Payson Ave.



Monsignor Kett Playground located at West 204th Street and Nagle Ave.



Monsignor Kett Playground located at West 204th Street and Nagle Ave



Inwood Park Soccer Field



Soccer Little League

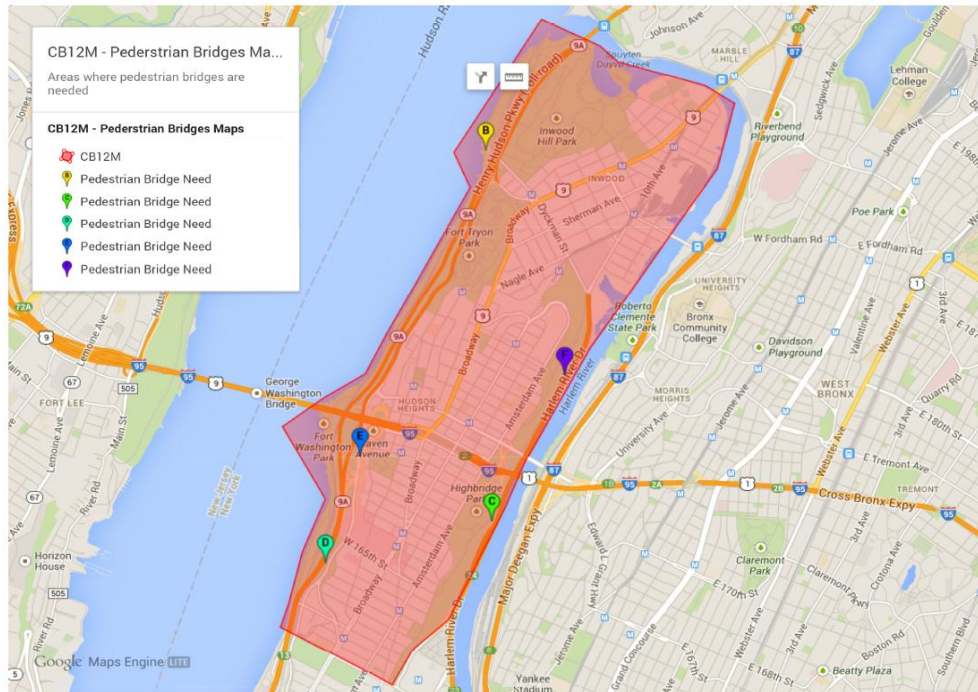


Inwood Park Hockey Ring

In order to provide more access to Parkland we request the allocation of funds for the design and construction of pedestrian bridges to connect the parkland adjacent to the Hudson River and the Harlem River Drive. (See attached map)

CB12M - Pederstrian Bridges Maps

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Personnel

The Community District 12 parklands are in desperate need of more maintenance personnel. Despite the fact that the 2012 Report Card on Large Parks made by New Yorkers for Parks* gives good grades to two of our large parks (Inwood Park and Fort Tryon Park) our parks need more maintenance staff according to local parks leadership. Community District 12 actually has five permanent park workers and more than half are about to retire soon. Due to budget restriction NYC Parks is not replacing park workers when they retire. The actual Job Training Program (JTP) is not supplying the need of park worker within the district because the JTP participants have little motivation to learn and to give their best since they are not likely to be hired as park workers at the end of the six months training period.

Equipment

The topographic of Community District 12 parkland is very complex since we have a lot of hills. The vast extent of our parkland makes it a great challenge to be manually maintained; therefore, we request that funds be allocated to purchase the following equipments:

1. Gator Utility Vehicles
2. Adequate equipment to cut grass in vast extent and narrow terrain

(See attached photo)



Enforcement and Security

Due to the large percentage of Parkland within Community District 12 Manhattan we require additional PEP officers in order to maintain and enforce parks regulations. During summer months there is a large increase of park goers who use the park land for illegal outdoor activities. i.e.

1. Illegal barbecue
2. dogs off leashes
3. illegal parties and drinking
4. Parks opening and closing
5. Overnight parties affecting residents within the district and the Bronx I.E. The Marsh Peninsula at West 218.

Furthermore, the lighting in every park within Community District 12 must be upgraded and CCT cameras connected to the NYPD installed in each park within the district.

