

4.0 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 Introduction

The proposed non-residential project would not increase the number of dwelling units served by the local library branch by more than five (5) percent, and would not introduce more than 600 low-income units requiring subsidized daycare. The proposed project would not result in greater than 2,500 dwelling units or 600 low to moderate income dwelling units requiring a detailed analysis of hospital and public health facilities. The proposed project would not introduce more than fifty school age children requiring a detailed analysis of educational facilities. Therefore, in accordance with the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual, the assessment of the project's effects on community facilities and services is limited to police and fire protection services, as well as HSS services.

4.2 Existing Conditions

4.2.1 Police Protection

The 19th Precinct (1.754 Square Miles), located at 153 East 67th Street, covers all of the Upper East Side, from East 59th Street to East 96th Street and from Fifth Avenue to the East River. The precinct has a population which is one of the densest in the nation, with residents numbered at over 210,880 (2000 census). The southern part of the precinct has a large commercial area and the famous avenues of Madison, Lexington and Third, well known for their shopping. There are also many dignitaries and diplomats that reside or own real estate within the precinct. There are currently thirty-two (32) foreign missions, twelve (12) consulates, and seventy (70) ambassador and counsel general residences. Crime such as burglary, grand larceny, and violent crime have dropped from a total of 11,976 (1993) reported incidences to 3,311 (2003), a 72.35% drop. The existing level of police protection in the area is considered adequate.

4.2.2 Fire Protection

Fire services are provided by Engine Company 39 and Ladder Company 16 located at 157 East 67th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues. Backup is provided by Engine Company 44 located at 221 East 75th Street between Second and Third Avenues. Engine companies carry hoses and pump while ladder companies provide search, rescue, and building ventilation functions. In addition rescue companies are called for fires or emergencies in high-rise buildings.

Normally, a total of three (3) engine companies and two (2) ladder companies respond to each call. Units responding to a site are not limited to the closest companies. The Fire Department can call on companies from other parts of the battalion or units more distant from the site if necessary. The existing level of fire protection in the area is considered adequate.

4.2.3 The Hospital for Special Surgery

Founded in 1863 by Dr. James Knight and prominent New Yorkers, HSS is the oldest orthopedic hospital in the country. HSS is a world leader in musculoskeletal medicine, with 140 years of familiarity with every musculoskeletal disease known. It has an exemplary residency program in orthopedics with hundreds of competing applicants.

U.S. News & World Report ranks HSS as one of the top hospitals in orthopedics in the Northeast. The orthopedic surgeons of HSS perform more than 15,000 surgical procedures and twice as many total joint replacements as any other hospital in the United States. With the largest group of rheumatologists in the U.S., HSS is a world leader in the research and treatment of rheumatic disease.

The Department of Radiology and Imaging at HSS performs approximately 140,000 examinations per year including nuclear medicine, ultrasound, CT scanning, and MR examinations in addition to routine radiography. Of these studies, approximately 18,000 are MR examinations of the axial and appendicular skeleton, including peripheral MR angiography.

Physiatrists at HSS treat patients who have spine and sports injuries as well as other musculoskeletal problems with non-operative procedures, such as nucleoplasty, radio frequency ablation, and fluoroscopic injection procedures as well as hip and knee debris removal. They combine these treatments with medically supervised exercise therapies to restore mobility and function.

Approximately 18,000 anesthetic procedures are performed annually at HSS. Directed by anesthesiologists with subspecialty training in pain management, the Division of Pain Medicine offers comprehensive evaluation and treatment to patients with acute and chronic pain syndromes, including pain from orthopedic and rheumatologic conditions.

The Virginia F. and William R. Salomon Rehabilitation Department plays an integral role in patient care and research at HSS. Its multidisciplinary staff includes physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech, and language pathologists as well as clinical psychologists. Its skilled professionals provide quality rehabilitative care for patients of all ages pre-operatively, post-operatively, and/or for conservative management of musculoskeletal injuries and disorders.

4.3 The Future Without the Proposed Project - 2010

4.3.1 Police Protection

The 19th Precinct, based at 153 East 67th Street would continue serving the project area in 2010. Future police staffing levels have not been established. Police staffing levels change over time in response to conditions in individual precincts and increased allocations are considered when increased demand becomes apparent. Increases in worker and residential populations created by new developments proposed for the area are not anticipated to place excessive burdens on police services. The role of the Police Department in providing effective, efficient service is not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed project. Therefore, no adverse impacts to police protection services are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

4.3.2 Fire Protection

Engine Company 39 and Ladder Company 16 located at 157 East 67th Street would continue serving the project area in 2010. Fire protection services are expected to remain adequate in the future without the proposed actions by 2010. Fire protection services are expected to remain adequate to meet the demands of the HSS additions and surrounding neighborhoods.

4.3.3 *Hospital Services*

The project is for a hospital and is in an area well served by a number of hospital facilities and emergency response times and services would not be significantly adversely affected. Therefore, no adverse impacts to hospital services are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

4.4 *The Future With the Proposed Project - 2010*

The Hospital for Special Surgery has a certified capacity of 162 patient beds and an estimated 1,773 employees. The new construction permitted under the Agreement, as amended, and the subsequent City approvals, would result in a net gain of twenty-six (26) new patient beds and an estimated 464 employees by 2010.

4.4.1 *Police Protection*

A letter was sent to Mr. Garry McCarthy, Deputy Commissioner of Operations of the New York City Police Department to request information on the readiness of the area police stations to handle police protection emergencies at HSS with the expanded population (see Appendix D). The response indicates that future allocations of police officers and other police personnel in the 19th Precinct would depend on the City's overall operating budget and the Police Department's internal distribution of resources. Typically, a commitment of resources would be based on demonstrated need and would not be made until operational statistics became available. Overall, the role of the Police Department in providing effective, efficient service is not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed project.

4.4.2 *Fire Protection*

A letter was sent to Mr. Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Operations of the New York City Fire Department to request information on the readiness of the area fire houses to handle fire emergencies at HSS with the expanded population (see Appendix D). The response indicates that the Fire Department would have sufficient resources to serve the anticipated increased level of activity around HSS, and the number of workers of the proposed project. Overall, fire protection services are expected to remain adequate to meet the demands of the HSS additions and surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, no adverse impacts to fire protection services are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

4.4.3 *The Hospital for Special Surgery*

The proposed project would provide the Hospital for Special Surgery with the additional space needed for modernization of the facility by expanding operating room capacity, inpatient beds, ambulatory surgery, diagnostic imaging services, sports medicine rehabilitation, and physician offices in a close proximity to the existing Buildings in order to maximize their operational capabilities. Expansion and modernization would allow the facility to accommodate high utilization and volume increases in surgeries and patients.