

Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests

Fiscal Year
2022



Published by:

NYC
PLANNING

February 2021

**Brooklyn
Community District
5**

INTRODUCTION

The annual Statements of Community District Needs (CD Needs Statements) and Community Board Budget Requests (Budget Requests) are Charter mandates that form an integral part of the City's budget process. Together, they are intended to support communities in their ongoing consultations with city agencies, elected officials and other key stakeholders and influence more informed decision making on a broad range of local planning and budget priorities. This report also provides a valuable public resource for neighborhood planning and research purposes, and may be used by a variety of audiences seeking information about New York City's diverse communities.

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report represents the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from August to November, 2020.

Community boards may provide substantive supplemental information together with their Statements and Budget Requests. This supporting material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting them into a web browser, such as Chrome, Safari or Firefox.

If you have questions about this report or suggestions for changes please contact:

CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov

This report is broadly structured as follows:

1. Overarching Community District Needs

Sections 1 – 4 provide an overview of the community district and the top three pressing issues affecting this district overall as identified by the community board. Any narrative provided by the board supporting their selection of their top three pressing issues is included.

2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

Section 5 is organized by seven distinct policy areas aligned with the service and program areas of city agencies. For each policy area, community boards selected the most important issue for their districts and could provide a supporting narrative. The policy area section also includes any agency-specific needs and a list of relevant budget requests submitted by the community board. If the community board submitted additional information outside of a specific policy area, it may be found in Section 6.

3. Community Board Budget Requests

The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the FY22 budget cycle; one list for capital and another for expense budget requests. For each budget request, community boards were able to provide a priority number, explanation, location, and supporters. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests submitted to city agencies.

Disclaimer

This report represents the Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests of this Community District for Fiscal Year 2022. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board.

Budget Requests: Listed for informational purposes only. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests and budget request responses.

Budget Priorities: Priority numbers apply to expense and capital Budget requests from all policy areas. A complete list of expense and capital budget requests by this Board sorted by priority can be found in Section 7 of this document.

Supporting Materials: Some community boards provided substantive supplemental information. This supportive material can be accessed by clicking on the links provided in the document or by copying and pasting the links provided in the Appendix into a browser.

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Brooklyn Community Board 5

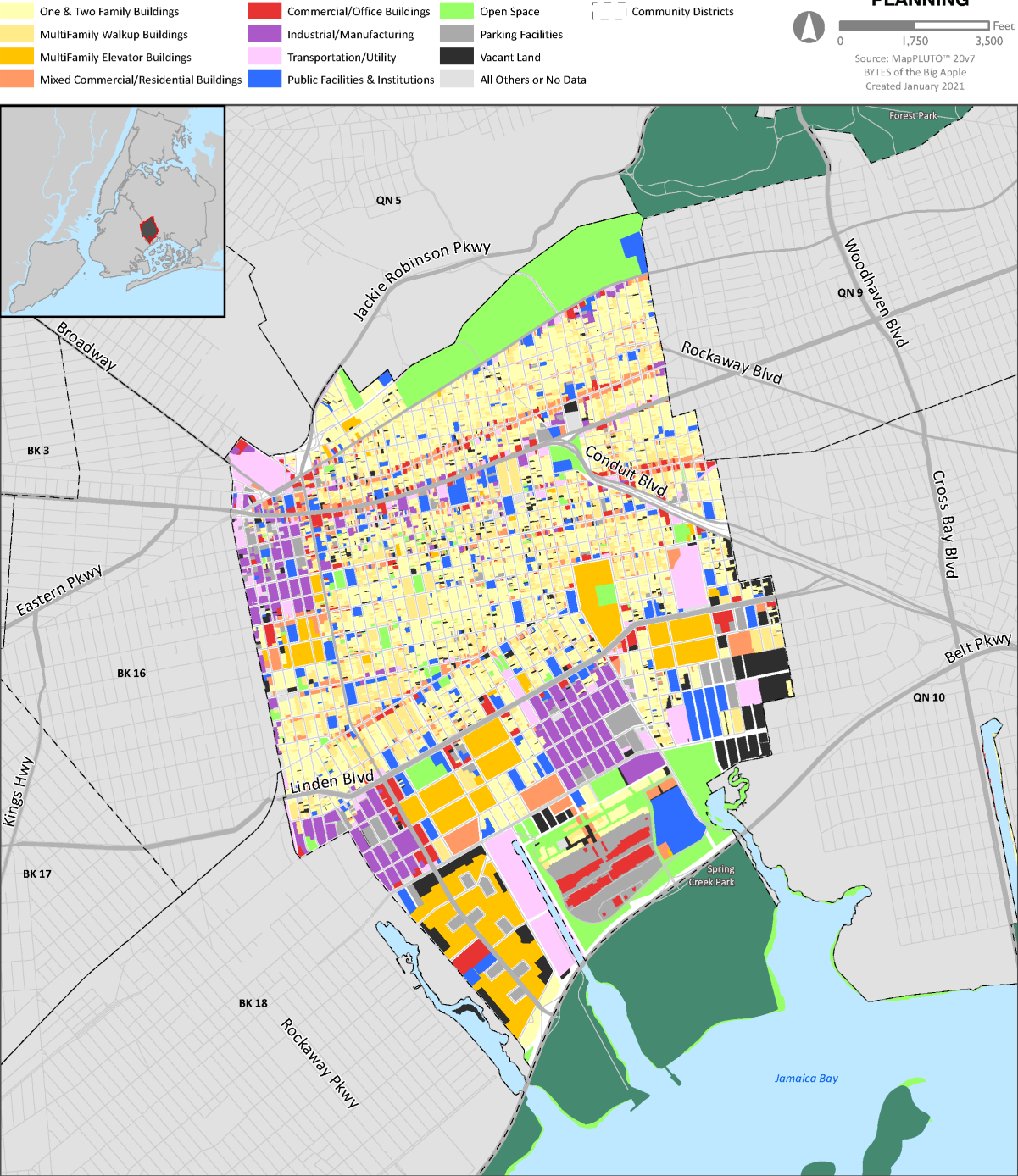
Address: 127 Pennsylvania Avenue, 2nd Floor
Phone: (718) 819-5487
Email:
Website: www.brooklyncb5.org

Chair: Andre T. Mitchell
District Manager: Melinda Perkins

2. COMMUNITY DISTRICT PROFILE AND LAND USE MAP

For the most up-to-date information about your Community District's built environment, socioeconomic, and demographic conditions, please visit NYC Department of City Planning's Community District Profiles tool at communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov.

