



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 3

59 East 4th Street - New York, NY 10003

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Dominic Pisciotta, Board Chair

Susan Stetzer, District Manager

## COMMUNITY BOARD 3 ANNUAL REPORT - 2010

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### Community Board 3 District Overview

Community board 3 is a large and very busy and very active district of 172,000 residents along with its businesses and organizations. We are very diverse and trilingual; we speak mostly English, Spanish, and Chinese languages.

We are a community also going through great changes.

- There is less and less affordable housing and low- and moderate-income residents are forced to either leave the district or double up and not be counted in current statistics.
- The demographics are changing: this has caused a loss of needed funding, especially for seniors and young children, especially as we have seen an increase in youth-on-youth violence.
- We have lost funding for Neighborhood Preservation Consultants, which is impacting the preservation of the remaining affordable housing. This is in addition to the loss of funding caused by the recession.
- Nightlife and applications for licenses continues to increase year over year. The Lower East Side/East Village area continues to gain more new bars and restaurants than any other neighborhood in the city. Community Board 3 had 347 SLA, sidewalk café, and cabaret applications on its agenda, an increase of 52 over 2009 and the highest number in the past four years. There were 37 street fair and block party applications on the agenda in 2010. This number has decreased for two years in a row. Community Board 3 is extremely fortunate in having close and collaborative working relationships with all of the local elected officials. This has in effect greatly extended our resources in a non-monetary way.
- There is a multi-year effort underway by Community Board 3 to enact planning and rezoning for the district. The Board successfully completed a 110-block rezoning in 2008 to preserve the contextual nature of the area and promote affordable housing. Additional initiatives have grown out of this success. The Board is supporting community work and the City's interest in rezoning and preserving the Third Avenue / Bowery corridor. In addition, the board is working with Community Boards 1 and 2 and the Chinatown Working Group to rezone and create a 197 A plan for the broader Chinatown area. And, to complete planning for the district, the Board brought together diverse stakeholders to establish guidelines for the former Seward Park Urban Renewal Area and is working with the city to plan the urban design program for these sites.
- The City has begun years of reconstruction of public streets, water mains, bridges, and parks in Community Board 3. This work will particularly impact the southernmost and Chinatown areas. We are seeing work on Brooklyn Bridge (that necessitates staging areas and detours), the water tunnel, and traffic redesign along with reconstruction of open space.

The support from the Manhattan Borough President's office continues to allow our Community Board to work more effectively and also gives concrete assistance on community service delivery issues. The Community Affairs Unit continues to give increased assistance and collaboration to make our community voices heard and gives invaluable assistance both on service delivery issues and work with committees.



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## **MEMBERS**

David Adams  
David Crane  
Andrea Diaz  
Harvey Epstein  
Morris Faitelewicz  
Flora Ferng  
Beth From  
Rabbi Y. S. Ginzberg  
Gloria Goldenberg  
Herman F. Hewitt  
Simon Huang  
Bonnie Hulkower  
Carolyn Jeffers  
Anne K. Johnson

Linda Jones  
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Meghan Joye  
Joel Kaplan  
Carol Kostic  
John Leo  
Gigi Li  
Bernice McCallum  
David McWater  
Alexandra Militano  
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David Silversmith  
Nancy Rose Sparrow-  
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Mary Spink  
Elinor Tatum  
Rodney Washington  
Samuel Wilkenfeld  
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## **PUBLIC MEMBERS**

Paul Bartlett  
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Harriet Cohen  
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David Conn  
Christina Datz-Romero  
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Tito Delgado  
Natasha Dillon

Crystal Field  
Anne Frederick  
Tamara Greenfield  
Steve Herrick  
Jessica Loeser  
William LoSasso  
Val Orselli  
Damaris Reyes  
Lenin Reyes

Helen Serebin  
Wilson Soo  
Susan Steinberg  
Luther Stubblefield  
Michael Tumminia  
Dina Weiss  
Michael Zisser  
Bob Zuckerman

## **OFFICE STAFF**

Susan Stetzer, District Manager  
Carlos Rosa, Assistant District Manger

Edwin Chan, Community Associate  
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**District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2012**

Community Board 3 Manhattan covers the Lower East Side and part of Chinatown. Its boundaries are 14th Street on the north, the East River on the east, south to the Brooklyn Bridge and Fourth Avenue and Bowery on the west, extending to Baxter and Pearl Streets south of Canal Street. It is a community filled with a diversity of cultures, religions, incomes, and languages. Its character, drawn from its heritage as a historic first stop for many immigrants, continues to the present day. Community Board 3 is one of the largest and most densely populated districts in the city. It has over 172,000 people. At the last census, 43,000 required income assistance. This is 26% of our population and 83% greater than the median for Manhattan community boards. Seventeen percent of our population is under 18 years of age and 13percent are senior citizens. The demographics of the district also illustrate our diversity and reflect our immigrant population. The 2000 census indicates that the residential population of this district is 35% Asian/Pacific Islander, 28% white nonhispanic, 27% Hispanic, 7% African American, as well as other parts of the world represented in smaller numbers.

The district has recently been greatly affected by increasing gentrification, which has enriched the community in many ways but also changed its character, culture, and businesses. The district continues to attract more people and businesses that support the growing market-rate housing and high-end retail, but many people within this community continue to live on the edge of homelessness and economic survival.

Community Board 3 has worked to retain affordable housing and local businesses as well as serve the needs of the newcomers to this community because it recognizes that the displacement of long-time residential and commercial residents has caused great loss to this community. Many small family-owned stores, especially those that serve local retail needs, arts businesses, and nonprofits have closed and been replaced by an ever growing number of bars and restaurants. Families have been displaced from their homes because they cannot afford increasing rents. Community-based organizations, which provide essential services for community residents, struggle to provide more services and to afford their own costs with fewer resources. Their budgets have decreased because the new market-rate residents have changed the demographics of this community, making the percentage of those needing assistance smaller although their actual number may increase. This is in addition to budget cuts necessitated by the bad economy.

**Economic Development**

The overwhelming use of commercial storefronts in Community Board 3 is by small businesses that employ between 1 and 4 employees. Recent analysis of some of our larger streets, such as Avenue A and Mott Street, indicates a current vacancy rate of 8 – 9%. For a vibrant, diversified community, our small businesses need to be successful. A survey of small businesses on one heavily commercial block has reported problems in the following areas: high rents, lack of financing, property taxes, and leases. The current recession has exacerbated those problems.

A recent public meeting sponsored by CB3 between the NYC Finance Commissioner and small business owners addressed property tax increases that are being passed from small property

owners to their small business tenants. This is a serious problem for our small businesses. Preliminary research indicates that our elected officials and agencies should propose legislative or regulatory solutions to protect small businesses from tax increases they cannot absorb and give more education for small businesses regarding lease and tax consequences.

The Board is working with local artists and landlords/real estate brokers to explore the short term use of vacant storefronts by artists to mitigate the impact of vacancies by lessening the negative impact of shuttered store fronts. Using nonprofit organizations as mediators between landlord and artists to facilitate these uses has been one method explored. Further work is needed to bring foot traffic to retail corridors, to help retain existing local businesses, and to return to a more diverse business community.

Finally, the Board is investigating the creation of a Chamber of Commerce for Community Board 3. We will push for the creation of a Chamber of Commerce as a useful mechanism for small businesses for networking with other businesses and learning more about government sponsored programs that would be helpful to them. As we found with the Finance Department discussion noted above, providing information to the business community gives them the ability to make better decisions for their businesses.

One of the answers to the question of what makes a vibrant, diversified community is: more butchers, bakers, dry cleaners, shoe repair stores, and similar small businesses. We will continue to work with government officials and elected leaders to make this happen.

### **Housing and Land Use**

The crisis in affordable housing within Community Board 3 continues to worsen. Years of gentrification, rising rents, the opting out of Mitchell-Lama, limited dividend, and project-based Section 8 housing for market-rate housing, and a shortage of Section 8 vouchers contributed to this problem. Affordable housing projects and other housing programs are disappearing from our community.

Our country, state, and city face incredible budget constraints brought on by this devastating recession, which has resulted directly in cut backs by government agencies. Fortunately, Community Board 3 has managed to avoid the widespread foreclosure crisis. Nevertheless, we must remain aware of the possible problems should unemployment rates continue to rise and not entirely forget goals to attain additional affordable housing funds.

With new sources of affordable housing unlikely, the preservation of affordable, safe housing for low-income, moderate-income and middle-income families, and senior citizens remains a priority and is essential to preserve the diverse character of our community and the well-being of our residents. The City must redouble its efforts to focus its resources on protecting housing for its residents.

Adequate funding to community housing advocacy and legal groups is essential to safeguard existing affordable housing. These groups provide essential assistance to tenants who are fighting the lack of basic services, building code violations, and threatened evictions that are part and parcel of concerted efforts to replace long-term neighborhood residents with market-rate tenants. This harassment harms rent regulated tenants. Because our community groups often work in concert with the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, reduced funding to such groups prevents them – and HPD -- from staving off the displacement and homelessness of our residents

and in the long-term forces the City to expend greater funds to find displaced residents alternative shelter.