Community Board 12, M also supports the following:

- The development of the Sherman Creek waterfront for multipurpose recreational use and calls upon federal, state, and local officials to fund the project.
- Fund the design and implementation of bikeway improvements.
- Fully fund and immediately begin work on necessary repairs to the High Bridge Tower, which has been closed to the public.
- Request that Parks Department takes affirmative steps in cleaning up and rodent prevention of all parkland in CB #12, Manhattan.
- The NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's renovation plan for the Grotto in Fort Tryon Park's Alpine Garden, and urges the Public Design and Landmarks Preservation Commissions to approve said plan
- The design for the reconstruction of the path and stairs and miscellaneous site work behind the Cottage and leading to the Henry Hudson Parkway within the southwest portion of Fort Tryon Park (Contract No. M029-210M), as proposed by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.
- 5-8 additional Parks Enforcement Officers assigned to Northern Manhattan
- The installation of cameras at parks and playgrounds to defray costs of human capital by acting as a preventive force from damages by others, as well as to focus on troubled areas (please refer to public safety priorities)

*The 2012 Report Card on Large Parks, Prepared by The New York for Parks www.ny4p.org.

Education

According to the American Community Survey from 2012, CD12M's population of young adults under the age of 20 consist of 43,237 (20.6 percent) and 12,414 (5.9%) under the age of 5. These two important demographics represent a significant increase over this time last year, including an almost 6,000 person increase in young adults in the district, and almost 2,000 person increases in children under the age of 5. The community of Washington Heights and Inwood has approximately 29,550 students (an almost 25% increase from this report last year) and 31 public schools, 19 out-of- school time (OST) programs, 8 daycares and head start programs, and 3 public libraries. However, local concerns regarding the improvement and increase of resources in this community continue to be a challenge. The increase and improvement of these and other related-education resources are vastly needed in the community.

There is a high demand for a variety of programs in the community and among them are child care to assist working parents and after school programs, job training and skill development, college readiness programs to help students succeed in higher education, healthy eating in schools to reduce obesity, and youth anti-violence programs that promote safer communities.

Community District 12 urges the City of New York to provide significant resources in the following areas concerning education needs of our community, including:

- Expanded access to the Universal Pre-K program successfully created by Mayor De Blasio – the demand for Pre-K slots in Community District 12 has outpaced the availability – including in the zoned school districts of many community residents – the City and DOE should focus on creating more Pre-K resources in

the district – our district has seen an increase of almost 2,000 children under the age of 5 from this report last year – the need for Pre-K resources is on the rise.

- With an ever expanding student population in the district, Community District 12 is in urgent needs of significant after-school enrichment/extracurricular activities at local schools and parks within the district; the school day ends for most around 230pm, and most families in the district find it difficult to provide adequate after-school supervision for this children – an increased after-school enrichment/extracurricular activities at local schools and parks within the district would help further develop the educational progress of these children, as well as keep them in safe environments and our of mischief.
- The kindergarten through 8th grade population in the district represents well over 50% of the communities student population, at 17,039 students – Community District 12 is in urgent need of more classroom space, including the construction of new schools; many schools in our district are severely overpopulated, including P.S. 187, and P.S. 132, which negatively impacts the educational developments of the children enrolled in those schools, and limits the resources they have at their disposal for growth and continued excellence.
- Community District 12 only has 1 District-wide G&T program that encompasses Community Educational Council Districts 5 & 6 – we strongly urge the City of New York and the DOE to create 1-2 additional G&T programs in the districts, having at least 1 in each Community Educational Council District, 5 & 6. The need for additional G&T programs is evident by the amount of young children taking the G&T tests, As well as the rising population of those children under 5years of age, which will create a space issue in the future.

Traffic and Transportation

Due to the presence of many aging subway stations in our district and the fact that we are the final stop for a number of bus routes, Community Board 12 has worked closely with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) to improve the physical conditions of our subway stations and the issues of busses running off schedule which at times creates bus bunching. We call upon the MTA to continue its hard work in taking measures to improve these conditions and to partner with CB12 in reaching out to community members and surveying which bus routes are off schedule and which bus lines are more prone to bus bunching.