Brooklyn Community District 5 - Land Use



3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Community Board 5 in Brooklyn, services over 183,000 residents living in the community of East New York, which includes the neighborhoods of Cypress Hills, City Line, Highland Park, New Lots and Spring Creek. This unique community is situated between Jamaica Avenue to the North and Jamaica Bay to the South; and is bordered to the west by Van Sinderen and Williams Avenues; and to the east by Eldert Lane and 78th Street. East New York is a community that is rich and deeply rooted in history and currently undergoing one of the most intense landscape transformations across the city with the implementation of the East New York Neighborhood Plan (ENY Rezone). The District has been identified as the premier community for New York City's vision for future development through the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability, which was voted up in the New York City Council. (a) Under the new MIH and ZQA implementations - the construction of taller buildings in denser neighborhoods is allowed with the mandate that developers set aside a certain portion of "affordable" housing units in new developments. Brooklyn's Community Board 5 is ever-growing in its uniquely fascinating history with the discovery of one of New York City's recognized African Burial Grounds, in the New Lots section of the district. In 2013, the former City Council Member of the 42nd CD, Charles Barron, submitted the CB5 approved street co-naming for African Burial Ground Square - which covers the four-block radius of New Lots Avenue, Schenck Avenue, Livonia Avenue and Barbey Street. Today, the work continues with capital funding allocations from NYS Assembly Member Charles Barron and NYC Council Member Inez Barron and, for the renovation and renaming of the adjacent Sankofa Playground - formerly known as Schenck Playground. This was the result of the excavation process with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, that later confirmed remains of enslaved Africans who worked and died on those very grounds. Sankofa Playground received a multi-million dollar capital allocation along with the adjacent New Lots Library, which received close to \$33 million for a complete gut renovation. These investments will bring forth one of the most culturally relevant projects in our district and CB5 is extremely proud to have the partnership and support of the Assembly Member, Council Member, and the creative teams of Brooklyn Parks, and Brooklyn Public Library. Brooklyn, Community Board 5 also houses one of the largest retail expansions in New York City - the Gateway Center Mall - Phase II, covering over 600,000 sf in the Spring Creek area. The expansion of the Gateway Center mall helped to realize one of the most important Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) in East New York's recent history. Through the implementation of the CBA, Man Up! Inc. and the newly formed East New York Restoration Local Development Corporation worked collaboratively to provide employment open houses for the retail giants and helped to secure over 1,200 jobs for local residents which included the pre and post-construction opportunities through the project labor agreement. Community Board 5 also houses two of the largest Industrial Business parks in the city - the East New York and Fairfield / Flatlands industrial business zones. There are hundreds of businesses within the two industrial areas stretching about 40 blocks. This is an area that currently requires greater community connection as it relates to MWBEs within the parks as well as an increase in the local hire percentage. The district is also home to twelve NYCHA developments which provide affordable housing for thousands of ENY residents. It is one of the most important housing stocks in the district and we will continue to fight for greater investments in maintenance, back-logged repairs, quality heating systems, recycling education, and overall improvement with bulk trash removal. CB5 also has four amazing Brooklyn Public Library branches - Arlington, Cypress Hills, Spring Creek and of course the New Lots branch which is slated to receive the complete overhaul. We continue to encourage residents of the district to take full advantage of these wonderful institutions. Community Board 5 also houses all of the public schools within School District 19 and we have over 50 sites hosting students from Pre-K through 12th grade. We are also pleased to say that the ground breaking has been completed for a 1000 seat newly constructed elementary through middle school on the Atlantic Avenue side of the district. CB5 also has beautifully constructed religious institutions of various faiths; delicious eateries in every section; and community based organizations that provide invaluable services to thousands of children, families, and businesses across the city. Moreover, in July, the long-awaited opening of New York City's largest state park took place - the Shirley Chisholm State Park, right off of the Pennsylvania Avenue exit on the Belt Parkway. This was the former landfill site that was completely transformed into a beautiful open park space that now boasts a bike library, beautiful walk ways and another open space for the families of the East New York community. Additionally, over the past decade, the district has had one of the fastest growing populations in the city; with an increasing African American demographic. According to the 2015 Neighborhood Health Profile for Community District 5, the population is made up of 52% Black (non-Hispanic); 37% Hispanic; 6% Asian; 3% White; and 2% Other. The district has also become home to one

of the largest Bangladeshi populations across the city, with a high percentage of the residents in the City Line neighborhood, migrating from Bangladesh. The people of this district are just as unique as the neighborhoods in which they live. In that regard, it is the aim of Brooklyn, Community Board 5 to fight for the very basic quality of life needs that will improve the lives of our residents. Those very basic needs include - consistent maintenance within our housing developments (both public and private); greater access to healthy and fresh food choices; district-wide education on preventive health care and healthy living methods; mixed use development projects that include long-term community wide benefits; living wage employment; dedicated funding for cultural community facilities; quality and competitive education for our children; clean and well-maintained streets; necessary upgrades and improvements to sub-street level flooding regions; and an infusion of financial support for small businesses and community based organizations. The East New York Rezoning Plan, and all the robust initiatives that are attached to it, is the major focus right now in Community Board 5. Through the plan, East New York is slated to receive \$267 million in capital investments with direct support for the renovation and upgrade of existing housing and construction of new affordable housing units; small business growth and development; roadway repairs and upgrades; new educational and community facilities, and much more. Here is an outline of some of the key components of the East New York Plan: 1200 units of new affordable housing including senior and supportive housing • Eviction prevention support through the Tenant Support Unit • Homeowner Helpdesk which provides direct financial and legal counseling for homeowners • Up to \$15,000 for first time homeowners with the Home First Down Payment Assistance Program • Renovations and upgrades to public parks spaces, including the most recent renovation of City Line Park • Repairs and renovations to the historic PAL building at 127 Pennsylvania Avenue which has served as the home base for Brooklyn, Community Board 5 for 40 years. The building now offers programming for families of East New York from the Child Center of NY and Youth Strategies Division of NYPD • Activation of a Community NYC Retrofit program to encourage smaller housing buildings to participate in the Green Housing Preservation Program • The East New York Workforce 1 center which provides direct access to employment opportunities and training, located on Atlantic Avenue • Support for commercial corridors and other small businesses throughout the district • A new 1000 seat educational facility for elementary and middle school-aged children next to the Chestnut Commons development site • Technological and structural upgrades to East New York's Industrial Business Zones • Wi-Fi access on many commercial corridors and LINK NYC activated kiosks These are some of the wonderfully creative strategies being implemented that will assuredly work together in making East New York an even greater community. In that regard, we will continue to aggressively advocate to Mayor deBlasio, our local elected officials and the commissioners of our city agencies, for the very basic quality of life needs that this community deserves. Let's work together to make sure that Brooklyn, Community Board 5 becomes an even greater community to Live, Work, and Thrive! For information on ENY Rezone - <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/east-new-york/east-new-york-1.page> Shirley Chisholm State Park - <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/200/details.aspx>

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Brooklyn Community Board 5

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Health care services

The lack of access to quality and affordable healthy food is still an extremely serious issue in CB5. According to the 2014 Shop Healthy Brooklyn initiative, as outlined in the Epi Data Brief, titled "Access to Healthy and Affordable Food in ENY", over 50% of the food establishments in the 11207 and 11208 zip codes, were bodegas. The Epi Data Brief reported that there were 264 food establishments identified in those specific zip codes of CB5 and the results were startling... 135 Bodegas = 51% of the food providers in the district 71 Fast Food Restaurants = 27% of the food providers in the district 24 Full Service Restaurants = 9% of the food providers in the district 13 Grocery Stores = 5% of the food providers in the district 12 Specialty Grocery Stores = 4.5% of the food providers in the district 8 Fruit & Vegetable Stores = 3% of the food providers in the district These numbers expose the devastating truth about how income levels in communities of color dictate the quality of services and products in neighborhoods across this city. It is also noted in the Epi Data Brief that for every 1 grocery store in the 11208 zip code, there are 5 fast food restaurants and 10 bodegas. Moreover, the brief provided statistics showing the trend that bodegas were more likely to display advertisements for unhealthy food and beverage options over fresh produce and water. In Community Board 5 there is a high percentage of adults who suffer from diabetes and 31% of adults in East New York and Starrett City are obese. This is a direct correlation to the lack of healthy food options and the saturation of advertisements for foods and beverages that provide little, if any, nutritional value. We have to work collectively to stop this blatant attack on the health and well being of our families in CB5. The time and investment must be made to further the efforts of the Shop Healthy Initiative. Here is what we are requesting: 1. We are requesting that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, working in conjunction with the Brooklyn Borough President and the NYC Council, allocate the funding that can provide greater incentive programs for local businesses to invest in fresh produce and high quality healthy foods. 2. Further the Shop Healthy Brooklyn study to include the food establishments in the 11239 section of the district. We have a growing population in the neighborhood of Spring Creek and there are food establishments that should be educated on how they can better serve the district. 3. Support the connection between our local gardens and farmer's markets with local supermarkets and grocery stores. Since more than half of the food establishments are bodegas and a high percentage are grocery stores - local gardens and the two farmer's markets that exist in CB5 should have a direct line to providing them with fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and breads. 4. Invest in permanent signage that promotes healthier eating choices in local bodegas, grocery stores and places where families shop. Consistent investment and support in providing access to healthy living and healthy eating will assuredly alleviate the food-related illnesses that we suffer from in CB5. Epi Data Brief: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/databrief80.pdf> Shop Healthy Brooklyn: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/press/pr2016/pr096-16.page>

Land use trends (zoning, development, neighborhood preservation, etc.)

CB5 has been undergoing major zoning changes and development over the past few decades and unlike many other areas throughout the city - it results in affordable housing for homeowners and renters. However, there is a lack of community input as it relates to larger development designs and attached community benefits; as well as choice in developers and their partnering general contractors and management companies. Additionally, the community loses its voice even more when available sites are put into RFP as opposed to providing the opportunity to sole source for minority owned development teams. The RFP process is unfortunately not equally inclusive and therefore prevents successful submissions for minority companies. CB5 is the last district in the city that is filled with land opportunities and is "development-ready". We are asking that HPD and DCP come back to the community board before any future projects are presented to allow for a review of the East New York Urban Renewal Plan in its current state and how it has impacted the community at large. We are also requesting a real community based approach to the trend of mixed-use businesses and how ground floor commercial spaces are being promoted and rented to potential local businesses and vendors. We have larger development projects in our district that have still have vacant ground floor commercial spaces because they are not being marketed to encourage local business participation or cooperative work environments that can guarantee consistent rent for the land-owner while opening up opportunities for embryo businesses share the cost of overhead.

