Statements of Community
District Needs
and
Community Board
Budget Requests

Fiscal Year 2023



Manhattan Community District

# **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) 2023. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from July to November, 2021.

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: <a href="mailto:CDNEEDS\_DL@planning.nyc.gov">CDNEEDS\_DL@planning.nyc.gov</a>

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 FY23 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 2023. 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.

# Introduction 1. Community Board Information 2. 2020 Census Data 3. Overview of Community District 4. Top Three Pressing Issues Overall 5. Summary of Community District Needs and Budget Requests Health Care and Human Services Youth, Education and Child Welfare Public Safety and Emergency Services Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency Housing, Economic Development and Land Use Transportation Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities 6. Other Budget Requests

7. Summary of Prioritized Budget Requests

# 1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Manhattan Community Board 5

Address: 450 7th Avenue South, 2109

Phone: (212) 465-0907

Email:

Website: www.cb5.org

Chair: Vikki Barbero
District Manager: Marisa Maack

# **2. 2020 CENSUS DATA**

The following two pages contain data from the most recent 2020 Decennial Census, which includes basic demographic and housing characteristics for New York City, the borough, and this community district. The data also includes a view of change over time since 2010.

# **New York City**

	201	.0	202	20	Cha	nge, 2010-	2020
							Percentage
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	8,175,133	100.00	8,804,190	100.00	629,057	7.7	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	1,768,111	21.6	1,740,142	19.8	-27,969	-1.6	-1.8
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPAN</b>	NIC ORIGIN						
Total population	8,175,133	100.0	8,804,190	100.0	629,057	7.7	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	2,336,076	28.6	2,490,350	28.3	154,274	6.6	-0.3
White non-Hispanic	2,722,904	33.3	2,719,856	30.9	-3,048	-0.1	-2.4
Black non-Hispanic	1,861,295	22.8	1,776,891	20.2	-84,404	-4.5	-2.6
Asian non-Hispanic	1,028,119	12.6	1,373,502	15.6	345,383	33.6	3.0
Some other race, non-Hispanic	78,063	1.0	143,632	1.6	65,569	84.0	0.6
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	148,676	1.8	299,959	3.4	151,283	101.8	1.6
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total houing units	3,371,062	100.0	3,618,635	100.0	247,573	7.3	0.0
Occupied housing units	3,109,784	92.2	3,370,448	93.1	260,664	8.4	0.9
Vacant housing units	261,278	7.8	248,187	6.9	-13,091	-5.0	-0.9

## Manhattan

	201	0	202	10	Cha	ange, 2010-	2020
							Percentage
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	1,585,873	100.00	1,694,251	100.00	108,378	6.8	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	234,435	14.8	232,511	13.7	-1,924	-0.8	-1.1
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPAN	NIC ORIGIN						
Total population	1,585,873	100.0	1,694,251	100.0	108,378	6.8	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	403,577	25.4	402,640	23.8	-937	-0.2	-1.6
White non-Hispanic	761,493	48.0	793,294	46.8	31,801	4.2	-1.2
Black non-Hispanic	205,340	12.9	199,592	11.8	-5,748	-2.8	-1.1
Asian non-Hispanic	177,624	11.2	219,624	13.0	42,000	23.6	1.8
Some other race, non-Hispanic	7,882	0.5	16,112	1.0	8,230	104.4	0.5
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	29,957	1.9	62,989	3.7	33,032	110.3	1.8
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total houing units	847,090	100.0	913,926	100.0	66,836	7.9	0.0
Occupied housing units	763,846	90.2	817,782	89.5	53,936	7.1	-0.7
Vacant housing units	83,244	9.8	96,144	10.5	12,900	15.5	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

#### **Manhattan Community District 5**

	201	.0	202	20	Cha	ange, 2010-	2020
							Percentage
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Point
AGE							
Total population	51,673	100.00	63,600	100.00	11,927	23.1	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	3,716	7.2	5,982	9.4	2,266	61	2.2
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPAN</b>	MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN						
Total population	51,673	100.0	63,600	100.0	11,927	23.1	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	3,973	7.7	7,912	12.4	3,939	99.1	4.7
White non-Hispanic	34,962	67.7	35,750	56.2	788	2.3	-11.5
Black non-Hispanic	2,123	4.1	4,768	7.5	2,645	124.6	3.4
Asian non-Hispanic	9,329	18.1	12,123	19.1	2,794	29.9	1.0
Some other race, non-Hispanic	217	0.4	632	1.0	415	191.2	0.6
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	1,069	2.1	2,415	3.8	1,346	125.9	1.7
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total houing units	36,550	100.0	42,323	100.0	5,773	15.8	0.0
Occupied housing units	29,821	81.6	33,230	78.5	3,409	11.4	-3.1
Vacant housing units	6,729	18.4	9,093	21.5	2,364	35.1	3.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files Population Division, New York City Department of City Planning

#### **Statement on Data Accuracy**

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau is legally bound to protect the privacy of individuals participating in the decennial census. To adhere to the law and to avoid the disclosure of information about individual respondents, the Census Bureau has historically applied a host of techniques, such as top- and bottom-coding, imputation, table- and cell-suppression, and data swapping. The Census Bureau is employing a new technique with the 2020 Census, referred to as the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS), based on differential privacy. With this approach, the Census Bureau "infuses noise" systematically across census data and sets a quantified disclosure risk, referred to as the Privacy Loss Budget (PLB).

While the new DAS approach may diminish the risk of disclosure concerns, it comes at a cost to data accuracy. Consequently, 2020 Census data users should be aware that all sub-state counts, except for housing units (which are unaffected by the DAS), may be adjusted to protect the privacy of Census participants and may be subject to reduced accuracy. Because DAS noise infusion is randomized, it is impossible for data users to know the degree to which any individual statistic is altered. However, it is possible to say that in general the relative size of errors decreases as counts increase. Consequently, data users should have greater confidence in the accuracy of the data as counts get larger. Further, an evaluation of a Privacy-Protected Microdata File (PPMF), treated with a Disclosure Avoidance System like the one applied to 2020 redistricting data, showed that counts of 300 or more rarely have sizable errors (error beyond +/- 10% of the count). Therefore, while data users need to be cognizant of data accuracy limitations, they should have confidence in conclusions based on sizable counts, which are relatively unaffected by the Census Bureau's latest disclosure avoidance method.

3. OVERVIE	W OF CON	MUNITY	/ DISTRIC	T		

Manhattan Community Board Five (CB5) is located in the heart of Manhattan. We are the City's midtown central business District as well as the first and last impression of New York City for millions of commuters and tourists who pass through Penn Station and Grand Central Terminal, or who visit Times Square, Herald Square, Union Square, and the Empire State Building every day.

The Broadway Theatre District, the Garment District, Koreatown, Nomad, Flatiron, the Diamond District and parts of Chelsea all fall within our borders. All but three subway lines traverse CB5, and with the Port Authority just outside our western border the District is at the core of the City's substantial pedestrian and vehicular traffic. We are the destination for millions of people who come here to experience New York City's greatest business, tourist, entertainment and industrial landmarks. The Museum of Modern Art, Radio City Music Hall, Carnegie Hall, Rockefeller Center, the Empire State Building and the Flatiron Building are all here, along with world class shopping destinations such as Macy's, Saks, Tiffany's, Cartier and Nordstrom (to name but a few).

