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Community Board 2 / Manhattan Expense Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026 Presented to the Full Board on October 24, 2024

1. Intensive Mobile Treatment Team for Serious Mental Illness

Create additional Intensive Mobile Treatment teams, including one to serve Community District 2 / Manhattan, especially in the 6th Avenue corridor (including Cornelia Street and Washington and Waverly Places) and the adjacent Northwest Corner of Washington Square Park, as well as the Crosby Street corridor adjacent to Houston Street, to address the pernicious cycle of unmet serious mental health needs of those engaging in aggressive behavior and/or plagued by chemical addictions.

Responsible Agency: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

2. Hudson Waterfront Resiliency Study

Allocate funds for the City to sponsor a more localized study of the west side of the District along Hudson River Park, coordinating with relevant constituencies including the Hudson River Park Trust and the State DoT, to allow for more effective resiliency efforts. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, it became clear that the Hudson River waterfront was dangerously vulnerable, but there has been opposition to the USACE proposal which does not take into account local conditions. The newly created Waterfront Code Committee could also potentially be part of this process. After making this request in previous years, the agency response was that further study of the request was needed. This effort needs City sponsorship to coordinate among all relevant constituencies.

Responsible Agency: Department of Environmental Protection

3. Public School Class Size Reduction

Allocate funding to reduce class size city wide at an estimated cost of \$137 million for hiring teachers, covering only about 1,300 out of the estimated 10,000 to 12,000 teachers

needed. Prioritizing first elementary schools, middle schools then high schools within District 2 within the five-year phase-in period ending in 2028.

Responsible Agency: Department of Education

4. Study of Petrosino Square

Allocate funds to complete the 2021 promised study "Re-imagine Petrosino Sq." to redesign Petrosino Sq., restoring the rotating public art installation program at Petrosino's north end, as intended, and relocating the Citi Bike station there elsewhere.

Responsible Agency: Departments of Transportation and Parks & Recreation

5. Architectural Services for Dining Out NYC Applicants

Establish funding for a grant program that provides restaurant operators with financial support to cover architectural services for developing site plans as part of their Dining Out NYC applications.

Responsible Agency: Small Business Services

6. NYC Men Teach

Allocate funds for the NYC Men Teach program to recruit, train, and retain talented non-traditional public school educators in order to close the representation gap between our students and those who teach them.

Responsible Agency: Department of Education

7. Study Trash Containerization

Allocate funds for DSNY to evaluate the quantity and condition of trash and recycling containers, as well as evaluate collection schedules, and to make adjustments as necessary. In particular, DSNY should monitor the effects of the new containerization rules coming into effect in the fall of 2024. Within CD2 and other districts with a historic streetscape and a heterogenous landscape of narrow sidewalks and streets, special study is needed to determine the optimal way to containerize trash without placing an undue burden on residents and without impeding the pedestrian right-of-way. There is also a particular interest in studying the "big bin" containerization pilot program and its potential applicability to CD2. In addition, new designs are needed for rat resistant trash containers. Rat remediation also requires more frequent litter basket collection, especially on weekends and around spaces that attract large numbers of people.

Responsible Agency: Department of Sanitation

8. Study the Effectiveness of the Hudson Square Rezoning against its original goals, with a focus on housing creation

Fund a Study to identify the development projects that have actually been planned and/or completed within the boundaries of the 2013 Hudson Square Rezoning. The report should identify the number of residential units, floor area of residential, number of affordable and market rate, and for the affordable units, identify the duration of the affordability (e.g., permanent, 20-year, etc). Per building, the report should identify the AMI levels for the affordable housing, and differentiate between rentals and home ownership units.

The report should also identify those buildings that were proposed as residential, but resulted in commercial development.

The report should evaluate the success of the Hudson Square Rezoning in terms of its original goals, particularly the creation of housing stock (affordable and market rate).