Trash removal & cleanliness

Bulk trash collection and dumping in specific areas of the district have long been an issue in Brooklyn Community Board 5. However, under the budget restraints and decrease of services, it has become one of the districts major concerns. Not only has it been an issue with the basic trash collection in key sites like our NYCHA developments, but now there are "trash hot-spots" in the district. There are areas where the illegal dumping and bulk trash has literally begin to directly impact the quality of life for residents in CB5. Additionally there are areas, in particular, the Industrial Business zones and BID areas where the lack of service and monitoring has created an environment that invites illegal activity on top of the dumping. Many community members, civic groups, and associations have taken up the cause to do community clean ups on blocks and in parks, but these selfless community acts are just to address the accumulation of trash under COVID, but they are by no means a solution to the overall issue.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Access to healthy food and lifestyle programs

In this new fiscal year, we still have a real need to address one of the most important factors in the lives of residents in CB5 and that is health and wellness. Unfortunately, there has not been a great deal of movement toward making East New York a healthier and more health conscious community. Under COVID, this was highlighted even further. We still have a lack of access to quality and healthy foods. 1. We are requesting that the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, working in conjunction with the Brooklyn Borough President and the NYC Council, allocate the funding that can provide greater incentive programs for local businesses to invest in fresh produce and high quality healthy foods. 2. Further the Shop Healthy Brooklyn study to include the food establishments in the 11239 section of the district. We have a growing population in the neighborhood of Spring Creek and there are food establishments that should be educated on how they can better serve the district. 3. Support the connection between our local gardens and farmer's markets with local supermarkets and grocery stores. Since more than half of the food establishments are bodegas and a high percentage are grocery stores - local gardens and the two farmer's markets that exist in CB5 should have a direct line to providing them with fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and breads.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

According to the 1.2015 Neighborhood Health Profile for East New York, heart disease and cancer rank as the top two causes of death; with over 3,000 people fatally stricken from the diseases combined. These figures prove that a high percentage of our residents are living with illnesses that not only impacts their physical abilities but also increases stress and discomfort for themselves and their immediate families. The direct results are hardships that permeate every fraction of physical and mental health. With greater access to healthier food and lifestyle programs we can increase life span, encourage healthier eating habits and lifestyle habits and lessen the percentage of residents who suffer from chronic illnesses, mental health challenges, potential homelessness, and the need for additional assisted living options. Additionally, the medical facilities that exist in the district must be infused with the expense funding that allows for greater outreach efforts. There are a number of clinics and medical centers in the district that are utilized by residents, when they become ill or to address specific health issues - however there is not enough general outreach conducted to encourage preventative measures, consistent health/wellness visits, and overall community health as a lifestyle.

Needs for Older NYs

The Senior population in the community must be prioritized and provided with access to quality housing; fresh food and hot meals; activities that encourage longevity and happiness; and each Senior Center should be equipped with vehicles that provide shuttle services for events throughout the district and borough.

Needs for Homeless

Community Board 5 has homeless housing and services that support families, as well as single women and men. Although the community has made a very clear statement about not wanting any new facilities that provide temporary shelter; we also recognize the need to have the resources that aid residents in temporary housing to transition to permanent housing. In that regard, all facilities in CB5 that provide temporary housing (families / single adults), should be surveyed and evaluated. Additionally, the community is completely against the careless decision from DHS/DSS to utilize new commercial hotel sites for emergency placement of homeless individuals in this city. There is an immediate tension and feeling of disrespect that is expressed from community members to our Board and it carelessly puts the new residents who will occupy the space in a neighborhood that is not prepared or willing to embrace their presence. Furthermore, any private land transfer that involves the potential contractual agreement with a

city agency, should include community input. The participation and involvement of community, is currently only encouraged for Community Advisory Boards (CABs) upon completion and execution of the contract - this is not the way to build strong communities. All Community Advisory Boards should have a mandate for Community Board membership - to include either the Chairman of the Board, the District Manager, or the Chair of the relevant committee - e.g. Chair of Social Services / Health Committee.

Needs for Low Income NYs

We have a mix income population and all types of services are need. We need training programs that will make our low income population work ready.

Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/23	DFTA	Allocate funds for outreach services to homebound older adults and for programs that allow the elderly to age in place	<i>We learned under COVID-19 that too many seniors did not have adequate connection to services and resources in emergency situations. We are requesting that seniors, in particular those that are homebound, be provided with technology programs to allow for greater connection to community resources and services when standard operations are interrupted.</i>	
4/23	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Funding to further the SHOP Healthy Brooklyn (NYC) program in CB5, to include zip code 11239. The original study completed in CB5 only included zip code 11207 and 11208. The results of the program outlined the great need for healthy food options in local groceries and bodegas. The Epi Data Brief generated from the initiative also showed that bodegas make up 51% of the food establishments in the 11207 areas of the district. Additionally, the brief exposed that for every grocery store, there were 5 fast food restaurants and 10 bodegas. In addition, during the Shop Health initiative, grocery store and bodega owners were given free marketing tools that promoted healthy food and beverage purchases, as well as free containers/baskets for fruit & vegetable displays.</i>	
10/23	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Create partnerships with local service agencies that directly support senior living - e.g. HRA, SS, SNAP, etc. to allow for on-site services in each senior center to assist seniors with monthly responsibilities and documentation submission deadlines. Seniors are sometimes faced with deadlines and monthly, quarterly, or annual responsibilities that can be forgotten or mismanaged. This is a way to ensure that they have support in fulfilling requirements that dictate the continuation of fixed incomes and other subsidies that they may be receiving.</i>	

22/23	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs	<i>Request to mandate that all temporary housing facilities incorporate NYC Housing Connect workshops to ensure that shelter residents are fully equipped and prepared to submit for available housing through the city lottery process. Additionally, these workshops should be coupled with consistent financial literacy workshops to enhance money management skills for families and single adults.</i>
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YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Remote learning and technology

During COVID-19 we experienced the very real disconnect between students and family readily available family resources through DOE. The unfortunate reality that a large percentage of our students were not equipped with the technology needed to successfully engage in remote learning was eye opening. We have to work together to conduct the kind of community surveying to understand where our families are falling short and how we can work towards ensuring that each household with school-age children is fully equipped with remote learning capabilities. Additionally - it is imperative that family members (parents, grandparents, guardians) are educated about the totality of the remote learning experience.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

The students of School District need to have remote learning implemented for all grades with partnerships with local parks, gardens, and other open spaces. Due to COVID-19, parents are still uneasy about how their children will resume classes within DOE buildings. Allowing for outdoor learning creates greater options for social distancing and natural ventilation. Additionally it opens up the potential to activate green spaces and parks in the district and connect students to the neighborhoods in which they live.

There is a great need to eliminate overcrowding in our schools. Any and all barriers that would prevent a child from learning must be eliminated. School co-location has not proven to improve the performance of the schools in our district. The multiple administrations and school systems in proximity takes a focus away from the quality of education.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

Provide a list of all ACS Day Care sites that are currently under lease terms in CB5 with transparency of building owner and length of lease terms. Request: Ensure that all leases signed for day care/child care facilities include the city's option for right of first refusal – to safeguard facilities from being pushed out when owner wants to sell. The lease terms should be standardized to include terms that allow for longevity of the facility and its services to children.

Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/18	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	<i>Provide adequate remote learning technology and internet access for students within District 19. Allocate technology funding to all District 19 schools to ensure that all students are equipped with laptops or tablets for remote learning. The New York City public school system is the largest in the nation, with over 1.1 million students. Over 65% of the student are Black and Hispanic, making up more than half of the student population. Moreover, almost 73% of the student population is "economically disadvantaged". This is a clear indicator that those families, mostly Black and Hispanic, are in households that do not have the adequate technology that they need to thrive in a remote learning environment.</i>	
13/18	SCA	Renovate interior building component	<i>Complete renovation for gymnasium at Van Siclen Community School at George Gershwin Campus (I.S. 166). The Gymnasium supports all schools within the campus and is outdated. Full renovation to floors, AC system, bleaches, and student athletic equipment is needed to provide full athletic programming.</i>	800 Van Siclen Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
14/18	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Renovations and upgrades for Moe Finklestein Athletic Complex or Thomas Jefferson Field - including the bleaches, lockers, field, installation of score board, multi-purpose turf, and new stationary equipment. The Thomas Jefferson field is in serious need of upgrading. Currently multiple home-grown youth football leagues and cheer-leading squads utilize the field for practices and games. Additionally, a local soccer league has adopted the space for annual games and tournaments.</i>	12504 Flatlands Avenue

Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location

2/23	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Implement outdoor learning options for students in District 19. Explanation: Due to COVID-19, parents are still uneasy about how their children will resume classes within DOE buildings. Allowing for outdoor learning creates greater options for social distancing and natural ventilation. Additionally it opens up the potential to activate green spaces and parks in the district and connect students to the neighborhoods in which they live.</i>	
7/23	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide permanent funding for arts/music programs in all middle schools in District 19. Music programs must be restored and/or implemented back into middle schools to prepare students for Performing Arts high schools. Funding should be focused on hiring of certified/trained instructors to maintain music programs during school hours.</i>	
12/23	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance Cornerstone and Beacon programs (all ages, including young adults)	<i>Expedite renovations at Unity Plaza Community Center \$1.5 million was allocated to NYCHA from former City Council Speaker Quinn and former Council Member Charles Barron to Unity Plaza for necessary renovations within the Community Center and outdoor spaces, close to six (6) years ago. To date, renovations have not been completed. Still pending is the mural in the amphitheater and renovations within the Community Center for restrooms, multi-purpose room, studio to be installed in smaller room, dance room, and other necessary upgrades to ceilings, etc.</i>	576 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Emergency and disaster preparedness

COVID-19 taught community districts across the city that emergency preparedness has to be expanded to how we deal with pandemics. Community-based networks have to be established to fill gaps in communication for vulnerable populations like our seniors and home-bound residents. The community has to have a way to identify where resources are and have direct access to those resources in emergency situations and that was not always the case under COVID. We realized that our senior centers did not have a solid plan on how to identify and connect with seniors in the district, so many were relying on neighbors and family members who may live nearby.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

COMMUNITY POLICING: Community District 5 in Brooklyn is patrolled by the 75th precinct; which is one of the largest precinct areas in the city. It is for that very reason that crime prevention in this community has to be a multi-prong approach. The idea that policing alone, even at its finest, can effectively and consistently reduce crime is unrealistic. There have to be many components working together to have the most powerful and positive outcome. "The magnitude of violence – in terms of the number of victims – makes it a serious health issue. But the effects of violence also ripple through a community, causing trauma to those who witness it or live in fear of it." Excerpt: Cure Violence

<http://cureviolence.org/understand-violence/violence-as-a-health-issue/> POLICE PRESENCE: Policing measures are more effective when community has a strong input and involvement on how those measures are enforced and where the most need for those enforcements have been identified. Through the Commercial District Needs Assessment efforts from local development corporations in East New York, it was recognized that most small businesses along commercial corridors in the district, want to increase the police presence on the commercial strip. Assessments were completed from four commercial corridors in East New York and strip identified that an increased police presence along their corridors would help to improve their businesses. When merchants were asked what changes they needed to occur to bring more customers into their businesses - %25 of the merchants responded, which was the highest ranking response, with a need for more safety. East New York Brooklyn Commercial District Needs Assessment - NYC Department of Small Business Services / Avenue NYC
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/downloads/misc/cdna-eny/index.html>

Needs for Emergency Services

Community District 5 has an increase in population due to the construction of thousands of units of housing. With an increase of residents, there is of course an increase of potential fire hazards. Each new development should be required to work with the local FDNY stations to implement annual Fire Safety Education workshops for all of the residents. In addition residents should be offered the opportunity to become CPR certified or at minimum, any Resident Association, Building Captains, Resident Leadership, should be offered the CPR certification. This is a great way to keep all residents educated on fire safety methods and decrease potential fire related incidence.

Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/18	NYPD	Upgrade the emergency response system	<i>CB5 receives calls from local residents who complain about neighboring vacant properties being vandalized or used for drug use and sale. In some cases, although the Department of Buildings borders the windows and doors with locks, the property is still broken into and it creates an atmosphere of crime and instills fear in the residents. Once a property is deemed vacant and DOB has bordered that property - local NCO's or other assigned staff should be monitoring it consistently to ensure that the property remains secure and safety is at optimum levels for neighbors.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
11/23	NYPD	Other NYPD staff resources requests	<i>CB5 has the highest incidences of illegally parked vehicles and abandoned vehicles in the city. Our numbers have risen due to the amount of local auto shops and garages that park their junk or for-sale vehicles on public streets; and other abandoned vehicles that are randomly left on public streets for years. We need a very specific focus on this issue and an increase in the officers that search for these incidences in the district.</i>	

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency.

Cleanliness/trash collection

East New York is a beautiful community filled with well maintained and new homes, beautifully constructed private and public housing developments, active commercial corridors, dynamic school buildings, thriving gardens and so much more - However consistent trash removal in and around all of these spaces has been a issue for many years. In particular, in the public housing developments throughout the district, excessive amounts of bagged trash and bulk trash items are piled on side streets for days at a time. In most cases, trash pile ups are literally lined on street blocks that encompass housing developments. This is an immediate attack on the quality of life for residents of the developments as well as surrounding community members. The amount of garbage and the amount of time it takes to collect it, has a direct impact on the increase of rodent and pest infestations in the development which also causes an increase in asthma and other health matters that are already prevalent in this district. In addition, the aesthetic stimulates negative perception of and for the people of the community. Mountains of trash left on sidewalks where thousands of families live, work and play daily is a complete disrespect and outright disregard for the community as a whole. Businesses on some of the commercial corridors are also in dire need of an increased focus from the city on trash clean up. Instruction on how to discard trash and where to place it on the strip, has to be reiterated and enforced. Additionally, the schedule of trash removal has to be adjusted to increase pick up times.

Community District Needs Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency.

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Capital Projects in the district are not being prioritized within DEP. There are areas in the district that have capital projects pending for over 10 years and due to delays residents have been forced to endure flooding, standing water, and other measures that directly impact their quality of life. Additionally, routine maintenance and upgrade work should be scheduled for all water mains, roadways, catch basins, and water supply systems in the district. Too many areas in the district receive emergency repair work on systems that are over due for maintenance and necessary upgrades. Frequent updates on the 26th Ward Water Treatment Plant.

Needs for Sanitation Services

Increase pick up schedules in NYCHA developments. In some cases, multiple NYCHA developments run along the same strip which literally transforms the strip (blvd/street/avenue) into a strip of garbage. A clear example is the fact that Louis H. Pink Houses, Cypress Houses, and Boulevard Houses all run along Linden Boulevard. If the trash is not removed within those three developments, it creates an environment of air pollution, rodent attraction, limited walkway on the sidewalks and an overall disregard for quality of life for thousands of community members. Increase trash pick-up schedules on commercial corridors in district: • Sutter Avenue / between Van Sinderen and Pennsylvania Avenues • Liberty Avenue / between Euclid Avenue and Forbell Street • New Lots Avenue / between Van Sinderen Avenue and Elton Street • Fulton Street / between Large development is on the rise in CB5, and with that development comes an increase in families – which results in a larger amount of trash and recyclables that are put curbside for pick up. Areas of the district that were never developed on, now have multi-level homes, and buildings that have over 500 units of housing. The study for a tri-day pick up in CB5 needs to be conducted. For reference, please research the following summarized list of new developments (completed or nearing completion) in the district within the last 5-10 years: a. Gateway/Spring Creek Area which now encompasses: Spring Creek Nehemiah homes phases III & IV; Gateway Elton apartments with 9 buildings and 659 units - with new ground level commercial spaces b. Livonia Avenue bet. Pennsylvania Avenue & Van Sinderen which now encompasses: Livonia Commons apartments and new ground level commercial spaces – 4 buildings with 288 units c. Pitkin Avenue bet. Berriman Apartments – new development – 6 story building with 47 units d. Redwood Senior – 81 units built on former NYCHA parking lot (Linden Houses) e. Stanley Commons – 6 buildings with 240 units built on former NYCHA parking lot (Linden Houses) f. Linden Boulevard and Emerald Street Apartments – new development which encompasses 4 buildings and 521 units. g. Dinsmore Chestnut site – new development with over 200 units h. Corretta Scott King Senior – 50 units i. Belmont Gardens / Conduit Blvd & Eldert Lane – 67 units