Agencies can issue violations, but there are no other measures for the city to take corrective action. Landlords are receiving violations from the Department of Buildings, but are not correcting the violations. This is sometimes done to eventually create unsafe buildings that will necessitate vacates of tenants. This in turn allows the landlord to renovate the buildings for high-income tenants. Legislation is needed to force landlords to cure violations to ensure the safety of the tenants and also to preserve affordable housing.

New development has often favored large-scale development, including the construction of luxury housing and hotels, whose scale is contextually incompatible with surrounding buildings and fails to address community housing needs. The Department of Buildings (DOB) has increased fines for and monitoring of noncompliant development, but more effective plan examination and increased enforcement is necessary so that noncompliant development does not go unchecked. The lack of monitoring continues to threaten our community. Systemic change that will enable DOB to follow up on violations and ensure that violations are corrected, including follow up of Environmental Control Board violations, is essential to ensure that violations are not merely absorbed by developers as part of their cost of doing business.

To protect our existing housing, agencies must work cooperatively to ensure adequate code enforcement so that serious violations are promptly corrected. Strict code enforcement and multi-lingual outreach and services are vital. Community Board 3 recognizes that NYCHA is the largest provider of affordable housing within the City. Although NYCHA residents must pay their fair share of expenses, they cannot be expected to shoulder the entire burden. NYCHA's increased fees for essential services such as garbage disposal and rising rents have created uncertainty for NYCHA residents who are unable to pay these extra expenses and fear that NYCHA is abandoning its mission of public housing in favor of privatization. Our city officials must effectively lobby state and federal governments to ensure that this does not happen.

At a time when housing costs continue to rise, the conversion of subsidized housing to market-rate housing decreases the availability of urgently needed affordable housing. Tenants who were previously the beneficiaries of state and city Mitchell-Lama programs and federal mortgage and rent subsidy programs, e.g. project-based Section 8, have lost such protections or are at increased risk of losing them. Although these projects may contain tenants of varied incomes, a large minority of tenants of subsidized housing are poor and low-income tenants. Absent such subsidies, many long-term tenants would be unable to remain in their homes or in our community. Specifically, we are opposed to any proposals to "block grant" the Section 8 Voucher Program. The diversity of our neighborhood must be maintained by ensuring that affordable housing is accessible. Community Board 3 opposes cuts or limitations of the Section 8 Voucher Program and other aid programs that increase the availability of affordable housing. As our district continues to struggle with finding a balance between its history and its growth, we must prioritize protecting affordable housing for our residents. This is a basic need for our community and will also protect the diversity and character of the neighborhood.

Although Community Board 3 is now located in the economic exclusion zone of the 421-a tax abatement program, we still support revisions to the program that would 1) eliminate the use of negotiable certificates, 2) mandate that developers provide 30 percent of affordable housing on site to qualify for property tax exemptions, and 3) mandate that developers taking advantage of both

421-a tax abatements and inclusionary zoning bonuses should allocate 40 percent of the on-site units for affordable housing.

### **Chinatown**

As one of the oldest neighborhoods in New York City and the country, Chinatown has been a traditional gateway for immigrants, particularly from East Asia. While Chinatown's population and boundaries have grown dramatically over the past three decades due to reforms in national immigration quotas, it continues to struggle as a densely populated, low-income neighborhood with limited language access to mainstream services and programs. Chinatown's economy suffered greatly in the period after September 11th due to restricted flow of commerce under the security zone, and more recently gentrification pressures from neighboring areas have contributed to a loss of affordable housing and dislocation of low income residents and small businesses.

In late 2008, a planning body called the Chinatown Working Group was formed with Community Boards 1, 2, 3, and other local stakeholders to identify major issues of concern in Chinatown and to come up with ways to allow Chinatown to grow while protecting and retaining its historical character. The preliminary planning needs of Chinatown have focused around a few core issues, namely rezoning for preservation and creation of affordable housing that is affordable to existing Chinatown residents, combating tenant harassment and illegal eviction, support for small businesses and job creation for locals, developing more parks and usable open spaces, improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety, bolstering immigrant social services, creating spaces for local arts and culture, enhancing educational opportunities for youth and adults, and preservation of Chinatown's unique immigrant culture and history.

Community Board 3 urges a sound planning process for Chinatown, and supports our continued involvement in the Chinatown Working Group.

In order for Community Board 3's efforts to be most effective, we request City support for our participation in the Chinatown Working Group. As well, we request support for the overall 197-a process, which encompasses issues pertaining to parks, transportation, economic development, and preservation, as well as zoning.

### **Bowery Area**

Community Board 3 recognizes that we are quickly losing the historic Bowery area. We support a new contextual zoning plan for the Bowery.

### **Nightlife and Licensing** **Nightlife**

The Lower East Side and East Village have been identified as nightlife destinations. As a result, the population of people who enter these neighborhoods to patronize nighttime businesses has increased exponentially. Not only does this district now absorb an influx of people from other areas of the City, it also attracts people from outside the City, State, and Country. Hundreds of restaurants and cafes, serving beer, wine, and liquor, now populate most of the streets in this district. Eating and drinking establishments continue to open on avenues and residential side streets whose commercial use previously consisted only of small retail businesses. Many provide a bar, lounge, or music venue to retain dinner patrons. Bars, lounges, clubs and multi-level venues with ancillary or no food service are in much of the Lower East Side and many parts of Chinatown. Numerous large

and boutique hotels, including restaurants, lounges, bars, and licensed outdoor spaces accessible to the public, now operate in the East Village and the Lower East and rely on these public amenities to be destination locations because their room occupancy rates have plummeted below sixty percent within the past two years and have only begun to rise as of April of 2010. More businesses have applied to upgrade their liquor licenses and alter or expand their method of operating in an effort to attract more patrons. Many are also seeking to commercially use outdoor space, such as backyards, side yards, sidewalks, and rooftops.

While eating and drinking establishments may provide economic, cultural, and other benefits to the City and State, so many establishments in such close proximity has caused late night noise, increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic, increased rodent problems, overflowing garbage, and other quality of life concerns of residents and other businesses. Further, an increase in the number of sidewalk café permits issued to eating and drinking establishments in Community Board 3 has effectively pushed the growing patron population onto narrower sidewalks causing increased sidewalk congestion and noise and also increasing complaints. Residents complain to 311, the police, and the community board about noise and congestion from patrons standing in front of nighttime businesses and traveling from one business to another, noise from music and people emanating from specific businesses, noise from the commercial use of outdoor areas, and sanitation issues associated with commercial locations. Most of the businesses on residentially zoned side streets are not legally zoned for commercial use but were grandfathered as commercial use specifically for small local retail needs and extending this unzoned but grandfathered commercial use to eating and drinking establishments has caused great tension between residents and businesses as noise created by businesses and their patrons has disturbed the quality of life of residents living on these streets. The outdoor spaces with liquor licenses now operating within feet of bedroom windows has contributed to the tension between businesses and residents. Some of the benefit derived by this community from these licensed businesses is thus offset by the cost to its constituents and the City from the increase in service delivery related issues resulting from these conditions. Given that the surrounding neighborhoods bear the impact of such conditions, it is fair and appropriate that there be an increase in the allocation of resources for enforcement in these neighborhoods to address them. Issues of noise, disorderly conduct, traffic congestion, sanitation and overcrowding are severely taxing the resources of our already overburdened City agencies, such as the New York Police Department, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Sanitation, Department of Health and Department of Transportation, and Department of Buildings, whose existing infrastructure cannot now adequately address them. For example, Community Board 3 has the second highest number of commercial noise complaints within a community board in the City, however, residents often complain about the lack of timely response to noise complaints made to 311 and the local police precincts. The Department of Health is currently targeting restaurants in this area that have health code violations for best practices education in an effort to decrease the ever growing rodent problem. The City needs to implement more effective policies governing enforcement, such as this best practices education, as well as provide more staffing and resources to its agencies, including increasing police staffing, specifically patrol officers, at nights and on weekends, to address the growing noise, congestion, and other issues resulting from the increase in nighttime businesses. Allocation of resources for increased nighttime enforcement of noise would alleviate some of the complaints regarding specific establishments and complaints of noisy and congested conditions generally. The City should expedite the hearing of violations issued for noncompliant use of back and side yards and should increase penalties for such noncompliant use in another effort to minimize outdoor commercial noise complaints. The City and elected officials should also collaborate with Community Board 3 to promote business diversity in its neighborhoods which have lost many of their retail establishments.

## Licensing

Community Board 3 has spent most of its time and resources evaluating approximately 300 liquor license applications this past year to address complaints about existing licensed business and provide opinions to the New York State Liquor Authority regarding pending licenses. Opinions often include agreements negotiated between the community board and applicants which the New York State Liquor Authority will then include as conditions of any approved liquor license. Community Board 3 attempts to resolve complaints about businesses and will work with city agencies to enforce regulations, but neither the community board nor local city agencies have the resources necessary to continually address enforcement concerns.