Although CB5 is primarily a commercial district, our residential population has increased by 23% which is an increase of 11,000 people in the last ten years. Our District is also seeing greater diversity in its population over the ten-year period with an 11% percentage increase of BiPOC residents (as reported by the 2020 census) in the total number of residents. Along with our increase in the residential population, we have increased housing stock by over 15% which accounts for about 5,773 additional units. However, a little over 21% of our housing units remain vacant according to the 2020 census which is an increase of more than 2% vacancy from 2010.

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the many Community Board 5 restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues. Having been shuttered for most of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, theatres and entertainment venues have only begun to reopen their doors to the public. In the recent past, our District experienced a boom in hotel construction, particularly in the Flower District and the Broadway corridor. However, (according to the Restaurant Association) since the pandemic 200 of the 700 hotels in New York, many of them in CB5, have closed their doors. And while hotels are starting to recover, occupancy rates at open NYC hotels this June saw only a 63% occupancy rate down from 90% during the summers of 2018 and 2019. Restaurants within the District have embraced outdoor dining as a result of the pandemic and almost every street within the district has an outdoor dining structure or two. Many sit either in sidewalk or curb lane although some have been granted permission to sit within the road bed.

Community Board 5 is different from most other Boards in the city in that we are primarily a business and commercial district. As a result of stay-at-home orders and subsequent work at home schemes, the District has seen less workers and therefore is less populated and vibrant. Although many companies initially pledged to return to their offices this fall, the Delta variant and concern over the long-term efficacy of covid inoculations changed that plan and businesses continue to allow employees to work from home. In Midtown, according to a recent REBNY report, only about 25 percent to 30 percent of the normal number of workers are coming into the office — meaning only about 60,000 people on the streets for lunches, haircuts, shopping or shoeshines. That compares to 180,000 office workers in the area before the pandemic lockdowns. (copied from NY Post report on latest numbers)

This dearth of workers has resulted in Midtown having the largest inventory of office space in New York City. (Historically, the Midtown East and Grand Central corridors have maintained a retail vacancy rate somewhere between 10% and 15%, according to the real estate trade association, CNBC report) According to REBNY, nearly 30% of the retail storefronts in Midtown East and around Grand Central are vacant,

Work -from-home has also impacted commuter transportation and while subway ridership levels are increasing from the lowest levels seen at the height of the pandemic, ridership is down generally 50% according to the MTA (<a href="https://newwest.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership">https://newwest.mta.info/coronavirus/ridership</a>). There is also about a 40% decrease in bus ridership overall. Concurrently, we have seen an uptick in 311 calls within the District regarding illegal parking, vehicular noise and idling.

With fewer pedestrians on the street, the District saw an uptick in complaints regarding quality of life issues. 311 calls about homelessness -- encampments, issues with specific individuals and groups -- were the highest that they have ever been in the District. Vendor complaints and high profile crime within the Times Square area led to the

creation of a special Manhattan (INSERT name of unit). This unit has had some success in calming the 7th and 8th avenue corridors.

Weather disruptions throughout the summer made clear our infrastructure is unprepared for the sheer volume of rain water that storms now bring. Picture and videos of riders braving waist high waters in the district subway system at 28th street were seen all over the internet while other residents and visitors were caught in large area of pooling water throughout many areas of the district.

Overall, the three most pressing issues currently within the district are homelessness, commercial revitalization and quality of life.

#### **Health Care & Human Services**

Services to reduce or prevent homelessness is the number one priority within the District this year although mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs came a close second as the issues are so closely intertwined. There was an influx of homeless people into the district during last year as the City moved individuals out of congregate shelters and into hotels that are located primarily throughout midtown. This situation has largely, but not completely, been reversed as people have been transferred back to shelter settings. Nevertheless, the District is still seeing a large number of homeless individuals on the streets, many of them suffering from mental illness. According to Coalition for the Homeless, New York City's unsheltered homeless population is concentrated in the central business district – that is, midtown Manhattan.

Fundamentally, our city needs more affordable housing – in our District and elsewhere. However, we also need high-quality temporary shelters and housing programs now to serve the homeless. That includes comprehensive programming with wrap-around services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as facility improvements to provide for that and enrichment programming on site. CB5 encourages the City and shelter providers to craft solutions that meet the homeless where they are and to address their concerns regarding safety, possessions, pets, significant others and recreation and social space as a means of creating a more comfortable, welcoming and productive environment for those experiencing homelessness.

In addition to addressing the housing concern, CB5 also requires public toilets so that individuals experiencing homelessness are spared the indignity of relieving themselves in public. In New York City, there is one public bathroom for every 7,700 people for a city with a population of over 8.5 million. And this figure does not include the millions of annual tourists that visit the city. There are only 2 public bathrooms in NYC that are open 24/7. There have been 378,655 311-complaints about public urination from 2010-2018, which underscores the vast need for these services.

A disproportionate number of our adult homeless neighbors suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. These New Yorkers must receive consistent and appropriate care, even if unsheltered. Outreach, integrated case management, safe havens, treatment, income support and benefits, vocational training, supported employment, and safe and affordable housing must all be woven together to end the cycle of mental illness and homelessness. Studies show that with access to comprehensive and integrated health and social services there is the capacity of the seriously mentally ill to become productive members of the community.

#### Youth Education and Child Welfare

While difficult to pinpoint just one issue affecting children in the District given the mental health and education constraints of the last year and a half, Educational Attainment is our prime area of concern. Children have been out of school for almost a full year and need assessments will be necessary to understand exactly how children have fared during this time. Tools and supports must be then developed, funded and provided to students so that they may get back to learning at grade level.

Special education services have always been seriously lacking throughout the City, and our District, but the pandemic has highlighted that there is no emergency plan for these students and their families. Additionally, mental health access for students in and from our District has consistently been a concern for CB5. The pandemic has only exacerbated the need for mental wellness support including a nurse and mental health professional in every school.

Additionally, year round workforce development is needed in addition to the expansion of the Summer Youth Program. Meaningful employment programs are proven violence interrupters. These programs provide mentoring, work experience and income to students who may need to support their families.

#### **Public Safety and Emergency Services**

Public Nuisance including noise and other disturbances is of primary concern to CB5 and quality of life issues are one of our top concerns. The symptoms are as clear as the causes are myriad. Street and sidewalk noise, increasing graffiti, unauthorized street vendors, petty crime, panhandling, loitering and street encampments all detract from the quality of life in the District and feed the perception that the City is not safe.

While CB5 believes addressing the underlying issues of education, economic opportunity and homelessness will strike at the roots of these societal issues, consistent enforcement of existing regulations will also help. The goal of enforcement is not to criminalize any social condition but to create an environment where the rights of all are respected and the public space remains dedicated to the public.

Visitors and residents alike should expect that existing regulations --for example, prohibiting cars and delivery trucks from double parking or "blocking the box", prohibiting cyclists from riding on the sidewalk or in the opposite direction of traffic, discouraging pedestrians who walk in the bike lane, cracking down on illegal food carts and unpermitted street vendors – will be enforced to help protect the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits the district.

