



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

ANTHONY M. BORELLI
District Manager

November 4, 2005

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

Re: Expense & Capital Budget Requests, Fiscal Year 2007

Dear Mr. Page:

At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on November 2, 2005, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 approved the following Expense and Capital Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2007.

The priorities outlined below are in addition to those that will be necessary to ensure the complete and successful implementation of the West Chelsea and Hudson Yards rezoning plans. Capital improvements and expenses related to these plans, such as additional police and fire facilities and staff, will require multi-year funding and should be planned for now.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

1. Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Increase funding to create housing in CD4 for low, moderate and middle income people using the following programs: Neighborhood Redevelopment Program (NRP); Supportive Housing Programs; New Housing Marketplace Programs; 8A and Participation Loan Program; New HOP; and other new loan initiatives, including potential federal aid programs. Where applicable, new sources of funding should be identified and used for site acquisition toward the creation of affordable housing.

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

2. Hudson River Park Trust: To the extent that funding has not already been committed, fund the following portions of Hudson River Park: continuous esplanade from 14th to 59th Street; completion of Chelsea Waterside Park (especially the larger portion on the western side of Route 9A); open and recreation use on Piers 62, 63, 64 and 97; rebuilding of Pier 97 for recreational use; the upland area from Pier 84 south to Pier 81 and from 54th to 57th Street.

- 3. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Fund and construct the continuation of Hudson Street bike lane northward across 14th Street and up Eighth Avenue, as described in the NYC Bicycle Master Plan.
- 4. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Construct street crossings to be usable by blind or low vision pedestrians as well as those traveling in wheel chairs or using walking aids. This includes street crossings in front of the Chelsea Recreation Center on 25th Street.
- 5. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Provide traffic calming design elements and pedestrian enhancements at suitable locations, including a speed bump on 25th street between Ninth and Tenth avenues, a crosswalk across Ramp C of the Lincoln Tunnel (on the western side of Ninth Avenue between 36th and 37th streets), making the two-way section of Ninth Avenue between 14th and 16th Streets one-way southbound, and reversing the direction of traffic flow on 24th Street between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues.
- 6. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Given the recent development on parking lots once used for bus parking and storage, and the continued displacement of such parking facilities expected under the Hudson Yards and other redevelopment plans, provide new parking facilities for commuter and charter vehicles.
- 7. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR):** Continue renovation of DeWitt Clinton Park including provisions for a potential physical connection to a future waterside park and for a tot lot at the park's southeast corner. The park is in need of major renovation. All three staircases are not in use and in need of repair. Funding is needed to complete the expansion of irrigation to the exterior gardens, correct drainage problems, and change the ball fields to artificial turf.
- 8. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR):** Provide funds for site acquisition and development of new parks, specifically for the DEP property on Tenth Avenue between 48th and 49th streets and the network of privately and public owned properties along Dyer Avenue between 35th and 41st streets.
- 9. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR):** Renovate fountain in Clement Clark Moore Park.
- 10. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Install accessible pedestrian signals at key intersections.
- 11. Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA):** Provide funding and assistance in obtaining funding for Ensemble Studio Theater, INTAR theater and the 52nd Street Project to realize development plans for new theater spaces as part of Clinton Urban Renewal Area.
- 12. New York Police Department (NYPD):** Complete renovations of the 10th Precinct House.

CONTINUING SUPPORT: CAPITAL

- 1. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR):** Continue support for the rehabilitation (currently underway) of Hell's Kitchen Park.
- 2. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR):** Continue support of the renovation of the 59th Street Recreation Center to carry out the recommendations contained in the 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force Report of June 6, 2001.