While sidewalk cafes add vitality and movement to streetscapes, Community Board 3 believes that bars and restaurants should be required to insure that noise attendant to their operation does not negatively impact the quality of life of surrounding residents. Community Board 3 urges the City to create legislation to differentiate between businesses seeking to obtain permits to extend food service to sidewalk seating and those seeking to extend their bar space outdoors and require businesses that are permitted to operate on the sidewalk to create waiting areas within their perimeters rather than push waiting patrons onto narrower sidewalks. The City must also create legislation to regulate the use of the public sidewalks which are overwhelmed by the growing patron population yet increasingly smaller as portions are allocated to private businesses. The Department of Consumer Affairs should also be provided the resources and staff necessary to increase weekend and evening inspections to ensure that sidewalk cafés are complying with their permits.

## **Youth and Education**

Community Board 3 has an increasing need for youth and education programs ranging from preschool programs to after-school programs for adolescents and teens to youth employment programs and the addition of more middle schools participating in our existing teen job training programs.

Presently, there are 8,200 children in District 1 public schools, 1,000 District 1 children in schools outside the district and 1,100 District 1 children in alternative education, such as private or parochial schools. While Community Board 3 recognizes that there are diverse factors influencing the families who have chosen to send 20% of eligible District 1 children outside of this district, by establishing more specialized programs, strengthening moderately performing traditional schools and allocating resources to schools with the greatest need would attract more District 1 children who may be unable to attend existing oversubscribed specialized programs in area schools or who do not have confidence in the traditional school programs within District 1, raise district wide scores and increase enrollment and parent involvement. The formation of viable School Leadership Teams to encourage collaborative decision-making by parents, students and faculty is also critical to the improvement and success of our district public schools. Further, Community Board 3 strongly opposes the transfer of our local school buildings to special programs, such as citywide gifted, talented programs and charter schools that do not continue to preserve a significant number of seats for and serve the needs of children residing in this district.

One major step toward attracting district families was the Department of Education's new admissions policy that 1) establishes Pre-Kindergarten as a point of entry to the school system and eliminates the need for re-application for Kindergarten and 2) gives siblings priority for placement in a school where an older sibling is enrolled, thereby reducing childcare, transportation, and

economic burdens on families with multiple school-aged children and fostering parent involvement in schools attended by all siblings. A major step that is still needed in the admissions process is to provide a mechanism that assures the maximum diversity in all district schools.

Two areas need additional allocation of funds. In its Contracts for Excellence Plan on July 5, 2007, the Department of Education (DOE) proposed spending only \$300,000 on Pre-Kindergarten education, only \$25,000 of which is currently allocated to District 1 although it has been a long-time policy of the District that every elementary school has a full day Pre-Kindergarten program. Both planned expenditures must be significantly increased to attract the 20% of District 1 children who leave the district for other education alternatives. In addition, many schools in Community Board 3 are lacking proper gym facilities. This is a priority necessary to foster physical health and fitness at an early age, which will continue to be beneficial as these children become adults.

Family academic advisement and counseling, as well as tutoring and remediation, would benefit students in our district, particularly those seeking post-secondary education or job training opportunities. Further, there must be more diversity training for staff and students in our district to foster a safe and healthy environment for students of all ethnic backgrounds, economic status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

The past two years has seen an increase in teen crime in Community Board 3. This is reported to be mostly geographically (turf) based and includes younger teens than usually seen in this activity. The NYPD, NYCHA, the District Attorney's office, and community non-profits are currently grappling with this problem. We have seen problem areas particularly at First Avenue and 14th Street, Campos Plaza, Smith Houses, Coleman Park, Gompers and in the vicinity of these locations. There is a need to create a tracking system which will pin point violence and the type of violence.

All agencies working with this population agree those proactive programs are needed. The at risk youth particularly need employment and training opportunities and other programs other than just sports programs. Families of these youth also are in need of intervention and support system programming. Community based afterschool programs such as Out-of-School time and Beacon community centers are vital to promote positive self-esteem, youth development, and leadership skills among young adults in our community.

At the present time obesity is near epidemic proportions with school aged youth who face early health problems. Youth need to be exposed to learning how to establish and practice smart fruit and vegetable eating habits for a lifetime. Education plays an important role in encouraging youth to adopt good eating habits. Even though parents play an intricate role in this education process, which is the starting point, it should be a joint effort with one reinforcing the other. Youth want to be fit and healthy, however there is a need for early intervention. Teaching youth the importance of eating fruits and vegetables can provide energy, assist with weight and may protect them from illnesses.

The Board of Education should include nutritional education in the classroom with the goal of students turning their nutritional knowledge into real world practice. In addition, the Board of Education should create nutritious snacks and meals. Their vending machines should also be overhauled, banning candy bars, soda and juices. It is necessary to foster physical health and fitness at an early age, which will continue to be beneficial as children become adults.

## **Human Services, Health, Disabilities, Seniors**

### **Health**

There continues to be urgent health concerns in this community. The triple threat of city, state and federal budget cuts further comprises the urgent healthcare concerns of our community. The proposed cuts must not only be restored, but funding should be increased to insure that essential services are available to everyone.

With the economic downturn and hospital closings, more people are becoming dependent on Health and Hospital Corporation facilities, while the system is being scaled back. These cuts will impact the ability to provide care for people with health needs. Furthermore, with the recent closure of St. Vincent's Hospital, nearby hospitals are experiencing severe overcrowding. With no hospital located within Community Board 3, it is essential for greater investment into community-based primary care organizations within our community district.

Many residents, within this district, do not seek regular preventive medical care, one in four does not have a regular doctor. More than 16 percent are not insured or under-insured. Many use emergency rooms as their first medical alternative, although this area has numerous other medical facilities. Gouverneur has four satellite clinics in the area and Ryan-NENA, Betances, Charles B. Wang and Community Healthcare Network are other healthcare centers within CB3. Easily accessible are New York Downtown, Beth Israel and Bellevue hospitals. With improved community education, all of the facilities could be better utilized by community residents for regular health and mental health care visits. Health programs within these facilities must be ready to respond to large immigrant, non-English speaking and undocumented population within this area.

There are two major health concerns within this area. HIV/AIDS funding is being slashed, yet the number of people living with HIV and AIDS in the black/Latino community is at epidemic levels. More funding is needed for education, prevention, testing and counseling, as well as food, nutrition and housing.

Second, the community cancer-related death rate is greater than the New York City average, yet fewer area residents have cancer screenings than the New York City Department of Health suggests. There is a need for more education stressing the importance of early screening especially for breast and prostate cancers.

We have known from the beginning of the HIV epidemic that sharing needles is associated with HIV and other infectious diseases, i.e., HEP B and C. In New York City, the proportion of new HIV diagnosis among injection drug users fell from 6.7 % in the first half of 2008 to 4.6% in the first half of 2009. This decrease can be accounted to the impact of needle exchange programs in the city as well as in the Lower East Side. Despite this success, overall, there is still limited access to syringe access, disposal, and needle exchange programs, as well as referral and linkage to HIV prevention services, substance abuse treatment and medical and mental health care. Due to the fragmented framework from which many programs exist, CB3 strongly advocates for the allocation of funds to enhance existing and develop new programs, that will address the needs of this particular population.

During 2008, 26.2% to 35.4% of the population in the Lower East Side had a fair or poor self-reported health history; and approximately 14.0% to 17.0% reported a history of depression. Six percent of CB3 residents experience serious psychological distress. Nevertheless, there is a continuous need to expand mental health services to address the cultural and linguistic diversity in the Lower East Side. The lack of bilingual/bicultural mental health providers is paramount to the

Latino and Chinese population. In addition, there is a lack of culturally appropriate resources to address the psychiatry needs of children and adolescents in the Lower East Side.

### **Seniors**

Based on NYC Center for Economic Opportunity data, 34% of people aged 65 and over in Manhattan, live in poverty. CB3 has the second highest rate of poverty for people over 65 in all of New York City.

Community Board 3 supports the continuation of services that allow senior citizens to remain in their homes and communities by providing meals, healthcare, recreational activities and affordable housing. The closing of senior centers should not be an option. Expecting seniors to walk or to be transported to other centers 10-12 blocks away is unreasonable. The seniors who will no longer have senior service activities available to them will lose their motivation and ability to engage in certain things. This will include, but is not limited to socialization, recreation, case assistance, health and wellness programs and other services. This will lead to the physical and mental deterioration of seniors who will not be able to avail themselves of service.

Now that Lillian Wald is the only senior center still open in that area, the Department for the Aging needs to greatly increase the number of lunches allotted to that center to make up for their past shortages, but to also accommodate the seniors from the closed Riis Center. Senior centers are not just Bingo and a hot meal. Accessible senior centers are essential to the lives of these poor and elderly people.