It is incumbent on the City to develop and direct resources to teams within Agencies that are specifically responsible for enforcement of quality of life infractions. Whether it is the inspection of outdoor dining or the removal of an encampment, enforcement should be visible and build confidence that there are procedures in place to address public concerns. And while CB5 has supported the transition of some routine public safety enforcement roles -- such as traffic and parking enforcement priorities -- from NYPD control, the current patrol indicates that there is a place for NYPD officers on the beat whose visibility can help rebuild public confidence in the force while maintaining public order. CB5 encourages that this program be replicated in other areas within the district that experience high levels of quality-of-life issues.

#### **Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency**

Overflowing garbage cans and debris on the streets around them has always been an issue in CB5. While sanitation pickups have improved over the last year, street cleanliness is still a concern. The increasing number of homeless individuals has also triggered the need for corresponding additional public sanitation services including a significant increase in the frequency of corner trash pick-up.

The City composting program while currently funded, it is a voluntary program that is triggered only when a certain number of households sign on to participate. Consequently, access to the program has been restricted due to a lack of committed households. In order to activate this program successfully more outreach and education need to be done.

Finally, resilience planning for subway stations and street drainage is imperative. This year, we experienced storms that downed our transportation systems and put people at risk. This was particularly notable at the 28th street subway station during Hurricane Ida and the pooling seen. Now is the time to invest in resiliency strategies as our subways and sewer systems are not built for the weather due to our climate change crisis which is likely to become more critical in the coming years.

#### **Housing Economic and Land Use**

Commercial district revitalization is the most pressing issue within this policy area but we also understand this to encompass small business services and support. CB5 is a district heavily dependent upon commuters, business, and tourists. It is estimated that New York City lost over 631,000 jobs in 2020, many of them located in CB5. Reports suggest that employers expect more than half of their workforce will continue to work remotely at least part of the time. If that happens, the ripple effect will make the recovery a long-term proposition. Businesses in the District will require commercial tenant programs, better business programs as well grants and loans in order to remain resilient in the face of a longer recovery period. In particular, CB5 recognizes the important economic role that small businesses add to the vibrancy and character of our district as well as their role in employment, particularly among immigrants. Therefore, CB5 encourages public / private collaboration to address the challenges faced by businesses small and large. Investment in marketing and other programs to attract visitors should be undertaken as a means of spurring commerce within the District.

The Empire Station Complex GPP introduced by ESD in 2020 would divert real estate tax revenue from 10 development sites located around Penn Station. This revenue diversion would hurt New York City's ability to raise tax revenue and should not be pursued.

#### **Transportation and Mobility**

The most pressing issue in this policy area is subway service and quality. CB5, is home to nine of the ten busiest subway stations (MTA Annual Ridership by Station Report). Although the number of people riding the train is slowly increasing, subway ridership is still down significantly which results in less populated stations and less populated trains. This pushes the per rider crime rate higher than it has been in recent years and has created a sense of greater danger despite police figures that dispute to the contrary. A number of random attacks throughout CB5 have underscored the perception of the subway as a dangerous place. Alternative routes and services changes and disruptions have added to riders distrust of the train.

In order to encourage people to return to the District, the City must develop and implement a plan to provide safe, clean trains that run on time. It is only when riders feel comfortable and confident in their route and their safety that they will return to work, shop and play in the District. MTA funding disputes between state and city officials need to be resolved in order to provide this comprehensive service to riders. If the perception that using the subway is risky continues, it will imperil any effort to restart the economy, which includes reopening offices in Manhattan where a majority of workers rely on transit.

In addition to subway quality, CB5 is very concerned with the management of the Open Streets Program. While outdoor restaurants have been a boon to customers and restaurateurs alike, continuation of the program gives rise to concern regarding the competing interests that vie for public space on the sidewalks, curbs and roadways. CB5 encourages DOT to actively enforce existing to address any non-compliant operations.

## Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

While CB5 has Central Park on its periphery, along with Madison Square Park, Union Square and Bryant Park within its borders, the district still lacks the open spaces that are common in other Community Districts. The lack of public open space has become even more apparent during the pandemic. Accordingly, insufficient park or open space is our greatest concern within this policy area. While CB5 does not believe that public funding should be given to POPS (privately owned public spaces) there is an opportunity that additional public space be built into upcoming land use /development projects.

Additionally, CB5 believes our air and light are public assets that should not be privatized or monopolized by private developers. Light and air must be approached as any other budget assets and they must be treated and protected as such.

Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities: CB5 has seen the expansion of residential and commercial buildings which has heightened the awareness and need for public spaces and how these are managed. Unfortunately, there is no one Agency that has a handle on the overall planning of the City when taking into account issues such as

shadows, access to green space, public toilets and other factors affecting public spaces.

The Director of the Public Realm role is one which is desperately needed to take on this complexity to holistically manage the streets, sidewalks, open space and plazas in a data driven way. CB5 believes that this office will rectify the current lack of cohesion in city planning and allow stakeholders to have a direct way to voice their views. CB5 appreciates that this role will highlight the importance of light and air as a public commodity that should be considered as any other commodity when making decisions concerning the public realm.

## 4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

#### **Economic recovery and development**

Commercial district revitalization is the most pressing issue within this policy area but we also understand this to encompass small business services and support. CB5 is a district heavily dependent upon commuters, business, and tourists. It is estimated that New York City lost over 631,000 jobs in 2020, many of them located in CB5. Reports suggest that employers expect more than half of their workforce will continue to work remotely at least part of the time. If that happens, the ripple effect will make the recovery a long-term proposition. Businesses in the District will require commercial tenant programs, better business programs as well grants and loans in order to remain resilient in the face of a longer recovery period. In particular, CB5 recognizes the important economic role that small businesses add to the vibrancy and character of our district as well as their role in employment, particularly among immigrants. Therefore, CB5 encourages public / private collaboration to address the challenges faced by businesses small and large. Investment in marketing and other programs to attract visitors should be undertaken as a means of spurring commerce within the District.

#### **Homelessness**

Services to reduce or prevent homelessness is the number one priority within the District this year although mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs came a close second as the issues are so closely intertwined. There was an influx of homeless people into the district during last year as the City moved individuals out of congregate shelters and into hotels that are located primarily throughout midtown. This situation has largely, but not completely, been reversed as people have been transferred back to shelter settings. Nevertheless, the District is still seeing a large number of homeless individuals on the streets, many of them suffering from mental illness. According to Coalition for the Homeless, New York City's unsheltered homeless population is concentrated in the central business district – that is, midtown Manhattan.

#### Quality of life issues (noise, graffiti, petty crime, etc.)

Public Nuisance including noise and other disturbances is of primary concern to CB5 and quality of life issues are one of our top concerns. The symptoms are as clear as the causes are myriad. Street and sidewalk noise, increasing graffiti, unauthorized street vendors, petty crime, panhandling, loitering and street encampments all detract from the quality of life in the District and feed the perception that the City is not safe. While CB5 believes addressing the underlying issues of education, economic opportunity and homelessness will strike at the roots of these societal issues, consistent enforcement of existing regulations will also help. The goal of enforcement is not to criminalize any social condition but to create an environment where the rights of all are respected and the public space remains dedicated to the public. Visitors and residents alike should expect that existing regulations --for example, prohibiting cars and delivery trucks from double parking or "blocking the box", prohibiting cyclists from riding on the sidewalk or in the opposite direction of traffic, discouraging pedestrians who walk in the bike lane, cracking down on illegal food carts and un-permitted street vendors – will be enforced to help protect the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits the district. It is incumbent on the City to develop and direct resources to teams within Agencies that are specifically responsible for enforcement of quality of life infractions. Whether it is the inspection of outdoor dining or the removal of an encampment, enforcement should be visible and build confidence that there are procedures in place to address public concerns. And while CB5 has supported the transition of some routine public safety enforcement roles -- such as traffic and parking enforcement priorities -- from NYPD control, the current patrol indicates that there is a place for NYPD officers on the beat whose visibility can help rebuild public confidence in the force while maintaining public order. CB5 encourages that this program be replicated in other areas within the district that experience high levels of quality-of-life issues.

