



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Requests:

CAPITAL PRIORITIES

1. Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Increase funding to preserve and create housing in CD4 for low, moderate and middle income people using the following programs: Supportive Housing Programs; New Housing Marketplace Programs; 8A and Participation Loan Program; New HOP; and other new loan initiatives, including potential federal and state aid programs. Where applicable, new sources of funding should be identified and used for site acquisition toward the creation of affordable housing.

Such actions should include supportive housing for people with AIDS; affordable housing in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area for residents with low, moderate and middle incomes and in accordance with the community plan for the area; and affordable housing in appropriate sites to fulfill the vision of the Chelsea 197-a Plan and to realize the community's goals for the City's Hudson Yards and West Chelsea rezonings.

2. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): increased capital funding needed to maintain present developments, Fulton, Elliot-Chelsea and Harborview.

3. Department of Transportation (DOT): Parking swaps to accommodate bicycle parking at the intersections of various cross streets with Ninth Avenue between 34th and 57th Street.

4. Department of Transportation (DOT): Reconstruction of 15th Street and Sixth Avenue to Ninth Avenue with neckdowns on the west side of the intersections and parking swaps in the middle of the blocks.

5. Economic Development Corporation (EDC): Charter Bus Garage – construction of a Charter Bus Garage to accommodate over 500 tourists buses serving Broadway, Lincoln Center, Time Square and currently parked at curbside throughout the neighborhood.

6. Department of Parks & Recreation: Continue renovation of DeWitt Clinton Park including provisions for a potential physical connection (pedestrian overpass) to Hudson River Park. The two western staircases are in need of repair and have been taken out of

service for safety reasons. Funding is also needed to complete the expansion of irrigation to the exterior gardens, repave the pathways.

7. Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide funds for site acquisition of new parks, specifically for the DEP property on Tenth Avenue between 48th and 49th streets and the network of privately and public owned properties along Dyer Avenue between 35th and 41st streets. In addition, provide funds for the expansion and/or creation of greenstreets.

8. Department of Sanitation (DOS) – Explore the alternative plan endorsed by the Coalition to Protect Our Parks (CPOP) for a combined commercial and recyclables transfer station at Pier 76, replacing the existing transfer station at Pier 99 and making it available for park or park-compatible water-dependant use, also replacing the proposed transfer station at Gansevoort Peninsula, making it 100% available for park use. The plan as proposed includes no conjunction between bicycle/pedestrian traffic (the bikeway/esplanade crosses overhead at a very gentle rise), the ability to keep both the tow pound and mounted unit at the pier, and provides for nearly 100% park coverage with a gradual rise from the raised esplanade. The propose plan also comes closer to fulfilling the Mayor’s SWMP goal for Manhattan’s to be able to dispose of its own garbage with least impact on other boroughs.

9. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) – Allocate sufficient additional funding as needed to insure that the “front door” to the Passenger Ship Terminals (Piers 88 and 90) have a open, welcome, and friendly feeling, compatible with Hudson River Park which surrounds it, and with open views to the ships that dock, while still providing for needed security.

10. Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA): Provide funding and assistance in obtaining funding for Ensemble Studio Theater, INTAR theater, the 52nd Street Project, The Irish Arts Center and ART/New York to realize development plans for new or refurbished performing and studio spaces in the Clinton Urban Renewal Area.

11. Department of Transportation (DOT): Reconstruct Ninth Avenue from 55th to 34th Streets to implement changes resulting from the DOT study now underway. Implement neckdowns on each street block directly to the East and West of Ninth Avenue.

CONTINUING SUPPORT: CAPITAL

1. Department of Park & Recreation (DPR): Continue support of the renovation of the 59th Street Recreation Center to carry out the recommendations contained in the 59th Street Recreation Center Task Force Report of June 6, 2001.

2. Hudson River Park Trust/NYC (DPR): Fund the following portions of Hudson River Park: remove the heliport and complete the esplanade and park from about 28th

street north to Pier 76, negotiate with Circle Line/World Yacht to move the parking in front of Piers 81 and 83 to a new garage on Pier 81 so as to permit completion of the park and esplanade in front of these 2 piers, and complete the long planned amenities in the eastern portion of Chelsea Waterside.

3. New York Police Department (NYPD): Continue renovations of the 10th Precinct House.

4. Department of Transportation (DOT): Ninth Avenue Plaza - Final configuration - Hudson Street/Ninth Avenue from Gansevoort Street/Plaza to West 23rd Street.