There are also many seniors who live alone, with no family or friends nearby who they can turn to for support and help. Programs like the Visiting Neighbors not only can provide for them, but can also benefit the young people who help our shut-ins. For seniors who live alone and have been recently discharged from the hospital, discharge planning must be essential for full recovery. Too often, seniors are left to care for themselves or the responsibility falls on family and friends when nurses and doctors are tasked with developing full discharge plans.

### **Homeless Services**

The homeless population, both families and singles are in desperate need of permanent, affordable housing.

Abuse of the elderly and domestic violence are problems within this community that do not receive sufficient attention. Multilingual education about these problems is needed in order to reach

Continuation of World Trade Center related programs such as the WTC Health Registry. The WTC Environmental Health Center and others must continue to help victims of the WTC disaster.

### **Public Safety**

Community Board 3 is within the jurisdiction of the 5th, 7th and 9th Precincts, Public Service Area 4 (PSA 4) and eight fire companies.

## **Police Department**

We are concerned that local precincts are losing staff as the population of our district is growing. For example, enforcement is needed for the growing problem with youth violence.

Our district is an increasingly popular nightlife destination, so we feel there is a need for a dedicated cabaret unit as part of the local precincts. This would benefit the owners/operators of nightlife establishments as well as the neighbors. Common sense enforcement is more likely to be routine if specialized officers are dispatched to deal with complaints. Their ongoing relationship with the establishments would allow cabaret unit officers to distinguish between problematic operators and nuisance complaints, to the benefit of everyone.

The City needs to expand the force of Traffic Enforcement Agents (TEAs) deployed by NYPD's Lower Manhattan traffic command. Increased infrastructure construction (water tunnel, E Houston reconstruction, etc) is causing/will cause congestion due to constricted traffic patterns and construction movements. TEAs are also needed to support DOT's initiatives: bike lanes, bus lanes, and pedestrian safety measures.

There has been a significant increase of bicycling in recent years, so there is now a need for enforcement of traffic laws regarding dangerous and illegal cyclist behavior such as driving against traffic, sidewalk cycling, red light running, and failure to yield to pedestrians.

We strongly support both the Auxiliary Patrol Units and the multiple precincts covering specialized Rescue Units currently known as Auxiliary Police Support Unit (APSU) who are the auxiliary arm and adjuncts of the NYPD Emergency Service Unit (ESU). We urge their immediate reinstatement to their full emergency, lifesaving duties on the street, and their complete revitalization and restoration of equipment, vehicles, training, status upgrade and medical care and NYPD ESU oversight for the Auxiliary Police Support Unit. There are never enough trained, uniformed volunteers in times of crisis – particularly during this time of decreased staff.

## **Fire Department**

Eight fire companies currently serve Community Board 3. The neighborhoods of the Lower East Side and Chinatown are some of the most densely populated areas of the city and contain hundreds of tenements over a century old that are structurally vulnerable. In light of multiple alarm fires in our district in recent years, as well as the thousands of emergencies that the FDNY respond to on a normal basis, Community Board 3 opposes any cuts to first responders, including potential fire house closures. Public safety depends on it.

## **Environment**

The demands of climate change and environmental health needs require community participation in concert with a reorientation of government agencies towards environmental planning. Community Board 3 has few City resources allocated to reduce air pollutant exposure and asthma triggers despite a disproportionate amount of air pollution sources from the expanded 14th Street Consolidated Edison fossil fuel power plant and vehicular congestion from its three bridges, transportation corridors (e.g., the FDR Drive and Canal Street), vehicle idling, and curb-side "Chinatown Bus" operations. Air pollutant exposure is compounded by the heat island effect of roads, artificial turf, and bare roofs, which raise temperatures and elevate ozone levels. Shockingly, unlike other areas of the City, the extent of these environmental health hazards within our district is largely undocumented.

## **Sanitation**

Community Board 3 is still in great need of increased services. We are a very densely populated and still growing district in an area of old tenements without access to indoor storage or compactors. Our district is also an increasingly popular nightlife destination, so it is typical that bags of garbage and overflowing trash baskets increase sidewalk congestion and attract rats. Therefore, weekend basket pickups must be restored and wire mesh baskets must be replaced with rat-resistant baskets.

Rat infestation continues to be a major problem in the district; we are designated as a UAR—Urgent Area for Rats. Public education and regular inspections are critical. Enforcement is needed for garbage storage and removal by street vendors. Policy concerning vendors must be reviewed and modified so that vendors are able to operate consistent with regulations.

## **Transportation**

The most important transportation problem within Community Board 3's boundaries is the lack of adequate public transportation; however, inadequate public transportation is exacerbated by the intense traffic congestion on our streets. The closure of Park Row and the congestion through and around Chatham Square continues to be a major challenge. Community Board 3 urges the City and its various agencies to improve the environment for public transportation within Community Board 3 by taking strong, creative measures to reduce traffic congestion.

### **Public Transportation**

The Community Board 3 district is underserved by public transportation. We continue to oppose cuts in service on any bus route within the district. Despite the district's density, many of our residents are poorly served by the subway system and live more than half a mile from the nearest subway stop. The eastern and southernmost residents of the district will continue to be denied public transportation until the MTA restores or extends cross-town bus routes, especially on Grand St. The recent implementation of bus service cuts (June 2010) has had an immediate and negative impact on the already limited transportation option in the district and further reduced access to the disabled.

### **Private Bus and Van Services**

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of companies providing transportation services with coach buses using the streets in Chinatown and the surrounding neighborhoods to layover and to load and unload passengers. The use of passenger vans contributes to traffic and parking congestion, especially in Chinatown. The operation and idling of diesel buses on the narrow streets of the district creates health and safety problems. The City has been working on a plan for bus layover and parking (storage) for years. The imminent opening of the September 11 Memorial makes it increasingly important to resolve this issue. Community Board 3 welcomed the narrowing of South Street, which has reduced bus layover there and increased public access to the waterfront, but it is critical that the City implement a realistic bus storage plan to avoid unplanned dispersal of coach buses in our neighborhoods.

Community Board 3 believes the city should limit the number of bus companies and buses allowed to operate in the area. In addition, locations for loading and unloading must be restricted and designated.

NYPD does not enforce idling laws and they cannot do so effectively. The City must have an enforcement mechanism that will focus and enforce idling regulations. Follow up of DEP violations for idling shows that these are often dismissed.

### **Illegal Parking**

Produce wholesalers and private limousines routinely violate parking regulations and monopolize small streets and sidewalks, causing sanitation, parking, safety, and transportation problems.

Parked cars displaying dashboard placards from City agencies routinely saturate the streets of Chinatown and other locations in Community Board 3. The large number of these illegally parked cars threatens public safety by obstructing access for emergency responders, disrupts businesses by blocking deliveries and customers, and restricts disabled access. Enforcement of existing laws concerning placard parking is critical at fire hydrants, corners, crosswalks, curb cuts, on sidewalks, and in No Standing zones. There has increased enforcement in the Chinatown area, but this type of enforcement is needed in other areas of Community Board 3. The NYPD needs to devise and enforce policies that will eliminate illegal parking permit abuse by law enforcement and court employees.

### **Sidewalk Congestion**

Sidewalks and curb cuts are in disrepair which is a particular hardship for people who rely on wheelchairs for mobility. It is very disappointing that the City was not able to meet their agreement to make pedestrian walkways handicapped accessible by 2010. We encourage an expedited schedule for the remaining installations, since missing curb cuts reduces access to mass transit and causing safety issues by forcing people to travel in the street/busy traffic. Curb cuts that do not meet smoothly with the street bed should be repaired and missing curb cuts should be installed. We are concerned that the loss of one of the two DOT milling and resurfacing crews will cause further delays in this effort, as well as causing a maintenance deficit leading to increased drainage problems and ponding conditions.

### **TLC Enforcement**

The destination nightlife areas in Community Board 3 have become areas of severe traffic congestion on the weekends, particularly Saturday nights. Much of this traffic is comprised of taxis and Community Board 3 has continued to receive numerous complaints of taxi horn honking that continues into the early morning hours and disturbs the quality of life of residents who cannot sleep.

### **Bicycle Facilities**

There has been a significant increase of bicycling in recent years, largely as a result of progress implementing the 1997 NYC Bicycle Master Plan. DOT should continue to include reduction of pedestrian-cyclist conflicts as a design consideration of all bicycle facilities. The increased use of bicycles citywide has given rise to the need for bike parking. The lack of adequate bike parking facilities is an impediment to bicycle usage and also results in bicycles chained to public street fixtures and obstruction of sidewalks. DOT should augment its CityRacks Program, which allows the

public to request bicycle racks one at a time, with planning efforts to systemically identify areas with a need for more bicycle parking and suitable locations for installation.