# 5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

#### **HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES**

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

#### Services to reduce or prevent homelessness

Services to reduce or prevent homelessness is the number one priority within the District this year although mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs came a close second as the issues are so closely intertwined. There was an influx of homeless people into the district during last year as the City moved individuals out of congregate shelters and into hotels that are located primarily throughout midtown. This situation has largely, but not completely, been reversed as people have been transferred back to shelter settings. Nevertheless, the District is still seeing a large number of homeless individuals on the streets, many of them suffering from mental illness. According to Coalition for the Homeless, New York City's unsheltered homeless population is concentrated in the central business district – that is, midtown Manhattan. Fundamentally, our city needs more affordable housing – in our District and elsewhere. However, we also need high-quality temporary shelters and housing programs now to serve the homeless. That includes comprehensive programming with wrap-around services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as facility improvements to provide for that and enrichment programming on site. CB5 encourages the City and shelter providers to craft solutions that meet the homeless where they are and to address their concerns regarding safety, possessions, pets, significant others and recreation and social space as a means of creating a more comfortable, welcoming and productive environment for those experiencing homelessness. In addition to addressing the housing concern, CB5 also requires public toilets so that individuals experiencing homelessness are spared the indignity of relieving themselves in public. In New York City, there is one public bathroom for every 7,700 people for a city with a population of over 8.5 million. And this figure does not include the millions of annual tourists that visit the city. There are only 2 public bathrooms in NYC that are open 24/7. There have been 378,655 311-complaints about public urination from 2010-2018, which underscores the vast need for these services. A disproportionate number of our adult homeless neighbors suffer from severe and persistent mental illness. These New Yorkers must receive consistent and appropriate care, even if unsheltered. Outreach, integrated case management, safe havens, treatment, income support and benefits, vocational training, supported employment, and safe and affordable housing must all be woven together to end the cycle of mental illness and homelessness. Studies show that with access to comprehensive and integrated health and social services there is the capacity of the seriously mentally ill to become productive members of the community.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

#### **Needs for Health Care and Facilities**

No comments

#### **Needs for Older NYs**

CB5 has "black holes" in certain areas, notably Times Square/Bryant Park and the Lexington Avenue corridor, with significant populations of seniors aging in place--many of whom are in rent-stabilized buildings--that do not live close to services sites that provide them with housing assistance and counseling. Aging should commission a study to identify other such "housing services deserts" in areas with significant populations aging in place, and should lease highly visible storefronts in those areas to connect local seniors to services to help them stay in their homes.)

#### **Needs for Homeless**

There was an influx of homeless people into the district during last year as the City moved individuals out of congregate shelters and into hotels that are located primarily throughout midtown. This situation has largely, but not completely, been reversed as people have been transferred back to shelter settings. Nevertheless, the

District is still seeing a large number of homeless individuals on the streets, many of them suffering from mental illness. According to Coalition for the Homeless, New York City's unsheltered homeless population is concentrated in the central business district – that is, midtown Manhattan.

Fundamentally, our city needs more affordable housing – in our District and elsewhere. However, we also need high-quality temporary shelters and housing programs now to serve the homeless. That includes comprehensive programming with wrap-around services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as facility improvements to provide for that and enrichment programming on site. CB5 encourages the City and shelter providers to craft solutions that meet the homeless where they are and to address their concerns regarding safety, possessions, pets, significant others and recreation and social space as a means of creating a more comfortable, welcoming and productive environment for those experiencing homelessness.

Needs for Low Income NYs
No comments

# **Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/31	DHS	Other facilities for the homeless requests	Add new Safe Haven beds in the CB5 area from the DHS purpose built shelter program with quality ample indoor amenities, private outdoor terraces and common space so that clients are not hanging out on the streets. To the extent possible, select a site in conjunction with the community board so that these facilities are spaced out as much as possible. By supporting nonprofit ownership of consciously designed shelters, the City can save substantial monies all while having better control over the portfolio and benefiting from nonprofits' ability to provide quality services in settings tailored to their use and purpose	
4/31	DHS	Other capital budget request for DHS	Continued funding for the ELLA program as well as term sheet programs that are middle to moderate income	
6/31	DOHMH	Other capital budget request for DOHMH	Develop medical respite beds for patients that are not sick enough to provide hospital level care but are discharged by hospitals with mental health service needs. The city could consider using underutilized hotel space to save on capital cost.	

# **Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
3/25	HRA	Other homelessness prevention program request	Add staff lines to re-create casework team to focus on connecting individuals and families to permanent housing. Homeless and at-risk families and individuals are still having trouble accessing landlords to secure permanent housing. In the past, there was a first-rate team of workers assembled by the City to move homeless veterans out of shelters and off the streets using Section-8 vouchers specifically earmarked by the Feds. It was a remarkable success. Legal Aid and other advocates would like to push for \$500k for a five-member team to replicate that model.	

6/25	HRA	Other request for services for vulnerable New Yorkers	Increase funding to add staff lines for ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams.
7/25	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	Additional funding for expansion of the Mental Health Teams Pilot Program (B-HEARD) operated jointly with DHMH to provide citywide emergency mental health responses.
8/25	HRA	Other expense budget request for HRA	Increase funding for Legal Services for low- and moderate-income tenants in anticipation of the expiration of the eviction moratorium. At present, it is set to expire in January 2022, and vulnerable tenants will flood social services organizations when that happens. Legal Services must be prepared and staffed up to handle this influx. Tenants need rapid access to an attorney to educate them about their rights, guide them in housing court cases, and even assist them in their applications for available funding targeted at eviction prevention, such as the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
13/25	DFTA	Funding for a new senior center program	Provide for senior center programming in CB5.  We have no city site specifically to address senior needs in the district. Increase funding to the Department for the Aging for the purpose of opening additional neighborhood-specific housing services sites in CB5 and citywide.
15/25	DHS	Expand street outreach	Increase funding for Home-Stat. Fully fund the street outreach program that follows client from street to permanent housing. (Additional Case Managers for DHS: Additional funding to provide case managers to homeless individuals and especially families. These individuals face a myriad of problems,
17/25	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	Increase funding to add more DOHMH inspectors

## YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

#### Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

#### **Educational attainment**

While difficult to pinpoint just one issue affecting children in the District given the mental health and education constraints of the last year and a half, Educational Attainment is our prime area of concern. Children have been out of school for almost a full year and need assessments will be necessary to understand exactly how children have fared during this time. Tools and supports must be then developed, funded and provided to students so that they may get back to learning at grade level.

#### Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

#### **Needs for Youth Education**

While difficult to pinpoint just one issue affecting children in the District given the mental health and education constraints of the last year and a half, Educational Attainment is our prime area of concern. Children have been out of school for almost a full year and need assessments will be necessary to understand exactly how children have fared during this time. Tools and supports must be then developed, funded and provided to students so that they may get back to learning at grade level.