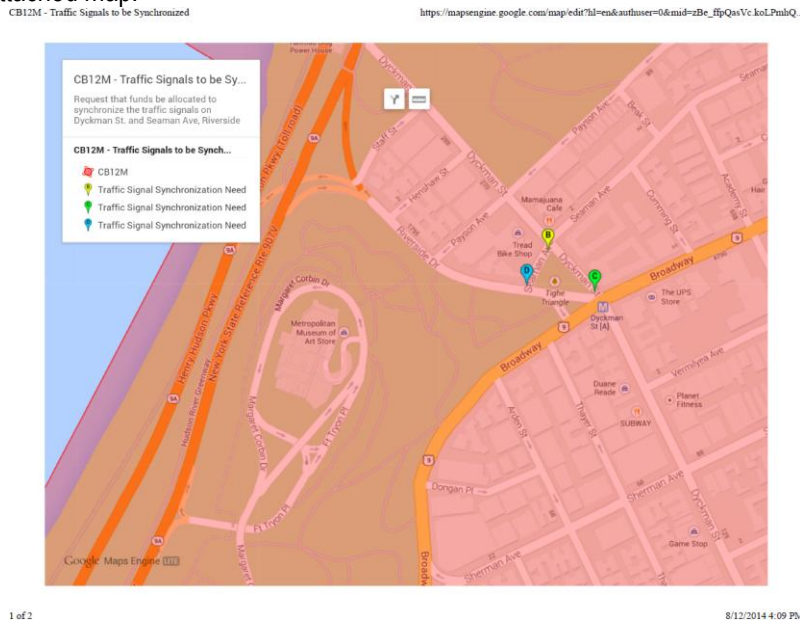
Our committee is committed to improving the safety of our pedestrians and vehicular drivers and has passed resolutions in favor of New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) initiatives related to create traffic calming measures in the following areas:

- Safe Streets for Seniors
- Provide funding for the reconstruction of Wadsworth Terrace btw 188 & Fairview ave
- Adjacent to schools
- Installing speed humps in areas where cars travel above the speed limits
- Approved the first slow zone in Manhattan in Inwood
- Continue funding for 215th Street Step reconstruction
- Studied traffic flow and patterns at 157th Street, 181st Street corridor, and Dyckman, Riverside Dr. between Henry Hudson Parkway and Broadway, synchronize the traffic signal on Seaman Ave and Riverside Dr. and Riverside Dr. and Broadway. Street lights and traffic signal in CD#12 shall be free from sneakers and debris; we ask for DOT to develop a system to address this issue.

Community Board #12 supports funding for the following DOT programs: school safety program, the senior safety program, street reconstruction program, resurfacing, milling and bus pads reconstruction.

Synchronization of Dyckman St. and Seaman Ave., Riverside Dr. and Broadway Traffic Signals

With the proliferation of restaurants on Dyckman Street between Broadway and the Henry Hudson Parkway, Dyckman Street has become a destination which generates a heavy volume of traffic on weekends and the summer time. The east bound traffic on Dyckman St. on Saturday and Sunday afternoon is unbearable. CB #12, Manhattan has received hundreds of complaints in last three summers. We have observed that part of the traffic jams are due to the lack of synchronization among the traffic signals located on Dyckman St. and Seaman Ave, Seaman Ave and Riverside Dr. and Riverside Dr. and Broadway. We made this request last year to New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT). NYC DOT reported to us that they in fact synchronized these signal for Friday and Saturday after 10 pm. However, we are still receiving complaints that the east bound traffic jams are still happening on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons. Therefore, once again we request that funds be allocated to synchronize the traffic signal lights on Dyckman St. and Seaman Ave, Riverside Dr. and Seaman Ave. and Riverside Dr. Broadway Traffic. Please see attached map.



Sneakers Removal From Lamppost, Traffic signals and Utility cables

The old practice of hanging sneakers, shoe flinging or "shoefiti" on lamppost, traffic signals and utility cables has increased within the district. There are several theories to this practice which includes gangs territory demarcation or identification of a house of drug's dealing. Despite of its meaning, shoefiti practice besides being an eyesore demoralizes the character of neighborhood and gives the false impression that it is ok to litter within the district. (Please see attached photos) Please allocate funding to allow NYC Department of Transportation to remove sneakers and any other objects from lamppost, traffic signals and utility cables since such practice demoralizes the character and presentation of the neighborhood.