EXPENSE PRIORITIES

- 1. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP):** Increase the number of DEP inspectors and provide them with proper specialized equipment and training, including sound-level meters and training to detect low frequency noise generated by nightclubs.
- 2. Department Parks & Recreation (DPR):** Provide sufficient DPR personnel including park maintenance workers, personnel for street tree maintenance, rat abatement and opening and closing fenced parks, and for adequately trained playground associates for programming. In addition, an increased presence of PEP officers is needed to reduce the ongoing problem of crime in parks, particularly DeWitt-Clinton.
- 3. Department of Education (DOE):** Provide full funding for after school programs at Public Schools 11, 33, 51 and 111, the Upper Lab and Museum Schools.
- 4. Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH):** Enhance funding for prevention services related to HIV/AIDS and substance abuse through appropriate local medical and social service institutions, with a special priority on addressing the growing problem of new alternative/boutique drugs, including but not limited to crystal meth. Provide appropriate "way-finding" signage for the Chelsea Health Clinic.
- 5. Economic Development Corporation (EDC):** Provide funding for a study for relocation alternatives or other solutions for moving the City Tow Pound from Pier 76 so that the Pier can be developed as a part of Hudson River Park, as stipulated by the Hudson River Park Act.
- 6. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Funding for a traffic/transportation study to reduce traffic/pedestrian conflicts and congestion in the West 59th Street Corridor (Columbus Circle to the Hudson River between West 57th-61st Streets). This study, together with others nearby in CB7, would lay the ground work for a public transportation system, including ferry and bus service, for the new community in this area, and provide much needed data for the consideration of the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and future uses of the West 59th Street Marine Transfer Station.
- 7. Department of Sanitation (DOS):** Restore sanitation services to FY 1991 levels, including street sweeping, Clean Team, and emptying of litter baskets.
- 8. Department of Sanitation (DOS):** Provide additional litter baskets of the new design with a larger capacity.

9. New York Police Department (NYPD) and Department of Transportation (DOT): Provide funding for additional traffic control officers, especially for areas impacted by the Lincoln Tunnel, and particularly at 37th Street and Ninth Avenue during peak hours.

10. New York Public Library (NYPL): Maintain sufficient professional and clerical positions at Muhlenberg, Columbus and Central Libraries in order that libraries can remain open six days a week (and Donnell a seventh day) and for full-time security guards at Columbus and Muhlenberg Libraries.

11. Mayor's Office of Midtown Enforcement: Restore funding for the Office to FY 1991 levels, specifically to include a building inspector to monitor development in the CB4 area, especially in the Special Clinton District, the Special Hudson Yards District, and the Special West Chelsea District.

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

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

14. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Expand funding for anti-displacement and housing improvement programs, such as the Community Consultant Program and Neighborhood Preservation Consultant Program, in the CB4 area.

15. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide additional funding for Greenthumb projects and assistance programs.

16. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Increase the number of properly trained code enforcement inspectors and coordinate inspection services with all affected City agencies to report code violations, ensure compliance with special district regulations, and to halt the illegal conversion of residential apartments and single room occupancy rooms for use as tourist accommodations.

17. Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC): Provide sufficient personnel to perform the essential duties of designation and regulation.

18. Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD): Restore funding for essential community based youth services, especially in response to the needs of low-income and disaffiliated youth who live, work or go to school in CD4. Restore funding for affordable after-school care for low-income working families.

19. New York Police Department (NYPD): Fund the purchase of sufficient hand-held noise meters for police officers and provide training for their use.

20. Department for the Aging (DFTA): As a first priority, provide for reasonable cost of living increases for salaries paid under DFTA programs, which have not been increased in 3 years. In addition, expand funding for senior social programs and case management programs, including escort and home care services and further increase the eligible income for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE).

21. Department of Health (DOH): Increase funding for community-based AIDS programs funded through the DOH.

22. New York Police Department (NYPD): Provide additional funding for bicycles at local police precincts.

23. Department of Homeless Services (DHS): Increase funding to expand and enrich street outreach to the homeless population in the District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lee Compton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

J. Lee Compton, Chair

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

cc: Borough President
Local elected officials