Special education services have always been seriously lacking throughout the City, and our District, but the pandemic has highlighted that there is no emergency plan for these students and their families. Additionally, mental health access for students in and from our District has consistently been a concern for CB5. The pandemic has only exacerbated the need for mental wellness support including a nurse and mental health professional in every school.

Additionally, year round workforce development is needed in addition to the expansion of the Summer Youth Program. Meaningful employment programs are proven violence interrupters. These programs provide mentoring, work experience and income to students who ma

#### **Needs for Youth and Child Welfare**

CB5 believes that schools within and just outside the District are underfunded in respect to after school programming, internet connectivity, ADA accessibility and mental health care for students, all things that stakeholders within the District have found to be of critical importance.

# Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
8/31	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school	Fund the 100,000 square foot public school on the Bleecker School site in Greenwich Village on land owned by New York University; and utilize this opportunity before it passes back to NYU	
23/31	ACS	Renovate, upgrade, or expand ACS sites that provide services to children, youth and families	To fund renovations to increase programmatic space at the ACS Children's Center which is a 24/7 temporary care center for children entering foster care, located in Manhattan CD 6 but utilized by CB5 youth as well.	
24/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	To close the digital divide and provide all schools in our district with technology upgrades like inschool infrastructure and take-home equipment to cover every student in school and for take home purposes.	
25/31	SCA	Renovate interior building component	To complete installation of A/C units in every school instructional room within our district as per the City's five year plan to ensure our students have a comfortable and safe environment in which to learn and thrive in.	
26/31	SCA	Renovate interior building component	To bring every school up to full accessibility status. Accessible schools are located in a fully or partially accessible building where an individual with mobility impairment may enter and access all relevant programs and services, including the science laboratory, library, cafeteria, and the gymnasium; in some cases school programs may need to be re-located to accommodate access. At least one restroom must be accessible as well.	
28/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	Funding for technology upgrades for PS 340, the Sixth Avenue Elementary School, including purchase of 10 Promethean Smart Boards and upgrades of dated computers and printers	
29/31	SCA	Renovate exterior building component	To install green roofs, farms, and recycling operations in all schools in district to increase sustainability.	
30/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	Provide computers (800) for School of the Future	

# **Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
12/25	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance the Summer Youth Employment Program	To add funding to the Youth Employment program to meet need. SYEP is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experience each summer. Participants have the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help in developing their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and workbased opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future. This program is a win-win for employers and NYC youth.	
14/25	ACS	Other expense budget request for ACS	Baseline an additional \$8M to Fair Futures to maintain year over year funding levels through which thousands of young people in foster care ages 11-21 are receiving coaching, tutoring and/or educational advocacy and support. The City invested \$20 million to continue this model in FY2022, however only \$12 million is baselined in FY2023 and beyond.	
20/25	DYCD	Other expense budget request for DYCD	To increase the number of Summer Rising seats available in our district in order to support social, emotional, and academic learning in kids left behind by the pandemic, and to support working households.	
21/25	DOE	Other educational programs requests	To increase funding for special needs programs, and services to student and their families to address significant impact of pandemic loss of services.	

#### PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

#### **Public Nuisance (noise, other disturbances)**

Public Nuisance including noise and other disturbances is of primary concern to CB5 and quality of life issues are one of our top concerns. The symptoms are as clear as the causes are myriad. Street and sidewalk noise, increasing graffiti, unauthorized street vendors, petty crime, panhandling, loitering and street encampments all detract from the quality of life in the District and feed the perception that the City is not safe. While CB5 believes addressing the underlying issues of education, economic opportunity and homelessness will strike at the roots of these societal issues, consistent enforcement of existing regulations will also help. The goal of enforcement is not to criminalize any social condition but to create an environment where the rights of all are respected and the public space remains dedicated to the public. Visitors and residents alike should expect that existing regulations --for example, prohibiting cars and delivery trucks from double parking or "blocking the box", prohibiting cyclists from riding on the sidewalk or in the opposite direction of traffic, discouraging pedestrians who walk in the bike lane, cracking down on illegal food carts and un-permitted street vendors – will be enforced to help protect the quality of life of everyone who lives, works or visits the district. It is incumbent on the City to develop and direct resources to teams within Agencies that are specifically responsible for enforcement of quality of life infractions. Whether it is the inspection of outdoor dining or the removal of an encampment, enforcement should be visible and build confidence that there are procedures in place to address public concerns. And while CB5 has supported the transition of some routine public safety enforcement roles -- such as traffic and parking enforcement priorities -- from NYPD control, the current patrol indicates that there is a place for NYPD officers on the beat whose visibility can help rebuild public confidence in the force while maintaining public order. CB5 encourages that this program be replicated in other areas within the district that experience high levels of quality-of-life issues.

#### <u>Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services</u>

#### **Needs for Public Safety**

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## **Needs for Emergency Services**

Growing community requires adequate emergency services With the many new residential and commercial developments coming online in and on the borders of CB5, the emergency services may become overly burdened as the ratio of person to EMS vehicle changes and the City must be cognizant of this and monitor for any increased budget needs. FDNY has asked for \$280,000 to install additional fire alarms across the city and CB5 supports that request, in addition to their desire for additional funds for more trainings and CPR trainings.

# **Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services**

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

# **Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
11/25	NYPD	Other NYPD programs requests	Make permanent the Midtown Business Recovery Detail. Funding to commit more "beat cops" to the district - officers whose diversity matches their beat, who can know the area, its people, and can address their public safety concerns from a community perspective rather than an external NYPD "enforcement" perspective.	

# CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

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

#### Cleanliness/trash collection

Overflowing garbage cans and debris on the streets around them has always been an issue in CB5. While sanitation pickups have improved over the last year, street cleanliness is still a concern. The increasing number of homeless individuals has also triggered the need for corresponding additional public sanitation services including a significant increase in the frequency of corner trash pick-up. The City composting program while currently funded, it is a voluntary program that is triggered only when a certain number of households sign on to participate. Consequently, access to the program has been restricted due to a lack of committed households. In order to activate this program successfully more outreach and education need to be done.

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

**Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection** 

Resilience planning for subway stations and street drainage is imperative. This year, we experienced storms that downed our transportation systems and put people at risk. This was particularly notable at the 28th street subway station during Hurricane Ida and the pooling seen. Now is the time to invest in resiliency strategies as our subways and sewer systems are not built for the weather due to our climate change crisis which is likely to become more critical in the coming years.

#### **Needs for Sanitation Services**

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# **Capital Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
12/31	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	Add drainage in the 14th Street Corridor to mitigate flooding at the Union Square subway station.	
13/31	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	Add drainage in the 28th Street Corridor to mitigate flooding in the 28th Street subway station.	
31/31	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	Arrange for the identification and disposition or long-term lease of city-space in CD 5, with a minimum usable space of 1,000 square feet that receives good light, for Midtown South Community Council to add a second location to their urban farm initiative. This has been successfully piloted through a farm provided in partnership with Midtown Community Court. Community benefits include: provides affordable, healthy, and organic food; offers jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities; multiple environmental and inftrastructure benefits	

# **Expense Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
16/25	DSNY	Increase enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws	Increase funding for more DSNY inspectors	
18/25	DEP	Other expense budget request for DEP	Increase funding for more DEP after hours inspectors	
19/25	DSNY	Provide or expand NYC organics collection program	Increase Funding for a comprehensive education and outreach campaign for NYC composting. People are not signing up to the program but it is not clear that people know about the program or how the program works. It is also not clear how much outreach has been done to communities.	