Sneakers at Nagle Ave and Dyckman St



In front W. H. Academy M 366



Severe case on W 213th DOT removed it

Community Board #12, M continues to request as stated in a resolution dated October 1, 2010, that NYC DOT comply with Americans with Disabilities Act by installing Accessible Pedestrian Signals in conjunction with Countdown Signals and ultimately at all signalized traffic intersections.

According to our May 25, 2011 resolution to Department of Transportation, and to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Community Board 12 recommends that the MTA support and enforce the Rider's Rebellion Transit Rider's Bill of Rights.

Community Board 12, M advocates for the hiring of additional pothole repaving crews to work in our district and to repair our streets.

Community District 12 also supports the immediate rehabilitation of the following train stations: West 181st Street IND; West 157th Street IRT; Dyckman Street IRT; West 163rd Street IND; and, West 207th Street IRT.

Public Safety

NYPD

The geographic diversity of Community District 12 is one of the most varied in all of New York City, often presenting certain challenges to the resources of law enforcement within the District. Community District 12 lacks a sufficient number of permanent officers within the police force to address rising rape and sexual assault, gang activities, and violence on the street, as well as growing resident complaints regarding quality-of-life crimes, especially noise, loitering, car vandalism, troubles in our parks or during parades and community celebrations, and illegal parking. Community District 12 simply does not have sufficient officers' on-hand working in our district as opposed to other police precincts to meet the needs of our residents, in either the 33rd and 34th precincts.

Community District 12 urges the City of New York to provide a permanent standing force of 25 Officers for the both the 34th Precinct, as well as the 33rd Precinct. In addition, the 34th Precinct covers the majority park land and geographic diversity within Community District 12, and is in urgent need of the proper resources to police the community. We therefore urge the City of New York to provide the 34th Precinct with additional patrol cars, ATVs, Segway's, and scooters, so that the 34th may adequately protect and serve the community.

Finally, being the geographic territory of Community Board 12 is particularly vast, we urge the City of New York to provide the 33rd and 34th Precincts with a significant closed circuit camera and lighting budget, so that they can keep track of troubled areas as well as focus on preventative issues, all while using the latest technology available, without sacrificing human resources on the ground, which could instead be used for urgent responses by law enforcement.

In addition to the main points mentioned above, Community Board 12 supports the following specific proposals:

- Permanent standing force of 25 officers at the 34th and 33rd Precincts (does not include any temporary officers through IMPACT)
- Request for funding for more lighting and closed circuit cameras throughout the 33rd & 34th Precincts
- More coordination and expansion needed with commercial/residential camera network and NYPD
- Request for significant amount of cameras in parks/playgrounds and perimeters of parks
- Increase lighting in poorly lighted areas, including:
 - Highbridge Park
 - J-Hood Park
- Poor lighting and high trouble areas needing lighting and cameras including:
 - 157th – 163rd Streets between Amsterdam and Edgecombe
 - 155th – 158th and Broadway
 - Cabrini Blvd & 190th through Margret Corbin Drive (Mother Cabrini facilities)

- Dyckman strip including and through La Marina (including Henshaw to La Marina)
- Rear of George Washington Bridge and including under the bridge by the bus station on Fort Washington Ave
- Fort George & 193rd through St. Nicholas and 190th Amsterdam
- Post Avenue
- Additional funds for ARGUS cameras throughout the 33rd and 34th Precincts
- Replacement of phone system at the 34th – very out dated
- Need for a variety of vehicles for proper patrols and enforcement throughout the 34th, including park lands:
 - Additional patrol cars
 - Bicycles (motorized and non), ATVs, Segway's, Scooters – would be helpful for patrols of park land which can't fit normal NYPD cars
- Purchase of 3 additional decibel readers for the 34th Precinct

Illegal Vendors

The number of illegal vendors has increased dramatically within Community District 12. Such increase is due to the lack of effective rules with in the district and the lack there of enforcement of the existing rules. The presence of illegal vendors in certain areas of the district is dramatically affecting the quality of life of residents. These illegal Vendors have generated a lot of complaints from residents and merchants. Illegal vendors create hardship for existing business that must pay rent and taxes in order operate their business. These Illegal vendors are selling the same products the merchant sells at a lower cost. Merchants also have to pick up the tab for illegal vendor littering; the Department of Sanitation issue violations to the merchants for the litter generated by illegal vendors in front of their establishments. The presence of the illegal vendors also contributes to the overflow of litter basket within the district. Please see below locations illegal vendors:

1. Broadway between West 167th and West 170th streets
2. Broadway between West 179th and West 180th streets
3. West 181st between Audubon Ave and Wadsworth Ave
4. West 207th Street between Broadway and 10th Ave.

