



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR
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Burt Lazarin
Chair

Jesse R. Bodine
District Manager

March 14, 2018

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Statement on the Preliminary Budget, Fiscal Year (FY) 2019

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board Four (MCB4) appreciates the ability to review and opine on your \$88.67 billion Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. MCB4, at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 7, 2018, voted, by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to approve the following comments on the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2019.

Our district includes Chelsea, Hudson Yards, and Clinton/Hell's Kitchen which comprise the second fastest growing district in the City after three rezoning actions changed areas from manufacturing to mixed use. Once a bastion of economically and culturally diverse communities, the growth brought on by luxury, commercial, and tourism development has not been matched by city services. And while we thank you for funding long-sought after projects in 2018, we believe there is a long way to go to meet the unyielding pressures brought on by development and the unrelenting increase to the costs of living in New York City.

Many of the priorities of MCB4 would aide in making New York City the fairest big city in America. MCB4 writes to highlight the top priorities in our capital and expense requests of the city¹, which are not currently included in your budget, although they fall squarely into categories you highlighted as priorities. The efforts by your administration cannot just support affordable housing and limits on

¹ [MCB4 Fiscal Year 2019 Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities](#)

development, but must also ensure our schools are adequately funded and additional seats are built to support the ongoing residential development; support public transit and implementing traffic calming measures that protect pedestrians and cyclists; revitalize parks and increase sanitation pickups.

MCB4 requests the following **capital projects be funded** in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:

Affordable Housing:

- Provide adequate capital subsidy, in addition to land, for development of affordable housing at the NYCHA Harborview Terrace site (W 55th and Tenth Ave) and the Slaughterhouse development site (495 Eleventh Ave);
- Provide adequate capital subsidy for DEP and MTA sites, per Western Railyards points of agreements, at 705 Tenth Ave and 806 Ninth Ave, respectively;
- Provide adequate capital subsidy for Multifamily Preservation Loan Program (MPLP) and the Senior Affordable Rental Apartments (SARA) for the following affordable housing projects at 560 West 52nd Street and 464 West 25th Street (MPLP), and 500 West 52nd Street (SARA).

Public Transit:

- Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure by providing elevators and escalators; expand funding to the L train repair project to provide ADA access and reopen passage between Sixth and Seventh Avenues;
- Fund Brooklyn/Chelsea/Hell's Kitchen Ferry service study to serve the Chelsea Tech Hub and the large worker and residential population of district along waterfront.

Sanitation:

- Provide two new additional trucks for basket pickup service, bringing the total amount of truck for MCD4 to four;
- Provide a Manual Litter Patrol Vehicles for cleaning illegal dumping.

Education:

- Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school, particularly in midtown south, where Hudson Yards will bring an extraordinary number of students in a short timeframe;
- Renovate and upgrade PS111, 440 West 53rd Street, entrance and gymnasium to be ADA accessible;
- Complete PS11, 320 West 21st Street, Capital Needs scope and fund handicap lift for universal building access.

Parks:

- Fund the construction of blocks 5 and 6 of the Hudson Boulevard and Park;
- Reconstruct or upgrade bathrooms at the following parks:
 - DeWitt Clinton Park (52-54th Streets, Eleventh – Twelfth Avenues)
 - Matthews-Palmer Park (445 West 45th Street)
 - Chelsea Park (450 West 27th Street)

MCB4 requests the following **expense projects be funded** in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget:

Housing and Enforcement:

- Update Department of Building's (DOB) website and software so applications for improper demolitions in special districts are flagged;
- Update DOB website and software to flag applications filed without a tenant safety plan and certificate of non-harassment;
- Enhance funding to further coordinate enforcement with DOB and HPD in interest of efficiency;
- Enhance funding to increase number of Inspectors, Community Coordinators, and Administrative Associates for MCD4 to aggressively pursue landlords and operators with repeat violations, enforce unsafe and after hours compliance.

Homeless Services:

- Provide additional funding for after placement support for homeless families that are selected through the family preference for buildings with 421a benefits.

Public Transportation, Safety, Vision Zero Implementation:

- Install split phases and Barnes Dance signals at the following intersections:
 - West 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue
 - West 57th Street and Tenth Avenue
 - West 42nd Street and Eleventh Avenue
 - West 57th Street and Eighth Avenue
 - West 42nd Street and Ninth Avenue
- Study location and construction of a tour and charter bus garage through need identified by 2005 Hudson Yards rezoning;
- Study sidewalk capacity and pedestrian demand along Eighth and Ninth Avenues north of 34th Street to 59th Street.

Parks:

- Increase funding for fixed post staff at DeWitt Clinton Park, Mathew Palmer Park, and Chelsea Park;
- Parks with comfort stations should have fixed post staff to address constituents concerns, provide security, and perform routine maintenance of that park.

Public Health and Senior Needs:

- Increase funding for HIV/AIDS education, prevention, and treatment;
- Expand existing programs for Seniors Meals program to the following locations:
 - Penn South NORC, 290 Ninth Avenue
 - Encore Community Services, 239 West 49th Street
 - The SAGE Senior Center, 305 Seventh Avenue
- Expand existing programs for seniors for in-home supports, supportive housing, preventative health, and social services.

Environment:

- Conduct additional air pollution studies in the Lincoln Tunnel Corridor and Port Authority Bus Terminal.

We would like to **thank you** for funding the following capital and expense requests:

Capital:

- Creation of a zoning mechanism to allow for blocks 4, 5 and 6 of Hudson Boulevard Park to be completed;
- Secure \$800,000 for needed roof repair of Columbus Avenue Library Branch at 742 10th Avenue;
- Renovate PS33, 281 9th Avenue, bathrooms, kitchen, cafeteria, PA system, and security cameras;
- Partial funding for NYCHA Elliot- Chelsea Houses to repaint all lobbies and install new fence and gate surrounding 240 West 26th Street and 425 West 25th Street;
- Increase funds for catch basin capital repair;
- Install ADA-compliant ramps at north side 42nd Street and Dyer Avenue, Southwest corner of 38th Street and Eighth Avenue; West 48th Street and Eighth Avenue;
- Expand sidewalks at 41st Street and Ninth Avenue; south side of 45th Street, 8th Avenue from 24th Street to 47th Street.

Expense:

- Convert Eleventh Avenue one-way from 57th Street to 42nd Streets, add pedestrian safety measures, protected bus lane, and bike lane;
- Install split phases signals at the following intersections:
 - West 40th Street and Eighth Avenue
 - West 14th Street and Seventh Avenue
 - West 14th Street and Sixth Avenue;
- Expand sidewalk on 8th Avenue between 42nd and 43rd Streets;
- Study new protected crosstown bike lanes in midtown;
- Expand HRA Anti-Harassment Legal Services to MCD4;
- Provide caseworkers for families with a multitude of issues, including dealing with homeless needs and mental health services;
- Expand staffing and resources for Street Homeless Outreach Program;
- Increase funding to upgrade 311 Mobile app, in particular the ability to report illegal short-term stays.

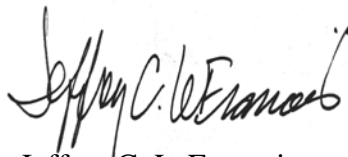
The aforementioned priorities will indeed help to make New York the fairest big city in America. It is a goal our community has long fought for – equity and equality for all – and thank you for what has been done to bring us this point. And as you have acknowledged, we have a long way still to go.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Burt Lazarin
Chair
Manhattan Community
Board 4



Jeffrey C. LeFrancois
Chair
CB4 Budget Task Force