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**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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March 13, 2017

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

**Re: Statement on the Preliminary Budget, Fiscal Year (FY) 2018**

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

Manhattan Community Board Four (“MCB4”) is grateful for the opportunity to review your \$84.67 billion Preliminary Budget for FY 2018. Our district, which includes the areas of Chelsea, Hudson Yards and Clinton/Hell’s Kitchen, has historically been characterized by culturally and economically diverse neighborhoods. An explosion of development in our area has had a ripple effect on our community including:

- Many longtime residents, especially seniors, are being priced out of the neighborhood
- City services are stretched thin as our population growth is not matched by additional resources allocated to city agencies for our district
- Increase in the reporting of the homeless population in our district
- The explosion in development has led to more pedestrian and vehicular traffic in our neighborhood with few improvements to vital infrastructure necessary to accommodate the drastic increase, and limited initiatives have been seriously considered to help alleviate the congestion.

Hence our goal in responding to the FY 2018 Preliminary Budget is to highlight key concerns that need to be addressed, which will assist in bringing back the balance to our district and allowing Chelsea and Hell’s Kitchen to maintain the stability and neighborhood character that has made our area such a wonderful place to visit, work and live.

Our stated goal of maintaining the diversity of our neighborhoods can be achieved generally by applying the resources from the FY 2018 budget as it pertains to our district towards:

- Attracting development that makes available more affordable housing that is permanent. MCB4 firmly agrees with your administration’s aim to ensure New Yorkers can still afford to live and be well integrated in different neighborhoods of our great city. We believe that the establishment of permanently affordable housing across multiple income bands enhances diversity,
- Maintaining the unique character of our neighborhoods by enforcing the existing zoning,
- Preventing displacement and evictions of current residents and businesses,

- Upgrading existing shelters and providing additional services for the homeless; and
- Improving our quality of life with the creation of additional green spaces; schools; educational, community and cultural facility spaces; and creating an appropriate balance in street usage between pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles.

As stated in previous years, due to recent rezoning within Community District 4 (CD4), significant new commercial and residential development is now possible in formerly industrial areas. Considering the total population of CD4 has grown from approximately 87,000 in 2000, to over 104,000, according to the 2010 Census, a 19% population growth overall, our district requires a tremendous amount of resources that may not have been anticipated. Development projects are generally evaluated in isolation, not taking into account the cumulative effects. This potentially can result in not enough school seats, not enough fire or public safety coverage, not enough essential services such as sanitation, increased traffic congestion and environmental concerns.

The Community Board has strived for balance between the redevelopment of these areas along with the preservation and expansion of the district's residential neighborhoods. Our priorities continue to include:

- Ensuring that new development helps produce more permanent affordable housing
- Protecting existing stock of affordable units
- Advocating for safety and improved traffic conditions
- Requesting additional open and green space
- Mediating the needs of at-risk individuals within our district and the needs of our residents

As our local elected official, we call upon the Mayor's office to consider the amount of resources allocated to the various city agencies in proportion to the districts in need.

### **Budget Process**

The Board held a Public Hearing at its March 1, 2017 Full Board meeting. Prior to the Public Hearing, the topic was placed on committee agendas and one force meetings were held. Notice of the meetings and hearing were posted. Manhattan Community Board 4 would like to first acknowledge the requests where Agencies indicated either full or partial funding have been allocated :

Department of Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand code enforcement</li> </ul>
Department of City Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete zoning text amendment for HRPT development rights</li> <li>• Study of publically accessible community facilities</li> <li>• Explore rezoning of Hudson yards to allow for the completion of the planned park and allow new residential units</li> <li>• Modify the special permit for off-street parking in new residential buildings</li> </ul>
Department of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a design for new elementary school,</li> </ul>
Department of Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance and expand noise pollution enforcement programs</li> </ul>
Department of Homeless services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add additional caseworkers and support for homeless families</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain peace officers for local shelters</li> </ul>
Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study crosstown bike lanes</li> <li>• Converting 11<sup>th</sup> Ave to One-way Southbound from 42<sup>nd</sup> St to 57<sup>th</sup> St</li> <li>• Additional training for officers in pedestrian safety and</li> </ul>
Human Resources Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of Homelessness prevention programs</li> </ul>
New York Policy Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional traffic officers</li> <li>• Provide resources to train officers re: noise enforcement</li> </ul>

While we appreciate the positive responses to some of our budget requests, Manhattan Community Board 4 firmly believes more funds need to be dedicated to our district. The attached spreadsheets reflect the specific concerns which require additional funding in the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget.

Thank you for your consideration and we eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Manhattan  
Community Board 4



Lowell Kern  
Second Vice Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4

**Enclosure**

cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, City Council  
Hon. Corey Johnson, City Council