Capital Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
5/18	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	<i>Secure funding for Jewel Street project can continue through its entirety. Notify CB5 of the current status and how we can advocate for any potential additional funding needed to ensure the project is completed.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
3/23	DSNY	Other expense budget request for DSNY	<i>Restore personnel budget in NYC Department of Sanitation to address hazardous trash conditions that have accumulated due to city-wide impact of COVID-19. Explanation: Due to recent budget cuts/constraints in the DSNY personnel budget, the trash accumulation throughout the district has been horrendous. Additionally, this has caused an increase in illegal dumping in areas of the district that are not monitored and cleaned regularly. It is a direct impact to health, safety, and overall quality of life for residents.</i>	
6/23	DSNY	Provide more frequent garbage or recycling pick-up	<i>Increase pick up frequency in NYCHA developments in CB5 • EXPLANATION: Current pick up schedule for NYCHA facilities creates long-standing bulk trash along corridors and streets within the district which increases pest infestation and leads to greater potential for historic health issues including asthma and others.</i>	
18/23	DSNY	Other cleaning requests	<i>Increase street cleaning and maintenance along Pitkin Avenue commercial areas (between Hendrix Street and Wyona Street) • EXPLANATION: This small commercial strip is in need of consistent street cleaning and encouragement of local stores to participate in the adopt a basket program.</i>	Pitkin Avenue Hendrix Street Hendrix Street
19/23	DSNY	Other enforcement requests	<i>Increase frequency of street inspection to remove abandoned vehicles and illegally parked vehicles. • EXPLANATION: CB5 has the highest rate of 311 complaints for illegally parked and abandoned vehicles. We need a collaborated agency approach to address the issue.</i>	

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Community District Needs Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Needs for Land Use

The homes constructed on Loring Avenue between Sapphire Street and Amber Street cleared for development without certificate of occupancy data. Homeowners have properties that are in an area that needs structural repair and they are unable to sell or move forward with the status of the properties. How can the Department of Buildings assist with this matter?

Needs for Housing

With East New York being the point of focus for the initial influx of development under the new MIH; it is necessary for development to include economic development as well as community development. New development that comes into the community should be mixed use with businesses as well as community space, as a "Mandatory Inclusion". With an every growing non-profit community the need for open community spaces throughout the district is a necessity and mixed use development affords the opportunity for further small business development as well as community based organizations to acquire one of the most vital assets to their success - space. Create an addendum for all RFPs, RFQs, etc. – to include community board comment/suggestion. Currently community boards are not included and therefore the full proposal lacks the voice of the community in which the proposed project will exist. Given the recent re-zoning and influx of housing development – CB5's input is crucial in creating comprehensive community development projects. Increase affordable housing opportunities for single adults returning to the district from college, military, etc. The majority of the development constructed in the community has less than 10% of the units available for single adults. This forces people returning to the district or those that have not yet embarked on the path of building families and have lived with parents/family members - to seek housing in other communities. We need to ensure that we can embrace the single members of the community. Create greater incentives for developers to include senior housing in larger development sites, where there are multiple phases and/or buildings. It was reported from the Van Siclen shelter - operated by Samartin Village, that they have an increase in senior residents. This is due to the fact that affordable housing for seniors has not increased at an equal rate with overall new development in the district. Supportive housing has become the common addition to larger development sites which brings in new residents from other areas - however, our seniors are being pushed out and into temporary housing facilities. (Coordinate with SBS) Create incentives for developers of mixed-use development to include local small businesses for tenant opportunities. Currently, the mixed-use development in CB5 has vacant ground floor commercial space due to high rents. (Coordinate with DOHMH): Work with developer to provide greater incentives for Fresh Food markets to be included in mixed use development as healthy, community-friendly anchor tenants. While Dollar Tree and other similar corporations provide a service that the community members are familiar with – they do not add to the overall benefit of the community which includes healthy living primarily, and employment diversity. Provide a report on the amount of maintenance staff that are assigned to each NYCHA development in CB5. Increase amount of maintenance staff to address frequency of interior cleaning schedules and grounds-keeping maintenance schedules. Commit funding for LED lighting within all CB5 NYCHA developments. Flood lighting, according to NYCHA, was a pilot program to determine the impact of lighting on decreasing crime – so there should be an immediate plan to implement the proper lighting (LED) to allow for crime reduction while complimenting the developments' resident's quality of life.

Needs for Economic Development

Economic empowerment in a community requires participation from small business owners, community based organizations, elected officials, and city agencies. The efforts in revitalizing the commercial corridors in East New York through the Department of Small Business Services, is a great start but it must be continued. Additionally, community based organizations need greater resources when they are tasked with engaging business owners; to increase the outcomes. Currently East New York is home to three Local Development Corporations, Cypress Hills; ENY Restoration; and LDC of East New York, along with Highland Park Community Development Corp. They each have participated in the commercial revitalization efforts through SBS. The results were printed in SBS's Avenue NYC report. Additionally resources have to be increased for those organizations that offer specific services that encourage entrepreneurship and small business development. ENY Restoration LDC provides the only small

business incubator spaces for small businesses and LDC of East New York provides services for women in business as the only recognized Small Business Development Center in the community. These are services that strengthen the economic standing of the community and they need to be in receipt of increased focused funding to continue in those efforts. Issue: Office Anchor Strategy plan for East New York must be re-visited. The proposed solution to revitalizing the community to increase office/commercial space for job creation is overlooking the most obvious concern – education. The current proposal identifies a specific area at the Broadway Junction location to be developed for commercial use. The East New York Community has a varied number of commercial strips and one of the largest strip malls in the city with Gateway Center; however, the available employment does not provide the kind of wages that match the cost of living in our borough. Additionally, the EDC has proposed to have HRA as the Anchor tenant in the space at Broadway Junction – and this is redundant as HRA has an existing multiservice center in CB5, at 404 Pine Street; which provides SNAP, Medicaid, and more. Request: Create the plan that includes a CUNY facility in the space at Broadway Junction. The community has outlined that the need for higher education in the district, is an absolute necessity to prepare our young people for long-lasting career opportunities – not minimum wage positions. Economic growth in a community is not centered on the growth of business but the growth of economic empowerment of the residents who will patronize existing and future businesses.

Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/18	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Create greater incentives for developers to include senior housing in larger development sites, where there are multiple phases and/or buildings. The increase of senior homelessness is a true crisis happening within CB5. More seniors are reportedly residing in local shelter facilities due to the inability to maintain rent expenses.</i>	
8/18	EDC	Make infrastructure investments that will support growth in local business districts	<i>Allocate funding to expand the LINK NYC program in areas where other recognized commercial strips exist: a. Pennsylvania Avenue (from Atlantic Avenue to Flatlands Avenue) b. Sutter Avenue (from Pennsylvania Avenue to Van Sinderen) c. New Lots Avenue (from Ashford Street to Van Sinderen) d. Liberty Avenue (from Drew Street to Crescent Street)</i>	
9/18	EDC	Make infrastructure investments that will support growth in local business districts	<i>Include in the Anchor Tenant Strategy plan for Broadway Junction a CUNY facility instead of the proposed HRA facility. To include HRA in this new structure would be redundant and the community's voice would be ignored. The community has outlined that the need for higher education in the district, is an absolute necessity to prepare our young people for long-lasting career opportunities not minimum wage positions. Economic growth in a community is not centered on the growth of business but the growth of economic empowerment of the residents who will patronize existing and future businesses.</i>	
15/18	NYCHA	Renovate or upgrade public housing developments	<i>Increase frequency of grounds cleaning and interior cleaning for all NYCHA developments in CB5. Currently there are developments that are not cleaned as frequently and the exterior grounds are not kept up. Grass is overgrowing and curbside bulk trash and regular trash is piled up along the streets; creating an environment that is infested with rodents and other infestations.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
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5/23	SBS	Provide or expand business recovery assistance after an emergency	<p><i>Expense Request: Increase resources and opportunities for grants and site partnerships to small businesses under COVID-19 Explanation: Minority small businesses, in particular Black & Brown business owners, have suffered tremendously from the impact of COVID-19. Many had no alternatives as they closed their doors to patrons and their staff. As the economy begins to be flooded with opportunities, the minority businesses (i.e. Barbershops, Hair Salons, Boutiques, and Eateries) in CB5 are in desperate need of resources and direct grants. Additionally, help to create networks of opportunities to share open spaces for those businesses who have the ability to provide outdoor services.</i></p>	
13/23	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<p><i>Coordinate with HPD for the Construction of a new Community Center on Livonia Avenue Corridor (corner of Williams Avenue) During the RFP process for development on the first phase of the Livonia Avenue Corridor, Dunn Development was selected as the developer for the housing project and the community was in major support of the proposal submitted by Dunn due to the collaboration with the Boys Club of New York. A newly constructed Boys Club was to be built on the fifth lot which would have balanced the new housing units with adequate community space for the existing and incoming families and children. Since the inception of the housing, the Boys Club has backed out and the proposal still moved forward with no community space to accommodate the new population on the corridor.</i></p>	<p>Livonia Avenue Williams Avenue Williams Avenue</p>
14/23	SBS	Other commercial district revitalization requests	<p><i>Create greater incentives for developers to incorporate cooperative work spaces within mixed used development and other initiatives that would assist with securing local business tenants. CB5 has large mixed-use development that was created to encourage revitalized and walkable commercial areas but rents are too high for local businesses to take advantage of the new spaces. Therefore commercial spaces are left vacant for unnecessary lengths of time with no activity.</i></p>	