### **Parks/Recreation/Cultural Affairs/Landmarks**

Community Board 3, like most districts in the City, does not meet the City Planning Commission's guidelines for per capita open space. The open space/population ratio is approximately 0.7 acres per 1000 people. By comparison, the Governor's Open Space Report recommended 2.5 acres per 1000, and New York City averages 1.5 acres. The open space that we do have is not evenly distributed throughout the district. The area west of Avenue A and the Chinatown area lack adequate open space. Compounding this deficiency is the increased use of existing parks by individuals and groups for organized events from both inside and outside the community. Increasingly, groups from outside of our district are using Community Board 3 parks. While we do not seek to exclude outside groups from our parks, we do feel that priority should be given to local groups. Our emphasis on local groups includes a re-examination of Park Department policies that restrict the use of parks and play areas during daytime hours. There are seven Jointly Operated Playgrounds (JOPs) in Community Board 3 co-located with the following schools: PS 110, 63, 20, 140, 137, 134, and 188. These sites are important to their attached schools for playground use during the school day and to the surrounding community at all other times. The Parks Department commitment to cleaning these parks by 8 AM every morning has not been kept. Parks and the Department of Education must find acceptable solutions that will ensure clean and safe playgrounds for school use during the school day and for community use after 3 PM on school days and all day on non-school days. The Community Board insists on policies that foster the most open use of facilities by residents of the community while respecting safety concerns. Any agreements between Parks and other entities should be brought to Community Board 3 prior to finalization.

A few community gardens have been transferred to the Parks Department, but at the same time, the fate of many others is still uncertain. For sites not being transferred to the Parks Department, the City should consider transferring them to local community organizations that can maintain the locations as permanent open community space. Once open space is lost to development, it is very unlikely that it will ever be replaced.

It is one thing to have land set aside as a park, but our parks also need constant maintenance by trained DPR professionals. The number of park workers is at a 30-year low and funding for park maintenance is equally scarce. Many of the parks in our district have suffered from years of neglect and deferred maintenance, and now are experiencing increasing levels of usage. Increasing the number of full time, permanent park workers and staffed playgrounds will allow for fuller use of our parks and play areas.

In addition, Community Board 3 has found that Parks buildings in our community have been used as storage for equipment and supplies for Citywide Parks operations. Given that Community Board 3 already has so few open space and community facilities, our local parks should not bear this unfair burden of being storage for other neighborhoods. Parks should allow the public to reclaim use of the Parks buildings, particularly those within Sara D. Roosevelt Park, by redistributing storage more fairly to outside areas and programming public use of those buildings.

Community Board 3 parks have continued to be overrun with rats year after year. This is aggravated by some specific conditions such as the underground space beneath Peter Cooper Park and the dense grass coverage on the Essex strip at Seward Park. Although the grasses are beautiful visually, they must be replaced so that the park can be better baited and maintained. The Parks

Department has only one full time exterminator, which does not allow for adequate baiting. Although many of the Parks staff has been trained to meet the need of more extermination, they do not have the years of experience and expertise that comes with experience. More full time experienced extermination and staff to maintain and clean the parks is necessary to protect the health and public safety of the community. Until it has enough staff to adequately deal with the problem, Parks should work with the Health Department for regular and frequent strategic baiting. The rodent problem is also exacerbated by the Parks practice of leaving garbage in plastic bags on the sidewalk for pickup—sometimes for hours or overnight. Parks should work with other agencies to resolve this issue as well as provide better storage for garbage.

The permitting procedure for recreational permits has improved in having fields accessible to local groups and for fair distribution. Community Board 3 asks that Parks Department continues to maintain this fair distribution of park permitting time for local groups and to upgrade its computer system to improve its permitting process.

Parks also needs improved procedures for park event permits. Community groups complain that information and approvals are not communicated in a timely manner. The Community Board has suggested that small, non-recurring events, such as school end-of-year parties and similar events, be handled in an expedited manner. A birthday party for 3-year olds may not necessitate review by Parks.

Also, Parks needs to ensure review from the NYPD and the Community Board for larger events. A concert permitted for the same day as a large parade that requires police staffing might end up with potential problems. Additional Park Rangers and sound monitoring equipment are needed to deal with the negative effects of these events on the residents surrounding Tompkins Square Park. PEP officers, on a regular, sustained basis, need to be assigned to the major Community Board 3 parks. Tompkins Square Park in particular can use a temporary sound barrier that can be set up for these concerts to mitigate the noise to the surrounding residential buildings.

Toilets in Community Board 3 parks and playgrounds are badly needed. There are several locations of which the Parks Department is already aware, but some of the longest standing needs are the toilets in Luther Gulick Park, Corlears Hook Park, and Sol Lain Parks. The lack of functioning toilets in this park is exacerbated by its proximity to the East River Park amphitheatre. The numerous concerts in the amphitheatre and the continuing overflow of pedestrians through Corlears during concert season make this a higher priority. Since 2008, Parks has not yet advised Community Board 3 of progress concerning toilets in most parks.

Our Council Members, the Borough President, and the Parks Department have funded Phase I of the Seward Park renovation. Phase II of the renovation is a top priority for the Board. It deserves funding by the Borough President and Council Members to complete the renovation for a much underserved area.

The reconstruction of East River Park is underway and the seawall work was scheduled for completion in July 2007. We were then advised that the landscape in the park was scheduled to be completed in the 2008 – 2009 timeframe. Our current understanding is that the public esplanade and the landscaping will be delayed even further. We again urge Parks to keep the contractors to the agreed timetables so that full public use of the park can be restored.

The Mayor's vision for a Manhattan surrounded by parks at the water's edge will be severely tested if Consolidated Edison does not widen the north-south pathway at 14th Street. Consolidated Edison

made a commitment to accomplish that goal. We call on the Parks Department to assist in achieving that goal.

At the request of Parks, Community Board 3 approved an expansion of Tanahey Park. The Board was also promised that basketball court and hockey rink improvements would occur to allow the local community to productively enjoy the park. We urge Parks to implement these improvements as soon as possible. Additionally, Coleman Oval needs a basic level of amenities such as trash cans and benches to support the skateboard and dog run facilities.

In recognition of the history of the whole Community Board 3 area, a Landmark Subcommittee was created to address the various issues concerning the possible landmarking of individual properties or designation of historic districts. Community Board 3 anticipates working closely with all parties involved in this issue including, community organizations, government agencies, and officials.

Community Board 3 asks that the Landmark Commission expand its survey of ideal sites for landmark preservation similar to the one it has already done for the East Village. Such landmark studies should include Chinatown and the Lower East Side, in light of the recommendations for Special Districts coming out of the Chinatown Working Group.

### **New York City Libraries**

Community Board 3 has five branches of the New York Public Library (NYPL) system: Chatham Square, Hamilton Fish, Ottendorfer, Seward Park, and Tompkins Square. While we appreciate the renovation of our libraries, private donations and discretionary funds from our elected officials have paid for much of the work. Community Board 3 branches have the highest levels of use in the City. The libraries are especially necessary to our many low and moderate income residents who depend on the libraries for access to books and film and who use the library as their only quiet place to read or do homework or other work. In addition, we are seeing many residents who have laptop computers, but cannot afford internet fees, use the library for internet access. In the last year there were 1, 276, 586 visits to Community Board 3 libraries. This is an increase of 14.39 percent over the previous year. It is not only imperative to keep our libraries open 6 days a week to serve our residents, we need to expand funding for expansion of collections, automation, staffing, and programming.

In light of increasing youth violence experience by the community in the past year, Community Board 3 requests more youth programming in libraries as a way to engage youth in meaningful activities. Certain programs, such as the art space in Tompkins Square Park, should be supported with more programming and expanded to other libraries.

### **Waterfront**

Community Board 3 established a Waterfront Task Force in 2003 to formulate a viable plan for the area from the Brooklyn Bridge north to East River Park. The Task Force recognized that our waterfront has been a focal point for generations of Lower East Side families, but also an area that has been long neglected by the City. We now have an East River Park esplanade that is being improved to make it safe and attractive. But large portions of the Community Board 3 City-owned piers are underutilized; and the esplanade south of the piers is in need of repairs to improve safety and add amenities to increase its usefulness. We would like to reclaim the waterfront for public use, keeping in mind the primarily residential nature of the adjacent community.

Through a series of community meetings begun during the latter part of 2003 and continuing through early 2005, the many constructive and creative ideas expressed by community members for the waterfront were shared with the NYC Economic Development Corporation, Department of City Planning and other City agencies. These ideas were generally approved by the Community Board in July 2004, and the City's Concept Plan was approved by the Board in September 2005. This approval was given with the understanding that Community Board 3 will be treated equally and equitably with Community Board 1 in all waterfront planning. Many of the community's ideas have been incorporated in a broad waterfront plan encompassing the area from Battery Park to East River Park to be funded by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. It is anticipated that the long-term portion of the plan will be completed over a three- to five-year period ending in 2010. A few improvements have been provided along the esplanade, including the removal of Jersey barriers and the installation of planters.

The Community Board is very concerned about the future of Pier 42, the only sizeable area in this community that extends over the River. We agree with the Concept Plan that the shed area of Pier 42 should be removed to provide for a beach area. We strongly urge and expect that the relevant City agencies will raise the necessary funding to complete this improvement and stabilization, within the 2014 timeframe, so that Pier 42 will never be lost as a crucial amenity to this community.