Therefore, we request that rules and regulations for street vending be reviewed to reflect the needs of community district 12 and that more funds be allocated to enforce such rules. Please see attached photos and maps.



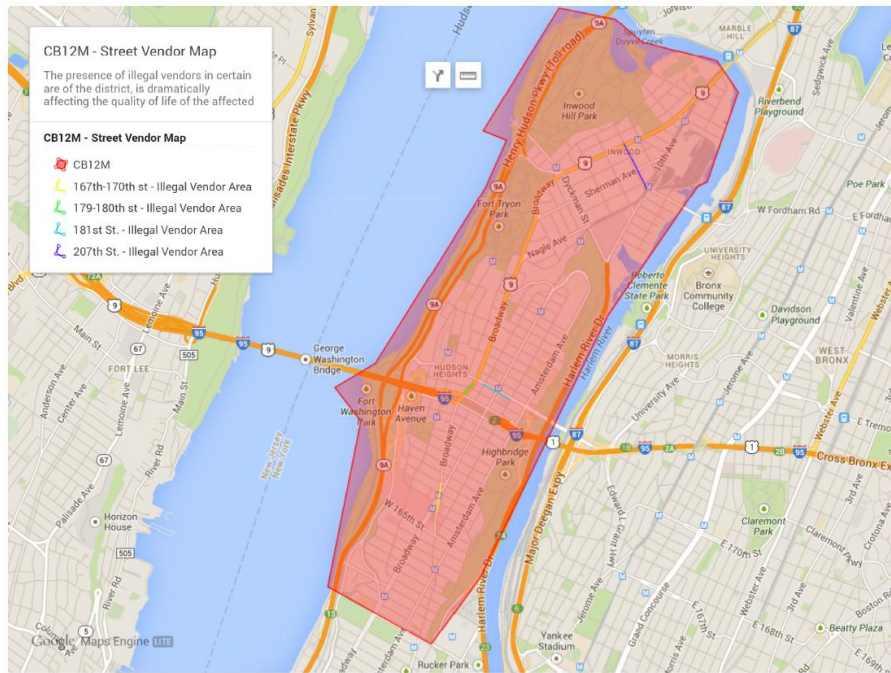
Vendors on West 207th St.



Vendors on West 181st St.



Vendors on St. Nicholas Ave



FDNY

With our aged buildings and high density population, Community District 12 advocates that our firehouses remain open and fully staffed. In addition, we are requesting the full renovation of the Engine 67 firehouse on West 170th Street. Community Board 12 also supports hiring of additional staff for enforcement issues, including ensuring that landlords who place cell phone towers on their buildings are not violating the fire code. Fire hydrants are a critical component of the tools the FDNY uses to contain fire emergencies throughout our district. Many of the fire hydrants in the district are not adequately marked with the yellow line of paint to delineate a no parking zone in the immediate area of the fire pump – it is critical the City of New York paint and mark the fire hydrant no parking area in our district, so as to properly ensure access by the FDNY and that cars are not blocking the hydrants.

Health and Environment

Our residents are less likely to have regular health care providers than those in NYC overall and foreign-born adults and men are least likely to have a regular doctor. Nearly one in ten residents use the emergency room, most likely at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, when they are sick or need medical advice. One in five local adults is obese, and almost one half do not exercise. The birth rate to teenage mothers is higher in this community than in all of Manhattan and NYC overall. On the plus side, the average annual death rates in our district is reported to be lower than in Manhattan and NYC overall.

The initial findings of the New York City Community Air Survey showed that Washington Heights is one of the most polluted areas in the City, apparently because of the huge amount of traffic coming through the community on the Trans Manhattan Expressway and the concentration of apartment buildings burning dirty fuel oil.