15/23	SBS	Other business regulatory assistance requests	<i>Request that EDC implement mandate policy to inform Community Board office of any and all new lease holders or business owners in the Industrial Business Zones (Industrial Parks) areas of the district. • EXPLANATION: Businesses move in and out of the IBZs in CB5 and we are not made aware of these business transactions. Therefore we are not aware, and more importantly, not included in the selection of businesses coming into the IBZs. Within the last couple of years we had to deal with the expansion of the medical waste business that wanted to expand their services to medical waste storage and transfer. Additionally, when a new business comes into the district, we want to ensure that there is a local hiring process that is implemented.</i>
20/23	DOB	Address illegal conversions and uses of buildings	<i>Increase amount of inspection workers for CB5 to alleviate opportunities for squatters and illegal activity in vacant properties throughout the district. The constituency complaint calls are increasing regarding vacant property that is being used for squatters and other criminal activities. It creates an environment of fear for neighboring residents.</i>
21/23	DCP	Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs	<i>Designate Brooklyn Community Board 5 as a Cease and Desist zone to combat harassment to seniors and all other existing homeowners in the district. Our district is under attack and we have to protect our homeowner stock and monitor the potential intimidation tactics used towards our senior homeowners from aggressive buyers and real estate companies. Our district should not be plagued with cheap signs about buying homes and land - with promises of "all cash" deals.</i>
23/23	EDC	Expand programs to support local businesses and entrepreneurs	<i>Create greater incentives for developers to incorporate cooperative work spaces within new mixed used development. Explanation: CB5 has large mixed-use development that was created to encourage revitalized and walkable commercial areas but rents are too high for local businesses to take advantage of the new spaces. Therefore commercial spaces are left vacant for unnecessary lengths of time with no activity.</i>

TRANSPORTATION

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

Roadway and traffic design

There is a need to conduct reviews of the recently implemented safety projects along Fountain Avenue (bet. Pitkin & Seaview); Loring Avenue (bet. Fountain & Emerald). These implementations have caused some serious concerns for the residents along those corridors as well as the the managers of the IBZs in the Fairfield zone.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

Transportation needs in the district vary depending on the section of the community in question. However, there is a need to conduct surveys to determine the feasibility of speed humps, in particular near schools, day care facilities, and playgrounds. Additionally, safety improvements must include greater community feedback and input. Surveys should be comprehensive and provide residents with an opportunity to give input on paper as well as on-line. Conduct additional surveys at Loring Avenue, Drew, Emerald, and Fountain Avenue - to review the safety measures that were implemented and how they have negatively or positively impacted the flow of traffic for businesses and residents. a. New Bike Lanes on Loring Avenue between Eldert Lane and Emerald Street are counterproductive to successful traffic flow. They should be removed on that strip. b. Signage on Drew Street between Loring Avenue and Linden Boulevard to address the commercial (large trailers vehicles) trucks parking for extended periods of time. It obstructs vision and creates unsafe walkways, and takes away from potential residential parking c. Complaints still exist for the one-way conversion of Fountain Avenue and Loring Avenue – study to be done to revert back to two-way traffic and identify other ways to address safety measures at the intersection of Euclid Avenue, Fountain Avenue, and Loring Avenue

Needs for Transit Services

No comments

Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
7/18	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Install turning signal at the intersection of Erskine Avenue and Seaview Avenue (leading onto the Belt Parkway West) • EXPLANATION: Currently there is no direction for traffic entering the Belt Parkway from Seaview Avenue. South and north bound traffic is left with no traffic signals to direct right of way which is potential danger.</i>	Erskine Street Seaview Avenue Seaview Avenue
17/18	DOT	Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps	<i>Complete and expedite the installation of curb cuts / pedestrian ramps to allow for full sidewalk access for ADA residents in the district. • EXPLANATION: Previous submissions have been made for specific areas in CB5 for ADA compliant curb cuts in the district.</i>	
18/18	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	<i>Re-surfacing along Riverdale Avenue from Miller Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue</i>	Riverdale Avenue Miller Avenue Miller Avenue

Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
8/23	DOT	Add street signage or wayfinding elements	<i>Install Commercial Vehicle or Freight Traffic signage in the Spring Creek area of the district on Erskine and Vandalia, Elton and Vandalia, and Elton and Flatlands. Currently cars, medians and property are being damaged due to freight deliveries to the Gateway Center Mall. The area needs to be included in the Smart Truck Freight Management Plan with NYC Dept. of Transportation.</i>	Elton Street Vandalia Avenue Vandalia Avenue
9/23	DOT	Conduct traffic or parking studies	<i>Request for DOT to conduct a post-implementation study on the following implemented safety projects and include neighboring residents near both street segments: Fountain Avenue (between Pitkin Avenue & Seaview Avenue) Loring Avenue (between Fountain Avenue & Drew Street)</i>	

16/23	DOT	Other traffic improvement requests	<i>Install traffic controls at the intersection of New Lots Avenue and Van Siclen Avenue for turning traffic. • EXPLANATION: Currently the intersection supports traffic entering from New Lots, Van Siclen and also bus lines (B15 and B83) which causes confusion for turning traffic.</i>	New Lots Avenue Van Siclen Avenue Van Siclen Avenue
17/23	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>Implement more frequent bus times for B84 bus line and extend routes to accommodate the new population along Elton Street corridor. Additionally to accommodate students and faculty at the Spring Creek Community High School.</i>	

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Brooklyn Community Board 5

Most Important Issue Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Other

The neighborhoods within Brooklyn Community Board 5 are continuing to grow with large development projects that cater to 2, 3, and even 4 bedroom units. This result is an increase in the population of children and families, yet the inclusion of adequate community space to accommodate this population is scarce. The Community was given a false promise of a Boys Club that would be along the Livonia Avenue Corridor. In fact, the inclusion of this much needed community space was one of the highlights of the RFP that was submitted by the Dunn Development. It was one of the major components of the proposal that HPD boasted about and why the community was so willing to support the development overall. However, once the project moved forward, the Boys Club was no longer a part of the design and the community was told that they were no longer going to receive a community center - although there were hundreds of new families moving into the corridor. We are demanding that this space be designated for a viable cultural/community space and that it be designated as a sole source project for any potential housing that may be affiliated with the community space.

Community District Needs Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Needs for Parks

CB5 is very proud of the existing investments that we have in our parks and green spaces in the district. 2019 has been filled with various ribbon cuttings and ground breaking ceremonies on parks land projects. We recently learned that joint allocations from NYC Council Member Barron and NYS Assembly Barron totaled over \$70 million in our district parks. This is a true investment in community and healthy living. However, we want to address that some projects still require a commitment from our Brooklyn Parks Department to ensure that the project is comprehensive. For example, the recent allocations to Lion's Pride Park and Success Gardens Playground does not include a comfort station in either park. The two parks encompass a large existing community and development projects that will bring in hundreds of new families. Allocate capital funding to the renovations and upgrade of Breukelen Ball Field. Although the park is not in the CB5 district, it services the CB5 community predominantly and is home to one of CB5's most respected and renowned youth athletic leagues – Latin Souls Youth Baseball League.

Needs for Cultural Services

CB#5 needs a Cultural Center along with a Community Facility erected in our district that will be fully staffed.

Needs for Library Services

The New Lots Library in Community Board 5 is one of the cultural hubs of the community and has the support of the elected officials, block associations, and community based organizations for the renovation plans to develop the library and completely transform it into a research center and cultural library for the district. Spring Creek Library is one of the libraries in the district that is situated in one of the most densely populated neighborhoods. It is surrounded by Starrett City, Council Towers, Meadow Wood Gardens, Gateway Elton apartments and nearby NYCHA developments Penn Wortman, Linden Houses, and Boulevard Houses. However, the amount of book rotation and usage of the space is at bare minimum. We need to create incentives to bring more neighboring residents into the Spring Creek branch. An outreach plan must be implemented.