Community Board 3 recently supported the long-awaited design concept for the esplanade between Pier 35 and Pike Slip. This design reflects Community Board 3's input, based on results from many facilitated community meetings described above to gather input from the community at large, for amenities, lighting, plantings, grading, a pavilion with community use space, ball courts and game facilities, and passive recreation uses. Community Board 3 continues to prioritize improvement and access to its Waterfront as a necessity for the community.

### **Arts & Cultural Affairs Task Force**

Our district has long been a historic incubator of the performing and visual arts, with a higher concentration of artists than most districts. The arts serve as an important means of expression, preservation and exploration of our diverse community and cultures. District arts venues remain closely tied to our diverse culture and balance the scales of gentrification. Cultural venues clearly have a synergistic relationship with neighborhood small businesses, and are economic drivers to our local neighborhoods. Fourth Arts Block alone, using the US Department of Commerce's conservative economic multiplier of 2.01, estimates that their member arts organizations generate more than \$24.8 million in annual economic benefits for local restaurants, shops, and support services. When networked across the Lower East Side, the economic impact of neighborhood arts groups is over \$50 million. Yet the district has lost many of its arts venues in the last decade due to real estate competition and speculation, and artists and organizations are not always at the table when economic impact and quality of life issues are discussed by elected officials and City agencies. President Obama addressed this chasm with the creation of an arts platform prior to his inauguration. And although the economic impact of the Theater District is widely recognized, it is not recognized that most Broadway product gestates in such venues as those which our district still provides. Community Board 3 calls on City agencies to include commercial and nonprofit arts venues and organizations in their economic planning and development policies.

Apart from economic impact, the effect of the arts on quality of life in the district cannot be underestimated. In fact, access to the arts has been included in an amendment to the U.N. charter as a human right. Arts in the schools and in after-school programs in the district exist under extremely fragile conditions. Arts and arts organizations are sometimes unaware of innovative

policies or resources in such areas as land use, low-income housing, tax credits, access to public buildings, health insurance, and capital support, which can sustain artists and organizations. The Federal Justice Department's Art against Crime Program, and the Anti-Graffiti Program of the NYPD, are diverse programs which can have an impact in the areas of education, crime prevention, improved quality of life, and arts organization stability. Creative cities are those which attract and retain not only the best artists and creative industries, but also the best businesses and their employees. As the Community Board representing this vital arts cluster, attracting visitors locally, city-wide, regionally, nationally, and internationally, Community Board 3 calls for the building of coalitions among arts and cultural organizations, other not-for-profit organizations, community centers, elected officials, and government agencies to identify the conditions ideal for artists and arts organizations, the instability or loss of which cannot be contemplated, to take their place at the table as vital resources of and contributors to the community.

## Capital Priorities for Fiscal Year 2012

### **1. Funding for HPD loan programs (HPD)**

**Explanation:** We are continually losing affordable housing - which is a priority in our community. HPD loan programs are instrumental in preserving affording housing.

### **2. Sara D. Roosevelt Park - Reconstruct a portion of park pathways and adjacent brick walls (DPR)**

**Explanation:** The portion of park pathways and adjacent brick walls needs reconstruction.

### **3. East River Park at 6th Street - replace artificial turf soccer field, provide proper drainage and install athletic lighting (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Artificial turf soccer field needs replacing. Proper drainage and athletic lighting needs to be installed. There is a shortage of soccer fields in CB 3, which makes this very important.

### **4. Seward Park - Continue with the reconstruction of the first municipally constructed and operated playground in the United States (DPR)**

**Explanation:** This is a historic park. Continued reconstruction of the first municipally constructed and operated playground in the United States is needed.

### **5. Allen Pike Street malls - to provide funding for reconstruction for all malls (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Funding is necessary to complete the reconstruction of malls.

### **6. Tanahey Park - Reconstruct the basketball courts, hockey rink and sitting area and to fix unsafe pavement surfaces particularly near the flagpole area and to repair fences, benches, perimeter sidewalk and landscaping (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Reconstruct the basketball courts, hockey rink and sitting area and fix unsafe pavement surfaces particularly near the flagpole area and to repair fences, benches, perimeter sidewalk and landscaping.

### **7. Stanton Street Park building - Reconstruct 1st floor of park building in SDR Park at Stanton Street (DPR)**

**Explanation:** This building should be turned over for community usage to increase recreational options and community gathering spaces in the district as this space is accessible and has a usable bathroom, features which pose it for appropriate use by the community in an area with a serious lack of community spaces.

### **8. Corlears Hook Playground - Reconstruct the comfort station including new windows, doors, fixture and partitions, new plumbing electrical and mechanical systems. Make bathroom compliant with ADA requirements so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities. This comfort station also serves East River Park and the nearby amphitheater and is therefore extremely important (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Reconstruct the comfort station including new windows, doors, fixture and partitions, new plumbing electrical and mechanical systems. Make bathroom compliant with ADA requirements so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities. This comfort station also serves East River Park and the nearby amphitheater and therefore is extremely important.

9. **Alfred E. Smith Recreation Center- Replace windows throughout. Reconstruction of locker rooms, bathrooms and adjacent areas including new plumbing, plumbing fixtures, partitions, lockers, tile work and floors (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Replace windows throughout. Reconstruction of locker rooms, bathrooms and adjacent areas including new plumbing, plumbing fixtures, partitions, lockers, tile work and floors.

10. **Affordable Housing Trust Fund to prevent buildings from opting out of Mitchell-Llama and/or project based Section 8 (HPD)**

**Explanation:** Private owners of Section 8 and Mitchell Lama buildings continue to opt out of these programs at a growing rate. Tenants seeking to purchase these properties often do not have the financial capacity to compete in the private market with property owners. This Fund will provide the tenants with additional capital to compete in this difficult housing market and thereby help ensure that their housing remains permanently affordable. This is critical to support City Council legislation geared to have the same effect.

11. **East River Park - Funding to pave Phase I of the pathways inside the park along the FDR Drive (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Need funding for Phase I to pave the pathways inside the park along the FDR Drive.

12. **Luther Gulick Playground - Phase I, reconstruct the western section of the park (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Need funding for Phase I to reconstruct the western section of the park.

13. **Baruch Playground - Reconstruct the comfort station including new windows, doors, fixtures and partitions, new plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Make bathroom compliant with ADA requirements so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Comfort station needs new windows, doors, fixtures and partitions, new plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems. Bathrooms need to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities.

14. **Hamilton Fish Recreation Center - Replace the roof over the lifeguard room. Upgrade the air conditioning system and alarm systems. Make bathroom compliant with ADA requirements so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities (DPR)**

**Explanation:** The roof over the lifeguard room needs replacing. Upgrade to the air conditioning system and alarm systems needed. Bathroom needs to be compliant with ADA requirements so people with wheelchairs could use the facilities.

15. **Peter Cooper Park - redesign to make larger and fit with redesign of surrounding streets in 2012 (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Funding needed for redesign to make it larger and fit with redesign of surrounding streets in 2012.

16. **Tompkins Square Park - construct movable sound baffling structure needed for loud concerts permitted in Tompkins Sq Park to address numerous resident complaints about noise in surrounding area (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Funding needed for construction of movable sound baffling structure needed for loud concerts permitted in Tompkins Square Park to address numerous resident complaints about noise in surrounding area.

**17. Funding for rehab of former Fire House on East River Park (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Funding need to rehab former Fire House on East River Park.

**18. Chatham Square Branch - HVAC replacement, ADA lift/elevator (NYPL)**

**Explanation:** HVAC and ADA lift are in need of replacement.

**19. Hamilton Fish Park Branch HVAC replacement/steam lines, entry rehabilitation/window replacement (NYPL)**

**Explanation:** Needed work includes Hamilton Fish HVAC replacement, steam lines, entry rehabilitation, window replacement.

**20. Ottendorfer Branch Rehabilitate front facade replace all windows (NYPL)**

**Explanation:** Front facade needs to be rehabilitated and all windows need to be replaced.

**21. Seward Park Branch sidewalk vault rehabilitation (replace sidewalk over fault and waterproof) (NYPL)**

**Explanation:** The library sidewalk vault needs to be rehabilitated. Replace sidewalk over fault and waterproofed.

**22. Tompkins Square Branch exterior rehabilitation, systems upgrade (rehab rear facade/parapet, HVAC replacement) (NYPL)**

**Explanation:** This library needs exterior rehabilitation of the exterior rear facade as well as HVAC replacement.

**Expense Priorities for Fiscal Year 2012**

**1. Summer Youth Employment (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** In the current economy, more slots are needed for our low- and moderate-income youth. Even with stimulus funding for the past summer that will not be available in FY'12, many youths were turned away. In addition, our community has seen an increase in teen violence. These teens need job opportunities instead of environment that does not encourage them to be productive.

**2. Beacon programs (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** Beacons are school-based community centers offering resources and support to children, youth, and adults. They operate in the afternoons and evenings, on weekends, during school holidays and vacation periods, and during the summer.