EXPENSE PRIORITIES

1. New York Police Department (NYPD) and Department of Transportation (DOT): Gridlock enforcement: Allocate resources to enforce gridlock laws at peak hours on Weekends (Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8p.m., Sunday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.) on Ninth Avenue at 37th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th and 45th Streets, Dyer Avenue at 34th and 42nd Streets.

2. Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): Enhance funding for prevention services related to HIV/AIDS and substance abuse through appropriate local medical and social service institutions, with a special priority on addressing the growing problem of new alternative/boutique drugs, including but not limited to crystal meth. Provide appropriate "way-finding" signage for the Chelsea Health Clinic. Increase funding for community-based AIDS programs funded through the DOHMH.

3. Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement: Provide funding for an Interagency Construction Task Force for Midtown Manhattan that will include but not limited to DOB, DOT, NYPD, and DEP. This Task Force could work out of the Enforcement Office and will be needed given the future development of Hudson Yards, Moynihan Station, Javits Convention Center, and the west side of Manhattan in general.

4. Department Parks & Recreation (DPR): Provide sufficient DPR personnel including park maintenance workers, personnel for street tree maintenance, rat abatement and opening and closing fenced parks, and for adequately trained playground associates for programming. In addition, an increased presence of PEP officers is needed to reduce the ongoing problem of crime in parks, particularly DeWitt-Clinton.

5. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): Increase funding for community-based AIDS Education Programs funded through the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. With all expert indicators predicting a catastrophic spread of AIDS and prevention being the only tool in the fight against it, the AIDS education and outreach budget should be increased so that its message reaches every New Yorker.

6. Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC): Provide sufficient personnel to perform the essential duties of designation and regulation. Increases in both designated properties and in development pressures have led to excessive demands on a Commission

staff that not too long ago numbered not much more than two-thirds of those in place at an earlier peak when demands were lower. Recent temporary staff increases have enabled the Commission for the first time in years to keep up with its workload in timely fashion, to begin to meet the demand for designation of threatened buildings and districts, and to undertake surveys of a few areas threatened by indiscriminate development. At a minimum these increases must be incorporated in the baseline budget of the Commission. Further increases are required to meet the continuing threats to historic resources.

7. Department of City Planning (DCP): Provide funding for increased staff to review and process land use applications. Current staffing levels, particularly in Land Use and Environmental review, are inadequate to meet the demands of the current development environment.

8. New York Police Department (NYPD): Pedestrian safety and bicycle enforcement: Allocate resources to police bicyclists who endanger pedestrian by driving on the sidewalk, and to enforce the proper usage of the new bike lane on Ninth Avenue.

9. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD) and Department of Buildings (DOB): Increase the number of properly trained code enforcement inspectors and coordinate inspection services with all affected City agencies to report code violations, ensure compliance with special district regulations, and to halt the illegal conversion of residential apartments and single room occupancy rooms for use as tourist accommodations. Regular code inspections are essential to maintain housing stock and to protect residents against both natural deterioration and deliberate neglect by owners seeking to empty units for higher profits.

10. Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Youth and Community Development: Provide full funding for after school programs at Public Schools 11, 33, 35, 51, 58 and 111, the Upper Lab and Museum Schools. Restore funding for essential community based youth services, especially in response to the needs of low-income and disaffiliated youth who live, work or go to school in CD4. Restore funding for affordable after-school care for low-income working families.

11. Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD): Expand funding for anti-displacement and housing improvement programs, such as the Community Consultant Program in the CB4 area. With community consultants playing an increasingly significant role in delivering technical, legal, organizing and management services to low-income tenants, funding for contracts should be increased to allow all viable groups to continue operating.

12. Department of Transportation (DOT): Pedestrian safety: increase sidewalk inspections and sidewalk repairs enforcement.

13. New York Public Library (NYPL): Maintain sufficient professional and clerical positions at Muhlenberg, and Columbus in order that libraries can remain open six days a week.

14. New York Public Library (NYPL): Increase funding for books and materials at the Columbus and Muhlenberg Branch Libraries to reflect higher acquisition costs (prices).

15. Department for the Aging (DFTA): Expand funding for senior social programs and case management programs, including escort and home care services and further increase the eligible income for the Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE).

16. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR): Provide additional funding for Greenthumb projects in City parks. City parks need more Greenthumb projects.