25/25 DEP **Investigate air** Additional Street level air quality monitoring in quality complaints high traffic corridors and child recreational areas within CB5.

# HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

Most Important Issue Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

#### Commercial district revitalization

Commercial district revitalization is the most pressing issue within this policy area but we also understand this to encompass small business services and support. CB5 is a district heavily dependent upon commuters, business, and tourists. It is estimated that New York City lost over 631,000 jobs in 2020, many of them located in CB5. Reports suggest that employers expect more than half of their workforce will continue to work remotely at least part of the time. If that happens, the ripple effect will make the recovery a long-term proposition. Businesses in the District will require commercial tenant programs, better business programs as well grants and loans in order to remain resilient in the face of a longer recovery period. In particular, CB5 recognizes the important economic role that small businesses add to the vibrancy and character of our district as well as their role in employment, particularly among immigrants. Therefore, CB5 encourages public / private collaboration to address the challenges faced by businesses small and large. Investment in marketing and other programs to attract visitors should be undertaken as a means of spurring commerce within the District.

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

#### **Needs for Land Use**

CB5 believes our air and light are public assets that should not be privatized or monopolized by private developers. Light and air must be approached as any other budget assets and they must be treated and protected as such.

#### **Needs for Housing**

Affordable housing is one of the single most important issues identified by stakeholders within the District. Not only low and moderate-income families, but increasingly also the middle class is in dire need of affordable housing. The enormous amount of construction within the District and the loss of small buildings owned by individual landlords, the cost of housing vis-a-vis income and income inequality have all stoked great interest in preserving and creating affordable housing programs. Additional supportive housing is also a critical need, as these developments enable a steady progression of homeless individuals and families from the streets, to shelters, and finally to permanent homes with the services they need to live healthful and independent lives. Without sufficient supportive housing, this population can become trapped in cycles of homelessness, mental illness, and/or antisocial behavior that devastates individual and collective quality of life.

## **Needs for Economic Development**

Commercial district revitalization is the most pressing issue within this policy area but we also understand this to encompass small business services and support. CB5 is a district heavily dependent upon commuters, business, and tourists. It is estimated that New York City lost over 631,000 jobs in 2020, many of them located in CB5. Reports suggest that employers expect more than half of their workforce will continue to work remotely at least part of the time. If that happens, the ripple effect will make the recovery a long-term proposition. Businesses in the District will require commercial tenant programs, better business programs as well grants and loans in order to remain resilient in the face of a longer recovery period. In particular, CB5 recognizes the important economic role that small businesses add to the vibrancy and character of our district as well as their role in employment, particularly among immigrants. Therefore, CB5 encourages public / private collaboration to address the challenges faced by businesses small and large. Investment in marketing and other programs to attract visitors should be undertaken as a means of spurring commerce within the District.

# **Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/31	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	Requesting the additional \$8 million necessary to fully fund the conversion of the Paramount Hotel by Breaking Ground to supportive housing (235 west 46th street)	
9/31	HPD	Other capital budget request for HPD	Increase capital allocation to HPD Supportive Housing Loan Program, and raise the budget for maintenance and operations (M&O) of those buildings so that supportive housing is well maintained, lasts the extent of its viable life, and provides a decent home for thousands of singles and families that have been chronically homeless. The Supportive Housing Network of New York consistently reports shortfalls in M&O budgets of building security, janitorial staff, insurance, and building	

# **Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/25	SBS	Provide or expand business recovery assistance after an emergency	Funding to support small businesses/ revitalize empty storefronts	
4/25	DCP	Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs	Budget to fund 197-a planning in MCB5	

#### TRANSPORTATION

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

#### Subway service and quality (frequency, access, crowding, etc.)

The most pressing issue in this policy area is subway service and quality. CB5, is home to nine of the ten busiest subway stations (MTA Annual Ridership by Station Report). Although the number of people riding the train is slowly increasing, subway ridership is still down significantly which results in less populated stations and less populated trains. This pushes the per rider crime rate higher than it has been in recent years and has created a sense of greater danger despite police figures that dispute to the contrary. A number of random attacks throughout CB5 have underscored the perception of the subway as a dangerous place. Alternative routes and services changes and disruptions have added to riders distrust of the train. In order to encourage people to return to the District, the City must develop and implement a plan to provide safe, clean trains that run on time. It is only when riders feel comfortable and confident in their route and their safety that they will return to work, shop and play in the District. MTA funding disputes between state and city officials need to be resolved in order to provide this comprehensive service to riders. If the perception that using the subway is risky continues, it will imperil any effort to restart the economy, which includes reopening offices in Manhattan where a majority of workers rely on transit.

#### <u>Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility</u>

#### **Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure**

The most pressing issue in this policy area is subway service and quality. CB5, is home to nine of the ten busiest subway stations (MTA Annual Ridership by Station Report). Although the number of people riding the train is slowly increasing, subway ridership is still down significantly which results in less populated stations and less populated trains. This pushes the per rider crime rate higher than it has been in recent years and has created a sense of greater danger despite police figures that dispute to the contrary. A number of random attacks throughout CB5 have underscored the perception of the subway as a dangerous place. Alternative routes and services changes and disruptions have added to riders distrust of the train.

In order to encourage people to return to the District, the City must develop and implement a plan to provide safe, clean trains that run on time. It is only when riders feel comfortable and confident in their route and their safety that they will return to work, shop and play in the District. MTA funding disputes between state and city officials need to be resolved in order to provide this comprehensive service to riders. If the perception that using the subway is risky continues, it will imperil any effort to restart the economy, which includes reopening offices in Manhattan where a majority of workers rely on transit.

In addition to subway quality, CB5 is very concerned with the management of the Open Streets Program. While outdoor restaurants have been a boon to customers and restaurateurs alike, continuation of the program gives rise to concern regarding the competing interests that vie for public space on the sidewalks, curbs and roadways. CB5 encourages DOT to actively enforce existing to address any non-compliant operations.

#### **Needs for Transit Services**

Highly frequented subway stations in CB5, such as the 4/5/6 at Union Square and S at Times Square, are not ADA compliant, limiting accessibility for residents and visitors alike. In addition, our District has a high traffic flow with several complex intersections, which are in need of improved traffic safety as evidenced by high annual collision rates, poor pedestrian safety, and several conflicting traffic patterns. The District welcomes the newly created bike routes, but the safety of bikers, pedestrians, and drivers depends on active enforcement of regulations. Assigning the role of bike lane and traffic enforcement to agencies outside of the NYPD is supported by CB5. The disruption of normal commuting patterns caused by the pandemic has only increased the prevalence of biking citywide, and CB5

feels strongly that the City must capitalize on these changes in behavior to dramatically increase protected bike lanes and emphasize enforcement of safe driving, cycling, and pedestrian behavior as this transition away from cars continues.