**3. Funding for Out of School Time (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** OST provides free academic, recreational, and cultural programming for K-12 after school, during holidays, and in summer. We currently have an increase in youth violence and less programming for the youth, which makes this program critical.

**4. Funding for youth programs for 18-21 who have aged out from Foster care services (ACS)**

**Explanation:** Many young people are aged out of many programs and agencies after 18. More services need to be provided to ensure their safety and development.

**5. Funding for Street Homelessness Solutions Unit (DHS)**

**Explanation:** We are seeing an increase of homeless on our streets. This program funds outreach to people on the street with focus on transitioning chronic homeless to housing.

**6. Funding for Safe Havens (DHS)**

**Explanation:** Safe Havens program is designed for homeless individuals who are unlikely to enter the City's shelter system. Safe Haven's offer a safe, low-threshold temporary housing option for people who are chronically street homeless many of whom may have physical and mental problems. This program has been very successful and should be expanded.

**7. Funding for Senior Centers (DFTA)**

**Explanation:** CB 3 had two centers merged into one in the current year and cannot afford to lose more services for seniors who most need resources. CB 3 has the second highest number of seniors below the poverty line in NYC.

**8. Funding for staff for Case Management for Seniors (DFTA)**

**Explanation:** Programming for seniors cannot be implemented without staff for case management. The agency is seeing drastic cuts.

**9. Funding for Expanded Home Care Services for Seniors (DFTA)**

**Explanation:** This program allows seniors to stay in their homes with services.

**10. Funding for Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (HRA)**

**Explanation:** This program educates and counsels teens about domestic violence. This is scheduled to be eliminated in the proposed program to eliminate the budget gap.

**11. HIV/AIDS Services Administration - Housing Supportive Care Workers (HRA)**

**Explanation:** Caseworkers at supportive housing programs for HIV/AIDS services are scheduled to be decreased in the program to eliminate the budget gap.

**12. Restore NYPD uniform staff (NYPD)**

**Explanation:** NYC has been losing uniform police every year due to budget cuts. There is a reduction of 3,000 for current year. There are not enough police in precincts to cover criminal and quality of life complaints that are under jurisdiction of police. In one of our 3 precincts, crime has already gone up over 5% in the last year even though we have not seen end of year statistics. CB 3 has the second highest number of quality of life complaints in Manhattan.

**13. Restore cabaret units (NYPD)**

**Explanation:** 3 precincts (6, 10 and 13) that work in problematic areas have retained specialized units because of effectiveness. CB 3 has more NYPD commercial noise complaints than any other CB. In addition, bar owners have reported that continued relationships with experienced police allow them to work with PD and report problems without fear of negative consequences. This protects the businesses and promotes public safety.

**14. Basket pickups - restore street corner pickups (DOS)**

**Explanation:** Basket pickups, cut for budgetary reasons, were inadequate even when fully staffed due to destination nightlife areas on weekends. The East Village particularly has again been voted NYC hottest nightlife area but we have not been provided infrastructure to handle weekend influx. The spillover of garbage also contributes to rodent problem. CB 3 has the second worst rat problem in Manhattan.

**15. Decibel meters - new meters that measure bass to enforce noise law of July 2007 and training for staff (NYPD)**

**Explanation:** In July 2007 NYC passed a new noise code that, among other things, included new compliance regarding bass because the old noise code did not regulate adequately. NYPD has yet to purchase decibel meters and train staff to enforce this over 2-year old law. CB 3 continues to far exceed any other community board in number of NYPD commercial noise complaints. It is impossible for DEP to enforce the noise law every weekend in problem areas. It is necessary for NYPD to purchase decibel meters to enforce July 2007 noise code and train staff on up-to-date meters. NYPD last year answered that the agency had adequate meters. This is not true, NYPD does not have a single meter that measures the 2007 noise code.

**16. Funding for PEP officers (DPR)**

**Explanation:** There has been a loss of Parks Enforcement officers that must be restored. This is in addition to loss of NYPD staff that also helps cover parks. There is increased incidence of drug use and quality of life problems in some CB 3 parks.

**17. Restore funding for Parks staffing (DPR)**

**Explanation:** Maintenance workers and parks workers are very needed. The Community Board is receiving more complaints than ever before about cleanliness and upkeep.

**18. Funding for a second full time fully trained exterminator (DPR)**

**Explanation:** CB 3 is designated as a UAR - Urgent Action Required, and is the CB with the second highest rat problems in Manhattan. Some of our parks fall under the worst category for rats. Another fully trained exterminator is urgently needed.

**19. Continued funding for HPD code enforcement inspectors (HPD)**

**Explanation:** This program is necessary for safety and well-being of our residents. It is necessary to maintain and preserve our affordable housing and support and protect our tenants.

**20. Continued funding for HPD litigation lawyers (HPD)**

**Explanation:** Legal staff is necessary to ensure compliance. Community Board 3 has seen many problems with buildings that has caused vacates of residents. It is necessary to pursue non-compliance vigorously to ensure public safety and compliance.

**21. Increase funding for anti-eviction legal services (HPD)**

**Explanation:** Increased anti-eviction services are needed to preserve the occupancy of vulnerable long-term tenants. There are many complaints by rent regulated tenants of harassment & attempts to evict so that apartment can be rented for more money.

**22. Continued funding Neighborhood Preservation and Community Consultant Program (HPD)**

**Explanation:** These programs assist community groups and neighborhood housing organizations to work with the HPD and private residential owners to coordinate, develop, and maintain the affordability of existing housing. This limited supply of affordable housing is being rapidly lost through the ongoing gentrification of our community and must be safeguarded.

**23. Increase traffic enforcement staff (NYPD)**

**Explanation:** There have been cuts to non-enforcement staff in traffic enforcement and lack of sufficient enforcement staff. The increase in business and traffic and nightlife traffic has created congestion and safety and issues. Transportation issues are a constant high priority issue for this board.

**24. Continued funding for milling and paving (DOT)**

**Explanation:** Budget cuts have impacted ability to keep up with necessary milling and paving. Potholes and ponding conditions are a big problem in the district.

**25. Mechanical brooms - street sweeping has been cut due to budget—was inadequate when fully staffed due to destination nightlife areas on weekends. Also contributes to rodent problem (DOS)**

**Explanation:** The area has increased development because of new building and is also continuing to expand as a destination nightlife area. This requires increased services at a time when services are being cut. The nightlife industry is contributing to tax base, but infrastructure fir accommodate the influx of people does not receive any of these funds and is not maintained.

## **2010 Board Accomplishments & Goals**

### **Community Board**

#### **Goals for 2011**

- Re-architect CB3 website.
- Use technology to provide more opportunities to interact with CB 3.
- Complete program design for the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area.

#### **Policy Initiatives for 2011**

- Develop strategy to change tax pass-through rules that are hurting small businesses in CB 3 District.
- Update By-Laws to capture unwritten policies and practices of the board.

## **2010 Committee Accomplishments & Goals**

### **Youth & Education Committee**

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Advocate for protecting youth services, such as SYEP, Beacons, OST.
2. Raise community awareness on the obesity epidemic.
3. Advocate against school closings and teacher layoffs.

### **Human Services, Health, Disability, & Seniors Committee**

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Target outreach to senior citizens regarding gaps in services within CB 3.
2. Promote healthy lifestyle choices in CB 3 through public education campaign.
3. Coordinate with local CBOs to understand challenges to HIV awareness within CB 3, in order to more effectively promote HIV testing and treatment.

### **Land Use, Zoning, Public & Private Housing Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

1. Achieved consensus on Guidelines for Seward Park Redevelopment (SPURA).
2. The plan for the Seward Park Redevelopment project includes 50% affordable housing (approximately 500 apartments).
3. Heard several presentations by and provided feedback to the Chinatown Working Group as they proceeded through their process.
4. Successfully supported the 3rd Avenue / Bowery Corridor rezoning plan.

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Finish the SPURA urban design process. Work with all parties on the DEIS.
2. Clarify the committee's role with respect to BSA applications.
3. Continue to support the Chinatown Working Group efforts to develop 197A plan and rezoning plan.
4. Develop a plan to mitigate the effects of stalled construction sites on the neighborhood and develop an action plan whereby the community's interests and those of the developers can be most efficiently resolved.

### **Parks, Recreation, Cultural Affairs, Landmarks, & Waterfront Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

1. Streamlined Parks Committee approval procedures for recurring Street Fair applications and included oversight of pedestrian malls into Parks Committee review.
2. Worked with general public, the City, EDC, and Parks Department regarding East River Waterfront Redevelopment.
3. Advocated for landscaping, seating, bike paths, public bathrooms and other improvements during reconstruction of East River Waterfront.

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Further streamline Parks Committee approval procedures for recurring Block Party applications.
2. Continue to work with general public, the City, EDC, and Parks Department regarding East River Waterfront Redevelopment.
3. Continue to advocate for landscaping, seating, bike paths, public bathrooms and other improvements during reconstruction of East River Waterfront.
4. Advocate for more safe use of public spaces against stunt skateboarding and biking.