Needs for Community Boards

No comments

Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Complete upgrade to Breukelen Ball Field with emphasis on new Comfort Station and repair of drainage issues. Renovation plans to be modeled after plans submitted to local elected officials to bring Ballfields to full upgrade and functionality for native youth league teams.</i>	
3/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Secure funding for construction of comfort station at Lion's Pride Playground • EXPLANATION: Funding has been allocated to renovate the upgrade the playground and adjacent site but a comfort station is still not included in the renovation.</i>	Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
4/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Secure funding for the construction of a comfort station at Success Garden Playground • EXPLANATION: Success Gardens is the one park that will support the new families of the Livonia Commons, BRP development, as well as the residents on surrounding blocks. A comfort station would accommodate the growing population of children and families that will utilize the newly renovated space.</i>	Livonia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
11/18	BPL	Provide more or better equipment to a library	<i>Spring Creek Branch is in need of Safety & Security Enhancements</i>	
12/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Renovate and upgrade the basketball courts at Grace Playground. Existing funding is only allocated to the playground area of the park.</i>	
16/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Allocate funding to transform larger park space at Pink Playground to skate park and adult/senior exercise space • EXPLANATION: Recent renovations were made to the playground area but the larger area of the park is still left barren and needs to be renovated to better engage community members to fully utilize the park.</i>	Loring Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY

Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Other Capital Requests

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

Other Expense Requests

The Community Board did not submit any Budget Requests in this category.

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

Capital Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Complete upgrade to Breukelen Ball Field with emphasis on new Comfort Station and repair of drainage issues. Renovation plans to be modeled after plans submitted to local elected officials to bring Ballfields to full upgrade and functionality for native youth league teams.</i>	
2/18	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	<i>Provide adequate remote learning technology and internet access for students within District 19. Allocate technology funding to all District 19 schools to ensure that all students are equipped with laptops or tablets for remote learning. The New York City public school system is the largest in the nation, with over 1.1 million students. Over 65% of the student are Black and Hispanic, making up more than half of the student population. Moreover, almost 73% of the student population is “economically disadvantaged”. This is a clear indicator that those families, mostly Black and Hispanic, are in households that do not have the adequate technology that they need to thrive in a remote learning environment.</i>	
3/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Secure funding for construction of comfort station at Lion’s Pride Playground • EXPLANATION: Funding has been allocated to renovate the upgrade the playground and adjacent site but a comfort station is still not included in the renovation.</i>	Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
4/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Secure funding for the construction of a comfort station at Success Garden Playground • EXPLANATION: Success Gardens is the one park that will support the new families of the Livonia Commons, BRP development, as well as the residents on surrounding blocks. A comfort station would accommodate the growing population of children and families that will utilize the newly renovated space.</i>	Livonia Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
5/18	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	<i>Secure funding for Jewel Street project can continue through its entirety. Notify CB5 of the current status and how we can advocate for any potential additional funding needed to ensure the project is completed.</i>	

6/18	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Create greater incentives for developers to include senior housing in larger development sites, where there are multiple phases and/or buildings. The increase of senior homelessness is a true crisis happening within CB5. More seniors are reportedly residing in local shelter facilities due to the inability to maintain rent expenses.</i>	
7/18	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Install turning signal at the intersection of Erskine Avenue and Seaview Avenue (leading onto the Belt Parkway West) • EXPLANATION: Currently there is no direction for traffic entering the Belt Parkway from Seaview Avenue. South and north bound traffic is left with no traffic signals to direct right of way which is potential danger.</i>	Erskine Street Seaview Avenue Seaview Avenue
8/18	EDC	Make infrastructure investments that will support growth in local business districts	<i>Allocate funding to expand the LINK NYC program in areas where other recognized commercial strips exist: a. Pennsylvania Avenue (from Atlantic Avenue to Flatlands Avenue) b. Sutter Avenue (from Pennsylvania Avenue to Van Sinderen) c. New Lots Avenue (from Ashford Street to Van Sinderen) d. Liberty Avenue (from Drew Street to Crescent Street)</i>	
9/18	EDC	Make infrastructure investments that will support growth in local business districts	<i>Include in the Anchor Tenant Strategy plan for Broadway Junction a CUNY facility instead of the proposed HRA facility. To include HRA in this new structure would be redundant and the community's voice would be ignored. The community has outlined that the need for higher education in the district, is an absolute necessity to prepare our young people for long-lasting career opportunities not minimum wage positions. Economic growth in a community is not centered on the growth of business but the growth of economic empowerment of the residents who will patronize existing and future businesses.</i>	

10/18	NYPD	Upgrade the emergency response system	<i>CB5 receives calls from local residents who complain about neighboring vacant properties being vandalized or used for drug use and sale. In some cases, although the Department of Buildings borders the windows and doors with locks, the property is still broken into and it creates an atmosphere of crime and instills fear in the residents. Once a property is deemed vacant and DOB has bordered that property - local NCO's or other assigned staff should be monitoring it consistently to ensure that the property remains secure and safety is at optimum levels for neighbors.</i>	
11/18	BPL	Provide more or better equipment to a library	<i>Spring Creek Branch is in need of Safety & Security Enhancements</i>	
12/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Renovate and upgrade the basketball courts at Grace Playground. Existing funding is only allocated to the playground area of the park.</i>	
13/18	SCA	Renovate interior building component	<i>Complete renovation for gymnasium at Van Siclen Community School at George Gershwin Campus (I.S. 166). The Gymnasium supports all schools within the campus and is outdated. Full renovation to floors, AC system, bleaches, and student athletic equipment is needed to provide full athletic programming.</i>	800 Van Siclen Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
14/18	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Renovations and upgrades for Moe Finklestein Athletic Complex or Thomas Jefferson Field - including the bleaches, lockers, field, installation of score board, multi-purpose turf, and new stationary equipment. The Thomas Jefferson field is in serious need of upgrading. Currently multiple home-grown youth football leagues and cheer-leading squads utilize the field for practices and games. Additionally, a local soccer league has adopted the space for annual games and tournaments.</i>	12504 Flatlands Avenue
15/18	NYCHA	Renovate or upgrade public housing developments	<i>Increase frequency of grounds cleaning and interior cleaning for all NYCHA developments in CB5. Currently there are developments that are not cleaned as frequently and the exterior grounds are not kept up. Grass is overgrowing and curbside bulk trash and regular trash is piled up along the streets; creating an environment that is infested with rodents and other infestations.</i>	

16/18	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Allocate funding to transform larger park space at Pink Playground to skate park and adult/senior exercise space • EXPLANATION: Recent renovations were made to the playground area but the larger area of the park is still left barren and needs to be renovated to better engage community members to fully utilize the park.</i>	Loring Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
17/18	DOT	Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps	<i>Complete and expedite the installation of curb cuts / pedestrian ramps to allow for full sidewalk access for ADA residents in the district. • EXPLANATION: Previous submissions have been made for specific areas in CB5 for ADA compliant curb cuts in the district.</i>	
18/18	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	<i>Re-surfacing along Riverdale Avenue from Miller Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue</i>	Riverdale Avenue Miller Avenue Miller Avenue

Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/23	DFTA	Allocate funds for outreach services to homebound older adults and for programs that allow the elderly to age in place	<i>We learned under COVID-19 that too many seniors did not have adequate connection to services and resources in emergency situations. We are requesting that seniors, in particular those that are homebound, be provided with technology programs to allow for greater connection to community resources and services when standard operations are interrupted.</i>	
2/23	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Implement outdoor learning options for students in District 19. Explanation: Due to COVID-19, parents are still uneasy about how their children will resume classes within DOE buildings. Allowing for outdoor learning creates greater options for social distancing and natural ventilation. Additionally it opens up the potential to activate green spaces and parks in the district and connect students to the neighborhoods in which they live.</i>	
3/23	DSNY	Other expense budget request for DSNY	<i>Restore personnel budget in NYC Department of Sanitation to address hazardous trash conditions that have accumulated due to city-wide impact of COVID-19. Explanation: Due to recent budget cuts/constraints in the DSNY personnel budget, the trash accumulation throughout the district has been horrendous. Additionally, this has caused an increase in illegal dumping in areas of the district that are not monitored and cleaned regularly. It is a direct impact to health, safety, and overall quality of life for residents.</i>	

