



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

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

October 30, 2006

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

Re: Expense & Capital Budget Requests, Fiscal Year 2008

Dear Mr. Page:

At its regularly scheduled monthly meeting held on October 4, 2006, Manhattan Community Board No. 4 approved the following Expense and Capital Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2007.

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

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

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

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 53rd to 57th Street.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR): Continue renovation of Dewitt Clinton Park including provisions for a potential physical connection to Hudson River 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.

7. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide funds for site acquisition of new parks, specifically for the DEP property on Tenth Avenue between 48th and 49th streets and the network of privately and public owned properties along Dyer Avenue between 35th and 41st streets. In addition, provide funds for the expansion and/or creation of greenstreets.

8. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR): Renovate fountain in Clement Clark Moore Park.

9. Department of Transportation (DOT): Install accessible pedestrian signals at key intersections.

10. 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.

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

CONTINUING SUPPORT: CAPITAL

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

2. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): CB4 recognizes the need for residential facilities and has consistently welcomed them into our neighborhoods, but we also realize that they can only be successful if they are well planned and staffed and appropriate for the location and population served. Again, we are pleased to see the Mayor's plan focus on the provision of permanent housing. We believe that, whenever possible, such projects should mix supportive housing units with other low and moderate-income units. Community boards must be given an opportunity to assess any proposal for residential facilities in terms of the needs for specific facilities, the adequacy of the plan, and the quality of the provider. The City should work with the community to determine the size, site and design of each facility. Any facility must provide adequate and essential social services as well as access to health services and other necessary support services.

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) and Department of Youth and Community Development:** Provide full funding for after school programs at Public Schools 11, 33, 51 and 111, the Upper Lab and Museum Schools. Restore funding for essential community based youth services, especially in response to the needs of low-income and disaffiliated youth who live, work or go to school in CD4. Restore funding for affordable after-school care for low-income working families.
- 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. Increase funding for community-based AIDS programs funded through the DOHMH.
- 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 Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH):** Increase Funding for Community-based AIDS Education Programs Funded Through the Department of Health& Mental Hygiene. With all expert indicators predicting a catastrophic spread of AIDS and prevention being the only tool in the fight against it, the AIDS education and outreach budget should be increased so that its message reaches every New Yorker.
- 7. 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 40th, 41st, and 43rd Streets and Ninth Avenue during peak hours.
- 8. Department of Homeless Services (DHS):** Increase funding to expand and enrich street outreach to the homeless population in the District.
- 9. New York Police Department (NYPD):** Fund the Purchase of Sufficient Hand-Held Noise Meters for Police Officers and provide training in their use. Noise has become a serious quality of life problem in our community and throughout the City. Since the Department of Environmental Protection's noise inspectors are available on only a very limited basis, and since many of the noise problems occur in the small hours of the morning, it is essential that the police be able to monitor noise conditions independently.

10. 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.

11. Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC): Provide sufficient personnel to perform the essential duties of designation and regulation. Increases in both designated properties and in development pressures have led to excessive demands on a Commission staff that not long ago numbered not much more than two-thirds of those in place at an earlier peak when demands were lower. The resulting concentration of staff resources on responding to applications for alterations has led to inadequate monitoring of violations and failure to respond in an adequate and timely fashion to the need to protect historic buildings and communities by landmark designation. Recent wide-spread rezonings designed to encourage development in such areas as West Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen have stimulated both pressure for changes destructive of neighborhood character and public awareness of the threat to the preservation of historic resources. A recent small staff increase has still left the Commission unable to fulfill its necessary role in such situations, especially in research and survey.

12. 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.

Monitoring compliance of the building code is essential for tenant safety. Detecting abuses of the regulations also protects tenants from abusive landlords who withhold maintenance services either to save money or to intimidate tenants into vacating apartments which can then be rehabilitated and let at higher rents.

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

14. 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. Regular code inspections are essential to maintain housing stock and to protect residents against both natural deterioration and deliberate neglect by owners seeking to empty units for higher profits.

15. 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.

16. Department of Sanitation (DOS): Restore sanitation services to FY 1991 levels, including street sweeping, Clean Team, and emptying of litter baskets.

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

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

19. 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).

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

Sincerely,



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

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

cc: Borough President
Local elected officials