Community Board 12 supports the following actions to improve the health and environment of our community:

- The continuation of the Ambulatory Care Network off-site practices operated by New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), which serve people who otherwise would not have regular doctors.
- Increased funding for mental health programs and school-based health clinics in Community School District 6 schools.
- Full staffing and extended hours for the Dyckman Clinica de las Americas / Dyckman Health Center and the Washington Heights Child Health Center, the two facilities in our district operated by the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation.
- Aggressive outreach efforts by the Bureau of Pest Control to reduce rat infestation in our community, which was cited as having the highest rate of rat infestation in Manhattan in 2011.
- Restoration of funding for Manhattan's only lead-safe house, operated by the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. at 2183 Amsterdam Ave. This facility is a vital resource for families with lead-poisoned children whose apartments are undergoing lead abatement.
- Increased funding for public education and outreach on disposal of household garbage and recyclables.
- Due to Northern Manhattan becoming a destination for dining and entertainment the number of pedestrian traffic has increased dramatically we need more litter baskets on our streets to mitigate the overflow of litter baskets on our streets.
- The hiring of additional Sanitation workers, including street cleaners and Sanitation police officers, for Community District 12.
- The construction of a Sanitation garage for Manhattan Community District 8 so that its collection trucks will no longer make thousands of unnecessary trips through our community every year in violation of the City Charter co-terminality mandate.
- The use of cleaner, less polluting fuel oil in apartment buildings, local businesses and large institutions to reduce a major source of pollution in the community.
- Stronger and consistent enforcement of the Noise Control Code throughout the community, especially late at night in connection with bars and restaurants.
- Comprehensive regulations and policy for the placement of cell phone towers on residential buildings that protect public health and safety and uphold tenants' rights.

Illegal Clothing Bins

The presence of the illegal clothing donation bins have proliferated all over the district in last few months. These illegal clothing bins are crowding the sidewalks making it difficult for pedestrians and are an eyesore. We have received numerous regarding clothing bins lately. Therefore we request that the department of sanitation remove all illegal bins and for city council to pass legislation regulating and empowering DOT and DOS to expedite the removal of all Illegal Bins within the district. Please see attached photos.



A clothing bin tagged by DOS waiting for 30-days before removal. on Broadway and Dongan Pl.



Clothing bin at W 164th and Amsterdam Ave



Clothing bin on St. Nicholas Ave and West 165th St.

Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DOS) within Community District 12 is having a real challenge with their litter baskets. Current litter basket appears to be small in nature and is not sufficed for the demand of garbage flow with in the district. DOS is in need of more Manual Litter Patrol (MLP) within the district. Therefore, we request that funds be allocated to have more MLP's and assigned to the district and additional basket truck to avoid.

Seniors Needs

More than 28,000 Washington Heights-Inwood residents are age 60+ and almost one-fourth of the district's total households have one or more senior citizens living within. The Washington Heights and Inwood Council on Aging (WHICOA) states that quality-of-life issues for the elderly include increasing affordable housing, providing appropriate geriatric medical services, preserving the legal rights of seniors, providing accessible transportation 24/7, securing and maintaining access to healthy food, and educating and employing future professionals in the field of aging. There is a need for City Agencies, including the New York City Department for the Aging and others, to address the following issues:

1. Preservation and development of affordable, accessible and safe senior housing. Seniors need rents tied to their income levels so that the neighborhood's elderly population living on fixed incomes can remain in the community.
2. Increasing the provision of accessible medical services dedicated to meeting the specific needs of the geriatric population.
3. Increased legal services to educate and advocate for seniors with respect to the following:
 - a. Countering landlords who unlawfully attempt to evict seniors from rent-regulated housing or who fail to adequately maintain safe housing.
 - b. Identifying and preventing scam artists who prey on the elderly to divest them of financial resources.
 - c. Identifying and preventing physical, emotional or psychological abuse that may be inflicted by others
 - d. Educating seniors about Advance Directives and other rights that may apply.
4. Access to healthy food in the community and access to appropriate food programs that are designed to assist those with medical needs.
5. Access to safe public transportation 24 hours per day, seven days a week. (The logistics and terrain of the district pose challenges for anyone who has difficulty walking or who uses an assistive device to travel)
6. Increase in training opportunities for the community to work in the field of geriatrics. The percentage of seniors in the community is expected to grow over the next several decades. To address a need to increase the number of qualified professionals who work in the field, we need to create and support training programs for community residents.
7. Compensate those who work in the field of geriatrics with a competitive wage commensurate with the level of professionalism and skill that the position warrants.