# **Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
3/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new plazas	Broadway plaza seating upgrade — With the recent expansion of the Broadway plazas, the Garment District Alliance is seeking to upgrade our plaza seating to the Landscape Forms Parc Centre Chair with end arms. Many of our existing chairs have been in use for nearly ten years. We recently purchased 30 of the new chairs, but still need roughly 370 more to completely upgrade all 5 of the plazas. The unit cost per chair is \$340, putting the cost to upgrade all of the chairs at \$125,800. Any funding toward this replacement project would be a huge help.	
5/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new plazas	Flatiron Plaza and Worth Square Permanent Redesign & Reconstruction (Total Project will be over \$40M when design completed – only ~\$10M currently allocated in City capital budget)	
7/31	DOT	Repair or provide new street lights	Complete City Lights Phase II Installs in CB5 district	
14/31	DOT	Repair or provide new street lights	Broadway lighting — A capital buildout of the Broadway plazas has been promised for a decade. In the most recent city budget, two blocks (38th to 40th Streets) were finally budgeted for the capital process, but an actual capital buildout is still at minimum several years away, and likely longer. As a temporary safety measure, we would request that the city fund lighting, either via new poles or attachments to existing poles, to illuminate the pedestrian areas between 36th and 41st Streets. Of particular importance is the new fully pedestrianized block between 39th and 40th Streets.	
15/31	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	Repair ponding condition at 12 W 31 st	

16/31	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	Repair ponding condition at SE corner of 37th street and Broadway
17/31	DOT	Install streetscape improvements	Additional Broadway Vision Streetscape Improvement Projects (SIP) from 27thst to 31st  — this enhancement would fall under the Flatiron BID expansion jurisdiction.
18/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Penn Station. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
19/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Herald Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
20/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Greeley Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.

21/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Times Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
22/31	DOT	Repair or construct new medians or bus pads	5.5 blocks of Park Avenue South Median Restorations (\$5,200 for planter repair at 31st Street + multiple new tree plantings: 3 btw 28- 29 Streets / 3 btw 29-30 Streets / 5 btw 30-31 Streets / 4 btw 31-32 Streets) The Partnership will be putting up at least \$30K to clear, weed, and seasonally landscape this sections of PAS medians in our expansion area
27/31	DOT	Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps	Request for ADA Access on the following street corners (request funding for ramps): NE corner of E45th and Vanderbilt Ave (near UrbanSpace at 230 Park Ave) - SE corner of E47th and Vanderbilt Ave (near HSBC at 250 Park Ave) - NE corner of E48th and 5th Ave (near Ted Baker London at 595 Fifth Ave)

# **Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
5/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Study to identify locations to install APTs in CB5	
9/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Increase funding to add staff lines for more DOT after hours inspectors	
24/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Study assessing cost, benefits, and feasibility of transitioning NYC's concrete procurement for infrastructure projects, sidewalks, and ongoing maintainance to solely/mostly carbon concrete (i.e., concrete containing recycled CO <sub>2</sub> ) sources	

## PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

## **Manhattan Community Board 5**

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

#### Insufficient park or open space

While CB5 has Central Park on its periphery, along with Madison Square Park, Union Square and Bryant Park within its borders, the district still lacks the open spaces that are common in other Community Districts. The lack of public open space has become even more apparent during the pandemic. Accordingly, insufficient park or open space is our greatest concern within this policy area. While CB5 does not believe that public funding should be given to POPS (privately owned public spaces) there is an opportunity that additional public space be built into upcoming land use /development projects. Additionally, CB5 believes our air and light are public assets that should not be privatized or monopolized by private developers. Light and air must be approached as any other budget assets and they must be treated and protected as such.

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

#### **Needs for Parks**

While CB5 has Central Park on its periphery, along with Madison Square Park, Union Square and Bryant Park within its borders, the district still lacks the open spaces that are common in other Community Districts. The lack of public open space has become even more apparent during the pandemic. Accordingly, insufficient park or open space is our greatest concern within this policy area. While CB5 does not believe that public funding should be given to POPS (privately owned public spaces) there is an opportunity that additional public space be built into upcoming land use /development projects.

Additionally, CB5 believes our air and light are public assets that should not be privatized or monopolized by private developers. Light and air must be approached as any other budget assets and they must be treated and protected as such.

Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities: CB5 has seen the expansion of residential and commercial buildings which has heightened the awareness and need for public spaces and how these are managed. Unfortunately, there is no one Agency that has a handle on the overall planning of the City when taking into account issues such as shadows, access to green space, public toilets and other factors affecting public spaces.

#### **Needs for Cultural Services**

Broadway Theatre brings over 100,000 jobs to the District and plays an especially important role here, as well as for all of NYC. All of the theatrical arts organizations within the District require assistance to bring back the tourists, theatre audiences and museum goers that help support all of New York City. These organizations need grants and funding to address their physical plants, but also supports for advertising and a plan to ensure that patrons feel safe when attending any art or theatrical events throughout the District.

#### **Needs for Library Services**

No comments

## **Needs for Community Boards**

The issue of funding for the Community Board office has been of particular concern to CB5 and has been its number one budget request for the last two years. The participation of ordinary individuals in the processes that determine

how we live in the city is vital, particularly in a time where increasingly such participation is being chipped away. Accordingly, CB5 believes that funding a Board office that can hire competitively and that can robustly handle stakeholder requests is of primary importance.

#### **Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/31	NYPL	Provide new or replacement equipment to a library, including technology (NYPL)	HEISKELL LIBRARY : HVAC replacement \$675,000 capital request	

### **Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
23/25	NYPL	Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections (NYPL)	Support increased expense funding for library to reengage with patrons following pandemic and implementation of new strategies such as outdoor programming	

# 6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

#### **Other Capital Requests**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
11/31	Other	Other capital budget request	All current and new DEP\DDC infrastructure projects in the community district 5 must have funding expanded or included to support small business impacted by the construction. DDC projects, particularly water main projects with DEP, can take years and significantly impact local businesses. This impact must be mitigated within the DDC contract for this work.	

#### **Other Expense Requests**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/25	Other	Other expense budget request	Budget for a Director of the Public Realm within the Mayor's Office.	
10/25	Other	Other expense budget request	Increase the enforcement budget of the Office of Special Enforcement in the NYC Mayor's Office to enforce existing and future short-term rental laws. As NYC recovers from COVID, we anticipate a significant increase in efforts by some landlords and building owners to circumvent the law to profit off of platforms like AirBNB, moving housing units off of the market from NYC residents and contributing to the broader housing affordability crisis.	
22/25	DCWP	Other expense budget request for DCA	Increase funding for the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement to properly to oversee and implement Local Law 18 of 2021, which allows for the issuance of 4,000 new street vendor permits over the next 10 years, creates an Office of Street Vendor Enforcement, and establishes a street vendor advisory board.	

