



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

**JOHN WEIS**  
Chair

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

**Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Requests**  
**November 2009**

**CAPITAL PRIORITIES**

- 1. Housing Preservation and Development (HPD):** Provide funding for the Clinton Urban Renewal Area (CURA) as the agency goes forward with the development of three projects: Clinton Commons (533-543 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street), 500 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, and 530 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- 2. Hudson River Park Trust/NYC (DPR):** Fund safety improvements for bikers and pedestrians at the intersections of the bike/pedestrian path with turning vehicles.
- 3. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Install a plaza at 36<sup>th</sup> Street between Dyer and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue as part of the Hudson Yards rezoning follow up actions (WRY negotiations). Provide for safe and accessible path to the plaza. Install ADA compliant ramps at all intersections of Dyer Avenue with 34th, 35th, 36th, 40th, 41st and 42nd Streets and reduce the radius of 35th Street turn at Dyer Avenue and Ramp C at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- 4. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Include the reconstruction of 15th Street between Sixth and Ninth Avenue with neckdowns on the west side of the intersections and parking swaps in the middle of the blocks in the already approved Capital project of Ninth Avenue reconstruction.
- 5. Hudson River Park Trust/NYC (DPR):** Fund removal of the heliport and completion of the esplanade/park from about 28<sup>th</sup> street to Pier 76.
- 6. Department of Parks (DPR):** Complete the green canopy of Hells Kitchen south as part of the Hudson Yards rezoning follow up actions. (WRY negotiations) Include planters and tree guards.
- 7. Department of Transportation (DOT)** Install Parking swaps to accommodate bicycle parking at the intersections of five cross streets with Ninth Avenue between 34th and 57th Street.

8. **Hudson River Park Trust/NYC (DPR):** Fund the completion of the planned amenities in the eastern portion of the Chelsea Waterside.
9. **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.
10. **Economic Development Corporation:** Charter Bus Garage – construction of a Charter Bus Garage to accommodate over 500 tourists buses serving Broadway, Lincoln Center, Time Square, Penn Station and currently parked at curbside throughout the neighborhood.
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, the 52nd Street Project, The Irish Arts Center and ART/New York to realize development plans for new or refurbished performing and studio spaces in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area.
12. **Department of Transportation (DOT):** Reconstruct Ninth Avenue from 55th to 34th Streets to implement changes resulting from the DOT study now underway. Implement neckdowns on each street block directly to the East and West of Ninth Avenue.
13. **Housing Preservation & Development (HPD):** provide funding for the city to use to pick-up abandoned market rate housing sites and create units for middle income families.
14. **Economic Development Corporation (EDC)** – Allocate sufficient additional funding as needed to insure that the “front door” to the Passenger Ship Terminals (Piers 88 and 90) have a open, welcome, and friendly feeling, compatible with Hudson River Park which surrounds it, and with open views to the ships that dock, while still providing for needed security.

#### **CONTINUING SUPPORT: CAPITAL**

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.

**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.

**3. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA):** increased capital funding needed to maintain present developments.

**4. New York Police Department (NYPD):** Continue renovations of the 10th Precinct House.

**5. Department of Parks & Recreation:** Continue renovation of DeWitt Clinton Park including provisions for a potential physical connection (pedestrian overpass) to Hudson River Park. The two western staircases are in need of repair and have been taken out of service for safety reasons. Funding is also needed to complete the expansion of irrigation to the exterior gardens, repave the pathways, etc.

**6. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Continue the design and the reconstruction of Ninth Avenue Plaza - Hudson Street/Ninth Avenue from Gansevoort Street/Plaza to West 23rd Street. Include the reconstruction of 15th Street.

## **EXPENSE PRIORITIES**

**1. New York Police Department (NYPD) Gridlock, Yield to pedestrians, Idling and No Honking enforcement:** Allocate resources to enforce gridlock laws at peak hours on Weekends (Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8p.m., Sunday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.) on Ninth Avenue at 37th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44th, 45th and 47th Streets, Dyer Avenue at 34th and 42nd Streets. Enforce idling laws for buses and trucks on 34<sup>th</sup>, 42<sup>nd</sup> and high 50s Streets.

**2. 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.

**3. 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

**4. 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.

**5. 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 too long ago numbered not much more than two-thirds of those in place at an earlier peak when demands were lower. Recent temporary staff increases have enabled the Commission for the first time in years to keep up with its workload in timely fashion, to begin to meet the demand for designation of threatened buildings and districts, and to undertake surveys of a few areas threatened by indiscriminate development. At a minimum these increases must be incorporated in the baseline budget of the Commission. Further increases are required to meet the continuing threats to historic resources

**6. Department of Transportation (DOT):** Pedestrian safety: increase sidewalk inspections and sidewalk repairs enforcement.

**7. Department of Education (DOE):** Provide full funding for after school programs at Public Schools 11, 33, 35, 51, 58 and 111, the Upper Lab and Museum Schools.

**8. Department of Buildings (DOB):** Increase train examiners/inspectors. Need inspectors dedicated to enforcement of rules pertaining to the Special Clinton District, the Special Hudson Yards District, the Special West Chelsea District & S.R.O. buildings. Maintain funding in last year's budget for inspectors who enforce law against illegal hotel conversions. Compliance of building code is essential for tenant safety. Detecting abuses protects tenants from landlords who intimidate them into vacating apartments which can be let at higher rents. Audit makes clear that increase in reviews by examiners/inspectors is required to ensure applications & construction are consistent with zoning/building codes.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. New York Public Library (NYPL):** Maintain sufficient professional and clerical positions at Muhlenberg, and Columbus and Central Libraries in order that libraries can remain open six days a week (and Donnell a Seventh Day on Sundays) and provide funding for fulltime security guards at Columbus and Muhlenberg.

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 for the Aging (DFTA):** 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).

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