4/23	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Funding to further the SHOP Healthy Brooklyn (NYC) program in CB5, to include zip code 11239. The original study completed in CB5 only included zip code 11207 and 11208. The results of the program outlined the great need for healthy food options in local groceries and bodegas. The Epi Data Brief generated from the initiative also showed that bodegas make up 51% of the food establishments in the 11207 areas of the district. Additionally, the brief exposed that for every grocery store, there were 5 fast food restaurants and 10 bodegas. In addition, during the Shop Health initiative, grocery store and bodega owners were given free marketing tools that promoted healthy food and beverage purchases, as well as free containers/baskets for fruit & vegetable displays.</i>
5/23	SBS	Provide or expand business recovery assistance after an emergency	<i>Expense Request: Increase resources and opportunities for grants and site partnerships to small businesses under COVID-19 Explanation: Minority small businesses, in particular Black & Brown business owners, have suffered tremendously from the impact of COVID-19. Many had no alternatives as they closed their doors to patrons and their staff. As the economy begins to be flooded with opportunities, the minority businesses (i.e. Barbershops, Hair Salons, Boutiques, and Eateries) in CB5 are in desperate need of resources and direct grants. Additionally, help to create networks of opportunities to share open spaces for those businesses who have the ability to provide outdoor services.</i>
6/23	DSNY	Provide more frequent garbage or recycling pick-up	<i>Increase pick up frequency in NYCHA developments in CB5 • EXPLANATION: Current pick up schedule for NYCHA facilities creates long-standing bulk trash along corridors and streets within the district which increases pest infestation and leads to greater potential for historic health issues including asthma and others.</i>
7/23	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide permanent funding for arts/music programs in all middle schools in District 19. Music programs must be restored and/or implemented back into middle schools to prepare students for Performing Arts high schools. Funding should be focused on hiring of certified/trained instructors to maintain music programs during school hours.</i>

8/23	DOT	Add street signage or wayfinding elements	<i>Install Commercial Vehicle or Freight Traffic signage in the Spring Creek area of the district on Erskine and Vandalia, Elton and Vandalia, and Elton and Flatlands. Currently cars, medians and property are being damaged due to freight deliveries to the Gateway Center Mall. The area needs to be included in the Smart Truck Freight Management Plan with NYC Dept. of Transportation.</i>	Elton Street Vandalia Avenue Vandalia Avenue
9/23	DOT	Conduct traffic or parking studies	<i>Request for DOT to conduct a post-implementation study on the following implemented safety projects and include neighboring residents near both street segments: Fountain Avenue (between Pitkin Avenue & Seaview Avenue) Loring Avenue (between Fountain Avenue & Drew Street)</i>	
10/23	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Create partnerships with local service agencies that directly support senior living - e.g. HRA, SS, SNAP, etc. to allow for on-site services in each senior center to assist seniors with monthly responsibilities and documentation submission deadlines. Seniors are sometimes faced with deadlines and monthly, quarterly, or annual responsibilities that can be forgotten or mismanaged. This is a way to ensure that they have support in fulfilling requirements that dictate the continuation of fixed incomes and other subsidies that they may be receiving.</i>	
11/23	NYPD	Other NYPD staff resources requests	<i>CB5 has the highest incidences of illegally parked vehicles and abandoned vehicles in the city. Our numbers have risen due to the amount of local auto shops and garages that park their junk or for-sale vehicles on public streets; and other abandoned vehicles that are randomly left on public streets for years. We need a very specific focus on this issue and an increase in the officers that search for these incidences in the district.</i>	

12/23	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance Cornerstone and Beacon programs (all ages, including young adults)	<i>Expedite renovations at Unity Plaza Community Center \$1.5 million was allocated to NYCHA from former City Council Speaker Quinn and former Council Member Charles Barron to Unity Plaza for necessary renovations within the Community Center and outdoor spaces, close to six (6) years ago. To date, renovations have not been completed. Still pending is the mural in the amphitheater and renovations within the Community Center for restrooms, multi-purpose room, studio to be installed in smaller room, dance room, and other necessary upgrades to ceilings, etc.</i>	576 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, NY
13/23	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Coordinate with HPD for the Construction of a new Community Center on Livonia Avenue Corridor (corner of Williams Avenue) During the RFP process for development on the first phase of the Livonia Avenue Corridor, Dunn Development was selected as the developer for the housing project and the community was in major support of the proposal submitted by Dunn due to the collaboration with the Boys Club of New York. A newly constructed Boys Club was to be built on the fifth lot which would have balanced the new housing units with adequate community space for the existing and incoming families and children. Since the inception of the housing, the Boys Club has backed out and the proposal still moved forward with no community space to accommodate the new population on the corridor.</i>	Livonia Avenue Williams Avenue Williams Avenue
14/23	SBS	Other commercial district revitalization requests	<i>Create greater incentives for developers to incorporate cooperative work spaces within mixed used development and other initiatives that would assist with securing local business tenants. CB5 has large mixed-use development that was created to encourage revitalized and walkable commercial areas but rents are too high for local businesses to take advantage of the new spaces. Therefore commercial spaces are left vacant for unnecessary lengths of time with no activity.</i>	

15/23	SBS	Other business regulatory assistance requests	<p><i>Request that EDC implement mandate policy to inform Community Board office of any and all new lease holders or business owners in the Industrial Business Zones (Industrial Parks) areas of the district. • EXPLANATION: Businesses move in and out of the IBZs in CB5 and we are not made aware of these business transactions. Therefore we are not aware, and more importantly, not included in the selection of businesses coming into the IBZs. Within the last couple of years we had to deal with the expansion of the medical waste business that wanted to expand their services to medical waste storage and transfer. Additionally, when a new business comes into the district, we want to ensure that there is a local hiring process that is implemented.</i></p>	
16/23	DOT	Other traffic improvement requests	<p><i>Install traffic controls at the intersection of New Lots Avenue and Van Siclen Avenue for turning traffic. • EXPLANATION: Currently the intersection supports traffic entering from New Lots, Van Siclen and also bus lines (B15 and B83) which causes confusion for turning traffic.</i></p>	<p>New Lots Avenue Van Siclen Avenue Van Siclen Avenue</p>
17/23	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<p><i>Implement more frequent bus times for B84 bus line and extend routes to accommodate the new population along Elton Street corridor. Additionally to accommodate students and faculty at the Spring Creek Community High School.</i></p>	
18/23	DSNY	Other cleaning requests	<p><i>Increase street cleaning and maintenance along Pitkin Avenue commercial areas (between Hendrix Street and Wyona Street) • EXPLANATION: This small commercial strip is in need of consistent street cleaning and encouragement of local stores to participate in the adopt a basket program.</i></p>	<p>Pitkin Avenue Hendrix Street Hendrix Street</p>
19/23	DSNY	Other enforcement requests	<p><i>Increase frequency of street inspection to remove abandoned vehicles and illegally parked vehicles. • EXPLANATION: CB5 has the highest rate of 311 complaints for illegally parked and abandoned vehicles. We need a collaborated agency approach to address the issue.</i></p>	

20/23	DOB	Address illegal conversions and uses of buildings	<i>Increase amount of inspection workers for CB5 to alleviate opportunities for squatters and illegal activity in vacant properties throughout the district. The constituency complaint calls are increasing regarding vacant property that is being used for squatters and other criminal activities. It creates an environment of fear for neighboring residents.</i>
21/23	DCP	Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs	<i>Designate Brooklyn Community Board 5 as a Cease and Desist zone to combat harassment to seniors and all other existing homeowners in the district. Our district is under attack and we have to protect our homeowner stock and monitor the potential intimidation tactics used towards our senior homeowners from aggressive buyers and real estate companies. Our district should not be plagued with cheap signs about buying homes and land - with promises of "all cash" deals.</i>
22/23	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs	<i>Request to mandate that all temporary housing facilities incorporate NYC Housing Connect workshops to ensure that shelter residents are fully equipped and prepared to submit for available housing through the city lottery process. Additionally, these workshops should be coupled with consistent financial literacy workshops to enhance money management skills for families and single adults.</i>
23/23	EDC	Expand programs to support local businesses and entrepreneurs	<i>Create greater incentives for developers to incorporate cooperative work spaces within new mixed used development. Explanation: CB5 has large mixed-use development that was created to encourage revitalized and walkable commercial areas but rents are too high for local businesses to take advantage of the new spaces. Therefore commercial spaces are left vacant for unnecessary lengths of time with no activity.</i>