5. Advocate for diverse and community amenable uses for Astor Place and Peter Cooper Park.

### **SLA & DCA Licensing Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

- Held public meetings over a seven month period for community input regarding amending or effecting policy and procedure for hearing liquor license applications. This included clarifying policy for the public and making the application procedure more efficient.

#### **Goals for 2011**

- Set up taskforce to institute policy and procedure changes decided after holding public hearings. This will include codifying revised policy and posting it on the website, amending the application and application process for applicants, creating a handbook for new committee members and creating a best practices handbook for licensees.

### **Economic Development Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

1. Held a small business forum with representatives from federal, state and local economic development agencies regarding resources available for community businesses.
2. Initiated several meetings to facilitate art in empty storefronts by bringing together non-profits, artists and property owners/business owners.
3. Performed surveys of Avenue A, East 9th Street and Mott Street to investigate the current retail climate in CB #3.
4. Met with the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance to learn the implications of the City's property tax on small businesses.

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Meet with elected officials and City agency staff to consider ramifications of the City's property tax and possible modifications to its implementation.
2. Initiate discussions with organizations that have indicated an interest in assisting small businesses, i.e. the Goldman Sachs "10,000 Small Businesses" program.
3. Develop an educational program for local businesses through an information sheet referencing commercial leases and business plans.

### **Arts Taskforce**

#### **Accomplishments**

1. Furthered an initiative to organize all 12 Manhattan Community Boards to take interest in Arts.
2. Art in Empty Storefronts project linking East Village/LES arts organizations and property owners/brokers.
3. Continued 2009 tax abatement project – tax relief on property rented by non-profit arts organizations to be passed on from landlords to tenants or at least shared by both.
4. Expanded community interest and attendance in the ACATF, creating database of interested parties.

#### **Goals for 2011**

1. Hold LES/East Village Arts in Education Forum.
2. Compile Arts information for elected officials and encourage them to appoint a member of their staffs to be the Arts Liaison, especially those elected officials that cover Boards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and join Arts, Small Business, Economic Development issues together.

3. Create a Resource Guide for Arts in the Lower East Side, perhaps getting interns from NYU, etc. to do the work.
4. Work with Con Edison Task Force to try to get Con Edison to change the way they bill arts organizations, particularly theaters or multiarts centers.
5. Encourage museums to offer free admissions to public school teachers so they can connect their student and family constituents to these resources.

### **Con Edison Settlement Funds Taskforce Accomplishments**

1. Establish clear and transparent process for applications and decisions for alternative uses of Con Ed Settlement Funds.
2. Maintain record of funds allocated and remaining under the Settlement.
3. Review prior awardees for compliance with proposal; and (4) notify Con Edison on annual schedule as to use of Settlement Funds for fuel-switching.

### **Goal for 2011**

1. Review application and decision process for alternative uses of Con Ed Settlement Funds.
2. Maintain record of funds allocated and remaining under the Settlement.
3. Review prior awardees for compliance with proposal.
4. Notify Con Edison on annual schedule as to use of Settlement Funds for fuel-switching.
5. Encourage more proposals related directly to health and health care; and (6) explore ways to engage more on issues related to ongoing operations of plant, such as noise, traffic and safety.

### **Transportation & Public Safety Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

- After several years of advocating and lobbying elected officials and agencies, legislation to regulate private bus companies was introduced in the state legislature.

### **Goals for 2011**

1. Continue progress on Chinatown long distance bus permitting legislation for curbside operations.
2. Track projects in study and planning stages.
3. Improve pedestrian accessibility for the mobility impaired, including prioritizing installation, maintenance, and markings for curb cuts, and parking availability for SVI permits.

### **Outreach Committee**

#### **Accomplishments**

1. Wrote CB 3 Outreach brochure.
2. Held New Members Social Event.
3. Held 2 trainings: resolution writing, parliamentary procedure.
4. Obtain translation services for important CB meetings.

### **Goals for 2011**

1. Complete production and translation of brochure.
2. Develop and implement outreach strategy to distribute flyers at summer block parties.
3. Continue trainings for community board members.
4. Develop new member activities, to include.
5. Buddy system with "veteran" board member.
6. New member social.

7. Continuing trainings for new members: SLA policy and procedure, how to write a resolution, and community board processes.
8. Obtain translation services for important CB 3 meetings.

### **2010 Community Board Notable Meetings**

<b>March</b>	Census Outreach Task Force
<b>April</b>	New member orientation
<b>April-Dec</b>	Seward Park Urban Renewal Area Planning Process Meetings
<b>May</b>	DOT public meeting on the Bleecker, Houston, Bowery Traffic and Transportation Study (with CB 2) Dept of Finance presentation on recent property tax assessment increases / property taxes questions
<b>June</b>	Charter Revision Hearing Resolution Writing and Parliamentary procedure
<b>August</b>	Youth violence meeting
<b>Aug, Sept, October</b>	Policy Meetings of the SLA & DCA Licensing Committee
<b>September</b>	CB3 Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Priorities Small business forum
<b>October</b>	Resolution Writing and Parliamentary procedure

**2010 Committee Stats**

SLA License Applications	01/2010	02/2010	03/2010	04/2010	05/2010	06/2010	07/2010	08/2010	09/2010	10/2010	11/2010	12/2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
Renewal w/Complaint	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	19	33	43	38
New/Alterations/Transfers	17	31	30	34	27	33	23	26	39	16	19	19	314	251	276	268
													<b>333</b>	284	319	306

DCA License Applications	01/2010	02/2010	03/2010	04/2010	05/2010	06/2010	07/2010	08/2010	09/2010	10/2010	11/2010	12/2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
Sidewalk Cafe	0	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	14	11	22	14

Parks Committee	01/2010	02/2010	03/2010	04/2010	05/2010	06/2010	07/2010	08/2010	09/2010	10/2010	11/2010	12/2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
Block Party/Street Fair	0	16	8	4	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	34	56	56	53
Parks Event Application	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	11	9
													<b>37</b>	59	67	62

Housing/Land Use Committee	01/2010	02/2010	03/2010	04/2010	05/2010	06/2010	07/2010	08/2010	09/2010	10/2010	11/2010	12/2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
421a Application	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	5	8
BSA Application	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4	3	3	2
													<b>7</b>	5	8	10

ULURP/NULURP	01/2010	02/2010	03/2010	04/2010	05/2010	06/2010	07/2010	08/2010	09/2010	10/2010	11/2010	12/2010	2010	2009	2008	2007
ULURP/NULURP Application	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	7	3	5	10

## 2010 District Service Cabinet Summary

- The CB 3 District Service Cabinet held ten regular meetings.
- One additional meeting dedicated to homeless outreach was held for the second year. This meeting, which has become an annual meeting for CB 3 is held before the cold weather starts to ensure coordination for Code Blue responses. NYPD, Parks, EMS, DA, and DHS with many staff and field teams participated. A major outcome was follow up from this meeting which resulted in EMS issuing protocols that fit with the state mental health protocols used by DHS homeless outreach workers for forcible removal. This was a major accomplishment.
- Another dedicated meeting was a "Rat Summit" in December held for rodent response in CB 3, which has the second highest rate of failure in Manhattan. This meeting involved all agencies involved in rodent control on the street—DDC, MTA, Parks, DOT, Sanitation, DOH. And DEP. The agencies focused on problem areas, particularly those that involved more than one agency, but the greatest accomplishment was a new protocol to include DOH rodent experts in the planning stages of design of projects for all agencies. DDC is changing contracts to allow for this.
- A third dedicated meeting regarding implementation and resolution of glitches caused by new bike lanes and MTA bus budget cut changes. This was the result of agency efforts for coordination at regular DSC meetings. A major discovery from this meeting was that there was no provision for taxi drop off and pick up. Senator Squadron then followed up with TLC, NYPD, and DOT to create rules for taxis.
- With the Chinatown Partnership and DOH, CB 3 initiated a bilingual rodent training workshop in Chinatown for property and market owners, and food businesses. This came out of ongoing rodent issues and reports from DOH regarding Rat Indexing project.
- There are several major reconstruction projects. Updates on the Astor/Lafayette water main, Houston St. reconstruction, Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges have been an important item for agencies and elected officials representatives to update and discuss every month.
- The April meeting was immediately after the Grand Street fire. This was the first time NYFD, HPD, and DOB met together and plans were started for the first community meeting. Con Ed's information at this meeting was particularly invaluable.
- Other issues of ongoing concern were homeless outreach, attacks on elderly Asians, nightlife noise issues. The NYFD compiled a report for the community board regarding because of the recent increase in fires in the district and reported to the DSC.
- I will repeat again this year that I believe most important function of the DSC is to find areas that need agency coordination. There is an amazing lack of agency coordination in hands-on implementation or response to issues by agencies. The most amazing one this year was the lack of any consideration of taxi loading and unloading with implementation of bike lanes and Select Bus Service on First and Second Avenues.