



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

P.O. Box 2622  
New York, NY 10108  
tel: 212-736-4536  
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

**LOWELL D. KERN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

## **MCB 4 District Needs and Budget Survey Analysis Conducted by BetaNYC 2020**

This memo highlights the top “mentions” from the survey. If you would like to read all the mentions you can via [this link](#). In addition you can search through the [survey responses here](#).

### **Homeless Services**

Homeless is the biggest issue in the responses. The homeless situation in CB 4 is perceived to be at its worst.

62 mention the needs of the homeless population in the district, reporting the population has surged, taking residence on the streets, stoops, and parks.

2 responses mention that this has been an issue before COVID and is worse with the virus. 9 mention problems in DHS’s system with hotels, including lack of oversight and coordination with PPE supplies, outreach, and support to reduce the daytime and nighttime population.

Most responses mention the homeless need more than temporary housing in a shelter or hotel room. Proposed solutions include:

- Expand homeless and mental health services including outreach and treatment. They do not need more policing and spare change.
  - Homeless population needs job training/ education and help transitioning to permanent stable housing
  - Drug and alcohol addiction treatment is also noted
- Homeless population needs stable housing, health care, clothing, and food aid/benefits

11 responses mention conflicts and crimes among Homeless/mentally ill/drug users.

### **Sanitation**

There were 30 responses that mention lack of DSNY service due to the budget cuts. These comments suggest

- Increasing the number of DSNY shifts so there are more frequent trash collections.
- Workers need to be added to keep the streets clean.

15 responses directly comment on the Lack of Sidewalk Trash / Residential Garbage collection, and a five on the need for Public trash can pickup on corners and in parks and also five on Lack of Street Cleaning.

There are three responses that mention Improvements to sidewalk trash

- curbside bins to store trash and recycling
- encourage store trash off sidewalks
- sanitation pods into the streets

## **Schools**

26 responses mention the need for General Support for DOE funding, especially during COVID

- Further support for remote learning and cleaning
- PPE

As well as 14 mentions on the disapproval of DOE budget cuts and COVID actions that have

- Ripped apart due to the lack of curriculum structure and funding to the public school system.
- Confusion on school opening/closings
- Lack of days in schools

Seven responses mention Unprivileged student support and outreach for

- Lower income and POC schools and families
- Young children and children with disabilities.

A small amount of responses also mention specifically for

- Internet and Technology Access for Students
- Funding for Social Workers
- More Outdoor Education Activities/ Recreation
  - Free After School Programs
- School Buildings Improvements
- School staff, resources, and class size improvements

## **Parks**

23 responses mention the usefulness of and the need of parks especially during COVID, and said they wanted more parks and greenspace or to Improve quality

- More public spaces for kids and families to congregate and play

- Green spaces, parks, playgrounds, soccer fields, tree lined street/avenues

The need for more park maintenance and staff was noted by five responses. Two responses noted the need for more dog friendly areas/ parks in the district.

There were also a few suggestions to improve Hudson River park, Hell's Kitchen Park and an empty underutilized lot close by.

### **Other Mentions**

- General Health
  - Access to decent/ affordable health care was mention by 16 responses
- HPD
  - Quality Affordable housing for low income, seniors and families by 15
    - More real affordable housing and support for HDFCs
    - Affordable housing is not affordable, we need vouchers that match what landlords are demanding.
    - 80/20
  - Support more supportive housing and longer-term housing solutions
  - Study on vacancies and repurposing of areas
  -
- NYPD
  - Increasing crime, homicides, and shootings mention by 13 responses
  - Increase camera enforcement by 3
  - Decrease police involvement in parking/traffic enforcement by 3
  - 3 mentions for Reallocate Police Funding
    - Reallocate funding to social services
    - Mental health and social services to replace or at least accompany NYPD
    - better training
  - 3 mentions More funding for Police for Emergency services
  - General funding support for Emergency services and first responders
  - Safety improvements to the subway and Penn Station/PABT
- ACS
  - Childcare services / facilities
- Senior Health Services
  - nutrition and mental health services, benefit support etc, in particular.
- Transportation
  - Congestion Pricing
  - Road and sidewalk maintenance
  - Crack down on placard abuse
  - Reduce fleets of delivery companies
  - No MTA fare increase
  - Subway/ Bus COVID needs
  - Free bus service

- SBS
  - Open Restaurants study
- Budget
  - Budget Accountability
  - WPA-like program
  - Allow NYC to borrow to offset the deficit and avoid budget cuts
  - Expand participatory budgeting
- Project Specific
  - Complete the Dewitt Clinton stair rehabilitation
  - Hold accountable the Shed
  - Turn 550 W. 20th St. into affordable artists studios and community arts space
- Zoning
  - Up-zone SoHo
  - Expanding the Chelsea Historic District
  - Stop selling off Air rights and stop developers from building more buildings.