Based on the results of the study, identify methods available to rebalance or course-correct the rezoning in order to produce additional residential housing stock, with a focus on affordable versus market rate. Identify what tools (e.g., tax abatements, affordable housing frameworks) would be appropriate in order to achieve these goals.

Responsible Agency: Department of City Planning

9. Support the Bridging the Gap Program

Support the operating needs of the Bridging the Gap program developed by Red Door Place – a non-contracted not-for-profit that aims to connect food pantry clients to additional social support services.

Responsible Agency: Department of Social Services

10. Traffic Light and Crosswalk Across Houston Street at Wooster Street

Allocate funds to install a traffic light and crosswalk at Houston and Wooster Streets, the only Houston Street intersection without a light. The intersection is always hazardous, now more so with a heavy traffic increase. It is used by pedestrians and cyclists as a crossing route, creating the need to provide a safe crossing to its numerous users, many of whom are vulnerable, in accessing the multifold activities along that corridor.

Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation

11. Identify Alternative Space for Skateboarders

Allocate funds to determine where to locate a place for skateboarders to congregate and skate, since they are not supposed to utilize Open Streets and certain open spaces, and they are currently using spaces such as Washington Square Park, Petrosino Square and Mercer Playground.

Responsible Agency: Department of Parks & Recreation

12. Additional Landmarks Staff for Applications and Enforcement

Sufficient funding for staff and capacity to ensure: 1) prompt calendaring and consideration of buildings and districts that are proposed for designation to make certain that modifications are not made that would render the consideration moot, 2) monitoring of approved applications to confirm that the work is carried out in accordance with the approved plans and that the final work conforms to the approved application, 3) identification and subsequent follow up by staff of buildings with violations for work done without commission approval, 4) follow up of violations brought to the Commission by the public.

Responsible Agency: Landmarks Preservation Commission

13. Install Protective Barriers for a Bicycle Lane

Allocate funds to install temporary protective barriers along the bike lane on West Houston Street between Washington and West Streets to provide safer access to the Hudson River Park Greenway, until more permanent safety improvements can be added

Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation

14. Study NYC “Smart” Composting Bins

Allocate funds to study the future utility and need for “Smart” Composting Bins after curbside compost collection is fully implemented, with a particular focus on communities such as CD2 with narrow sidewalks and smaller residential buildings that may make challenging the storing and placing out for collection the curbside composting “brown bins.”

Responsible Agency: Department of Sanitation

15. Compile a Dataset of Rent-Regulated Units for Open Data

Allocate funds to develop a citywide dataset, going back to at least 2008, of the number of rent-stabilized and rent-controlled units (by building), including building-level data such as house number, street name, BBL, BIN, and community district, using data such as Department of Finance tax bills, to be included on the Open Data portal in dataset and map formats, to be updated annually. Where necessary, this dataset should include an extract from the appropriate State-level agency (e.g., NYS Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR)) in order to identify these units.

Responsible Agencies: NYC Department of City Planning (DCP), NYC Department of Finance (DOF), and/or NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI)

16. Maintaining the Greenwich House Building

Funding to support the ongoing costs for the upkeep of the exterior of Greenwich House's historic building.

Responsible Agencies: Department for the Aging, Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

17. Benches for Pocket Parks Along Sixth Avenue

Allocate funds to add benches at the three "pocket parks" on Avenue of the Americas – Minetta Playground / Golden Swan, Minetta Green and Minetta Triangle Park.

Responsible Agency: Department of Parks & Recreation

18. Identify Potential Locations for Dog Parks and Dog Runs

Allocate funds to investigate opportunities to add more dog parks and dog runs, including some with grass, in our community.

Responsible Agency: Department of Parks & Recreation

19. Teacher Professional Development in Structured Literacy

Allocate funds for teacher training in reading and writing curricula that use a structured literacy approach.

