



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

June 8th, 2020

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

Hon. Corey Johnson
Speaker, City Council
City Hall
New Yory, New York 10007

Re: Revised Fiscal Year 2021 Executive Budget

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Johnson,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) recognizes we are living in a new reality that is a post COVID-19 world, and while much has changed, including the cities' economic landscape, the priorities of MCB4 remain.

As we shared in our letter from March 2020¹, MCB4 affirms our long held priorities, the areas of education, health, housing, homelessness services and transportation. Given this, we strongly encourage that alternative ways be considered for meeting the budget gaps other than to disrupt the following programs:

- Professional Development (DOE) - \$67M in FY21 and outyears
- School Allocation (impacting Title 1 Schools) (DOE) - \$40M in FY21
- Summer Youth Employment Program (DYCD) - \$124M over FY20- 21
- Citywide Crisis Response Teams (THRIVE/DOHMH) - \$10M OVER FY20-21
- Vision Zero public (DOT) - \$1M in FY20 and \$2M in FY21
- Better Bus Initiative (DOT) - \$2.7M in FY20 and \$5.7M in FY21
- Weekday basket truck service (DSNY) - \$2.5M in FY21 and outyears

¹ <https://www1.nyc.gov/html/mancb4/downloads/pdf/march-2020/13-letter-to-mayor-re-response-to-preliminary-budget-fiscal-year-2021-budget.pdf>

- Sunday and Holiday Basket Service (DSNY) – reduced usage currently \$1.7M in FY21 and outyears
- With regards organics program, we understand that this program will be cut but we urge you to consider returning to the less-expensive site-based model of collection and in the future expand.

In addition, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer’s recent report suggests the net result of the revised budget will be a reduction of \$150 million in funding for homeless services². We are opposed to such a reduction and believe strongly that housing is among the most essential needs that must be addressed for the city to recover from both the health and economic impact of COVID-19.

Finally, we join with you and others in lamenting (and advocating against!) the woefully inadequate federal funding which further exacerbates these difficult decisions. We also lend our voice to the City’s request for additional support from the federal government, particularly as the impact of the COVID-crisis has, and will continue to have, a significantly pronounced impact on our city and its residents.

We know these are difficult decisions. But we also know that ensuring health and safety of our community is what will allow us to weather - and recover from -- these most difficult times³.

Thank you.



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jessica Chait
Second Vice Chair
Chair, Budget Task Force

CC: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

² [https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Comments on NYC Fiscal Year 2021 Executive Budget.pdf](https://comptroller.nyc.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/Comments_on_NYC_Fiscal_Year_2021_Executive_Budget.pdf)

³ Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4), at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 3, 2020, voted, by a vote of 45 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to recommend approval of this letter.