



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Board Chair

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## Fiscal Year 2022 Expense Priorities

### **1. Funding for Community Board operating budgets**

**Explanation:** Community Boards had \$8,000 removed from their budgets for the current fiscal year as part of the Program to Eliminate the Gap. This money should be restored and increased so that base-lined operating budget can be used for contracts and salary.

### **2. Increase funding for senior meals and kitchen staff salaries in senior centers and home-delivered meals (DFTA)**

**Explanation:** No seniors are denied a meal through this program, which means some senior centers must dig deeper than others to keep up with demand, therefore more funding would help meet this need. Funding is needed to ensure home-delivered hot meals twice a week.

### **3. Increase funding to expand access to after school programs for elementary and high schools (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** CB 3 is home to more than 17,000 children under 18 years of age, many of whom attend after school programs through Comprehensive After School System of NYC (COMPASS a), which is made up of over 800 programs serving K-12 and SONYC serving grades 6-8. Many of these much-needed programs in the Lower East Side have waitlists.

### **4. Increase funding for more Safe Haven and stabilization beds (DHS)**

**Explanation:** CB 3 is currently experiencing a crisis with the street homeless population. Safe Haven beds are low-threshold housing that enable street homeless to transition to housing and have proven effective. Currently there are not always beds available and street homeless have had to wait for this form of shelter.

### **5. Increase funding for SYEP (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** This is the nation's largest youth employment program. Increasing and baselining funding will make sure more applicants are connected with job placements. The program was cancelled in summer 2020 and reinstated at reduced level after demand from community and service providers.

### **6. NORCs (DFTA)**

**Explanation:** NORCs in CD 3, of which there are six, provide Supportive Services Programs to maximize and support the successful aging in place of older residents. Many of the City's NORCs can access health and social services in their own buildings, building complexes or locally within their neighborhoods. These programs are a model for bringing necessary care and support to seniors living in age-integrated buildings or neighborhoods.

### **7. Restore funding for staffing for grounds maintenance and building maintenance (NYCHA)**

**Explanation:** The Manhattan staffing headcount for NYCHA was cut by 40 with most losses in building maintenance and grounds maintenance, which are crucial staff positions needed to support our NYCHA buildings.

**8. Increase staff funding for social workers and guidance counselors in schools with high homeless population (DOE)**

**Explanation:** The Bridging the Gap program focuses investments to add social worker and support staff to schools with high homeless population and will benefit from more funding.

**9. CityFHEPS (HRA)**

**Explanation:** This program replaced all of the Living in Communities vouchers, Special Exit and Prevention Supplement (SEPS), and City Family Eviction Prevention and Exit Plan Supplements (CityFEPS) with a single unified rental assistance program. Funding should be increased to enable New Yorkers experiencing housing instability to exit shelter or avoid entering shelter by supporting affordable housing.

**10. Increase funding for school nurses (DOE)**

**Explanation:** At the beginning of the pandemic less than 40% of schools had a full-time nurse on staff. Funding should be increased to ensure a full-time nurse at every school.

**11. Increase funding for Beacon programs (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** Beacon programs exist in school-based community centers and serve children during after school hours, weekends, school vacation periods and the summer months. There are more than 17,000 children in CD 3 that can benefit from these programs.

**12. Pay parity for anti-eviction lawyers (HRA)**

**Explanation:** Universal Access initiative creating access to free legal representation in housing court for low-income residents. The lower salaries that contracted non-profits offer does not allow them to recruit enough lawyers for anti-eviction work.

**13. Parks Maintenance Staff (Parks)**

**Explanation:** Additional funds are needed to increase year-round workforce for parks maintenance so that there is less of a need to rely on temporary or seasonal staff.

**14. Recreation Programs (Parks)**

**Explanation:** Playground Associates provide seasonal recreation activities for children and also maintain facilities and grounds and organize events.

**15. Increase funding for Commercial Lease Assistance Program (SBS)**

**Explanation:** This program provides help to small businesses that are not franchises with the following free legal services: negotiating and signing a new commercial lease or amending, renewing, or terminating a lease or addressing a commercial lease-related issue. This has always been a much-needed program but will even more necessary as small businesses will be dealing with the impacts of COVID in the following year.

**16. Tree pruning and stump removal (Parks)**

**Explanation:** Funding would go towards keeping up with demand for pruning and stump removal requests.

**17. Additional Parks Enforcement Police (Parks)**

**Explanation:** Parks Enforcement Police provide a uniformed presence where they safeguard Parks properties and facilities and enforce rules and regulations regarding quality-of-life conditions.

**18. Litter Basket Service (DSNY)**

**Explanation:** Weekday, Sunday and holiday basket service has been reduced for the current year because of lack of funding. Basket service must be restored and expanded as CD 3 is a rat mitigation zone and also has many restaurants resulting in more visitors/ overflowing litter baskets.

**19. Increase funding for Cornerstone programs (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** Cornerstone programs serves students and their families year-round in NYCHA community centers.

**20. Increase funding for waste management staff and operations at NYCHA buildings (NYCHA)**

**Explanation:** Waste management staff and operations funding will help to combat waste and rodent issues and support important physical improvements such as enlarged hopper doors, which address these problems but are below the capital project funding threshold.

**21. Restore funding for staffing for liaisons, inspectors, and auditors (DOB)**

**Explanation:** There are 48 vacancies for inspectors and hiring freezes that decrease staff in all these areas. Staff reductions are expected to continue to FY22.

**22. Increase funding for summer camp programs for middle school students-SONYC program (DYCD)**

**Explanation:** CB 3 is home to more than 17,000 children under 18 years of age, many of whom attend after school programs and also benefit from related summer camp programming when schools are out of session. Increased funding for structured summer camp programming for 6th-8th grade students is needed.

**23. Workforce development/Jobs Plus (HRA)**

**Explanation:** Jobs-Plus provides NYCHA residents an assessment, job readiness, training, job search assistance, along with wrap-around referrals for social supports, and child support services.

**24. Rat Mitigation Zone Collection (DSNY)**

**Explanation:** DSNY has reduced collection services in rat mitigation zones by 25 percent, from four days a week pick-up, to three days a week. CD 3 is a rat mitigation zone because it has one of the most serious rodent problems in NYC. Outdoor dining and loss of collection services will eliminate the progress made in reducing rats. This program should be restored and extended in CD 3 to have rat mitigation back on track.

**25. Inspectors Neighborhood Interventions. Neighborhood Rat Reduction Initiative (DOHMH)**

**Explanation:** Current loss of inspectors must be restored and expanded, especially for the rat mitigation initiative that has lost ground due to COVID.