Responsible Agency: Department of Education

20. Safety Improvements at Mulry Square

Allocate funds to study the hazardous conditions at Mulry Sq. (the intersection of 7th Avenue Sout, Greenwich Avenue and West 11th Street) to identify and implement solutions to safeguard crossing pedestrians and clarify vehicular movement, including design, signalization and pavement marking changes.

Responsible Agency: Department of Transportation

21. Support for Paul's Place

Paul's Place is a Drop-in Center and Safe Haven. Funding is needed to provide clothing and toiletries to its clientele.

Responsible Agency: Department of Homeless Services

22. LaGuardia Garden – Eliminate Ponding

Address issues at LaGuardia Garden (between Bleecker and West Houston) with “ponding” between and on the east side by Morton Williams, including the sinking of surfaces within the gardens that continue to occur and cause risks, especially in the winter when they can freeze and become dangerous to pedestrians. (Realizing repairs may require capital, not just expense funding.)

Responsible Agency: Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Transportation

23. Arts Education

Allocate funds to maintain the most recent baseline funding for arts education (\$41 million in FY 2025).

Responsible Agency: Department of Education

24. Green Infrastructure

Allocate funds to explore funding and building green infrastructure within CB2.

Responsible Agency: Department of Environmental Protection

25. Study Units Converted to Rent-regulated Residential

Ask the NYC Loft Board to create a report identifying the number of units that have been converted from commercial and manufacturing spaces to rent-stabilized residential uses since the creation of the Loft Board. The report should identify building-level detail such as house number, street name, BBL, BIN, and community district. The Loft Board should identify all units that are still in the process of conversion.

Responsible Agency: NYC Loft Board

26. Supporting The Door's Food Service Program

Funds to support the expansion of The Door's Food and Nutrition Services to meet its goal of distributing 12,000+ meals.

Responsible Agency: DYS; Department of Youth & Community Development

27. Rat Infestation Interdiction

Despite efforts by the Department of Parks and Recreation to address the problem of rat infestation, the CB2 office constantly receives complaints about rats in Washington Square Park and the parks along Avenue of the Americas (Minetta Triangle, Minetta Playground and Golden Swan). We are requesting additional resources targeting it and note that special focus should be paid to rat burrows and tunneling in and around trees because such damage to the root base is causing trees to lean and eventually damaged trees will need to be removed because of the hazard of them falling.

Responsible Agencies: Department of Parks & Recreation; Department of Health & Mental Hygiene

28. Review CEQR Process for New School Enrollment Projections

Allocate funds to review and revise as needed the City Environment Quality Review (CEQR) process for funding, siting, and building new public schools, including with respect to enrollment projections.

Responsible Agency: School Construction Authority

29. Extend the M12 Bus Route along Route 9A

Allocate funds to implement a continuous bus route moving both north and south of West 14th Street along Route 9A by extending the M12 bus route south from

West 14th Street to Chambers Street (currently the M12 only proceeds north of West 14th Street to West 57th Street)

Responsible Agencies: NYC Department of Transportation; MTA

30. Study the Effects of Full Street Closures for Commercial Events

Allocate funds to enable SAPO to study the effects that full street closures for commercial events have on neighboring businesses and residents. CB2 remains disturbed by the endless proliferation of promotional and commercial events, some with permits; some not; which are occurring regularly especially in SoHo and NoHo. The study should include the impacts on pedestrian access, traffic flow, and the creation of "hot spots" at the confluence of multiple street closures in close proximity, as compared with other Districts.

Responsible Agency: the Street Activity Permit Office

31. Additional PEP Officer Coverage

Allocate funds to increase the number of hours per day/week during which Parks Enforcement Patrol officers are deployed in Washington Square Park.

Responsible Agency: Department of Parks & Recreation

32. Before- and After-School Activities

Allocate additional funds for an array of before- and after-school activities across all grade levels that are free of charge to students and families.

Responsible Agency: DoE and DYCD

33. Special Education Services in 3-K and Pre-K

Allocate funding to assess needs and expand access to early childhood programming for Pre-K, 3-K and preschool special education students.

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