## 7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

#### **Capital Budget Requests**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/31	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	Requesting the additional \$8 million necessary to fully fund the conversion of the Paramount Hotel by Breaking Ground to supportive housing (235 west 46th street)	
2/31	DHS	Other facilities for the homeless requests	Add new Safe Haven beds in the CB5 area from the DHS purpose built shelter program with quality ample indoor amenities, private outdoor terraces and common space so that clients are not hanging out on the streets. To the extent possible, select a site in conjunction with the community board so that these facilities are spaced out as much as possible. By supporting nonprofit ownership of consciously designed shelters, the City can save substantial monies all while having better control over the portfolio and benefiting from nonprofits' ability to provide quality services in settings tailored to their use and purpose	
3/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new plazas	Broadway plaza seating upgrade – With the recent expansion of the Broadway plazas, the Garment District Alliance is seeking to upgrade our plaza seating to the Landscape Forms Parc Centre Chair with end arms. Many of our existing chairs have been in use for nearly ten years. We recently purchased 30 of the new chairs, but still need roughly 370 more to completely upgrade all 5 of the plazas. The unit cost per chair is \$340, putting the cost to upgrade all of the chairs at \$125,800. Any funding toward this replacement project would be a huge help.	
4/31	DHS	Other capital budget request for DHS	Continued funding for the ELLA program as well as term sheet programs that are middle to moderate income	
5/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new plazas	Flatiron Plaza and Worth Square Permanent Redesign & Reconstruction (Total Project will be over \$40M when design completed – only ~\$10M currently allocated in City capital budget)	

6/31	DOHMH	Other capital budget request for DOHMH	Develop medical respite beds for patients that are not sick enough to provide hospital level care but are discharged by hospitals with mental health service needs. The city could consider using underutilized hotel space to save on capital cost.
7/31	DOT	Repair or provide new street lights	Complete City Lights Phase II Installs in CB5 district
8/31	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school	Fund the 100,000 square foot public school on the Bleecker School site in Greenwich Village on land owned by New York University; and utilize this opportunity before it passes back to NYU
9/31	HPD	Other capital budget request for HPD	Increase capital allocation to HPD Supportive Housing Loan Program, and raise the budget for maintenance and operations (M&O) of those buildings so that supportive housing is well maintained, lasts the extent of its viable life, and provides a decent home for thousands of singles and families that have been chronically homeless. The Supportive Housing Network of New York consistently reports shortfalls in M&O budgets of buildng security, janitorial staff, insurance, and buildng
10/31	NYPL	Provide new or replacement equipment to a library, including technology (NYPL)	HEISKELL LIBRARY : HVAC replacement \$675,000 capital request
11/31	Other	Other capital budget request	All current and new DEP\DDC infrastructure projects in the community district 5 must have funding expanded or included to support small business impacted by the construction. DDC projects, particularly water main projects with DEP, can take years and significantly impact local businesses. This impact must be mitigated within the DDC contract for this work.
12/31	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	Add drainage in the 14th Street Corridor to mitigate flooding at the Union Square subway station.
13/31	DEP	Other capital budget request for DEP	Add drainage in the 28th Street Corridor to mitigate flooding in the 28th Street subway station.

14/31	DOT	Repair or provide new street lights	Broadway lighting — A capital buildout of the Broadway plazas has been promised for a decade. In the most recent city budget, two blocks (38th to 40th Streets) were finally budgeted for the capital process, but an actual capital buildout is still at minimum several years away, and likely longer. As a temporary safety measure, we would request that the city fund lighting, either via new poles or attachments to existing poles, to illuminate the pedestrian areas between 36th and 41st Streets. Of particular importance is the new fully pedestrianized block between 39th and 40th Streets.
15/31	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	Repair ponding condition at 12 W 31 st
16/31	DOT	Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)	Repair ponding condition at SE corner of 37th street and Broadway
17/31	DOT	Install streetscape improvements	Additional Broadway Vision Streetscape Improvement Projects (SIP) from 27thst to 31st — this enhancement would fall under the Flatiron BID expansion jurisdiction.
18/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Penn Station. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.

19/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Herald Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
20/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Greeley Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
21/31	DOT	Upgrade or create new greenways	Additional funding to support green infrastructure initiatives at Times Square. These green infrastructure initiatives should include rain gardens, stormwater management, greenstreets, etc. to create a variety of sustainable green infrastructure practices in public and private streetscapes in the district. The City should use existing development proposals in the District as a platform to insert these City priorities into proposals.
22/31	DOT	Repair or construct new medians or bus pads	5.5 blocks of Park Avenue South Median Restorations (\$5,200 for planter repair at 31st Street + multiple new tree plantings: 3 btw 28- 29 Streets / 3 btw 29-30 Streets / 5 btw 30-31 Streets / 4 btw 31-32 Streets) The Partnership will be putting up at least \$30K to clear, weed, and seasonally landscape this sections of PAS medians in our expansion area
23/31	ACS	Renovate, upgrade, or expand ACS sites that provide services to children, youth and families	To fund renovations to increase programmatic space at the ACS Children's Center which is a 24/7 temporary care center for children entering foster care, located in Manhattan CD 6 but utilized by CB5 youth as well.

24/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	To close the digital divide and provide all schools in our district with technology upgrades like inschool infrastructure and take-home equipment to cover every student in school and for take home purposes.
25/31	SCA	Renovate interior building component	To complete installation of A/C units in every school instructional room within our district as per the City's five year plan to ensure our students have a comfortable and safe environment in which to learn and thrive in.
26/31	SCA	Renovate interior building component	To bring every school up to full accessibility status. Accessible schools are located in a fully or partially accessible building where an individual with mobility impairment may enter and access all relevant programs and services, including the science laboratory, library, cafeteria, and the gymnasium; in some cases school programs may need to be re-located to accommodate access. At least one restroom must be accessible as well.
27/31	DOT	Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps	Request for ADA Access on the following street corners (request funding for ramps): NE corner of E45th and Vanderbilt Ave (near UrbanSpace at 230 Park Ave) - SE corner of E47th and Vanderbilt Ave (near HSBC at 250 Park Ave) - NE corner of E48th and 5th Ave (near Ted Baker London at 595 Fifth Ave)
28/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	Funding for technology upgrades for PS 340, the Sixth Avenue Elementary School, including purchase of 10 Promethean Smart Boards and upgrades of dated computers and printers
29/31	SCA	Renovate exterior building component	To install green roofs, farms, and recycling operations in all schools in district to increase sustainability.
30/31	SCA	Provide technology upgrade	Provide computers (800) for School of the Future

31/31 DEP

Other capital budget request for DEP

Arrange for the identification and disposition or long-term lease of city-space in CD 5, with a minimum usable space of 1,000 square feet that receives good light, for Midtown South Community Council to add a second location to their urban farm initiative. This has been successfully piloted through a farm provided in partnership with Midtown Community Court. Community benefits include: provides affordable, healthy, and organic food; offers jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities; multiple environmental and inftrastructure benefits

#### **Expense Budget Requests**

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/25	Other	Other expense budget request	Budget for a Director of the Public Realm within the Mayor's Office.	
2/25	SBS	Provide or expand business recovery assistance after an emergency	Funding to support small businesses/ revitalize empty storefronts	
3/25	HRA	Other homelessness prevention program request	Add staff lines to re-create casework team to focus on connecting individuals and families to permanent housing. Homeless and at-risk families and individuals are still having trouble accessing landlords to secure permanent housing. In the past, there was a first-rate team of workers assembled by the City to move homeless veterans out of shelters and off the streets using Section-8 vouchers specifically earmarked by the Feds. It was a remarkable success. Legal Aid and other advocates would like to push for \$500k for a five-member team to replicate that model.	
4/25	DCP	Study land use and zoning to better match current use or future neighborhood needs	Budget to fund 197-a planning in MCB5	
5/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Study to identify locations to install APTs in CB5	
6/25	HRA	Other request for services for vulnerable New Yorkers	Increase funding to add staff lines for ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) teams.	
7/25	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	Additional funding for expansion of the Mental Health Teams Pilot Program (B-HEARD) operated jointly with DHMH to provide citywide emergency mental health responses.	

8/25	HRA	Other expense budget request for HRA	Increase funding for Legal Services for low- and moderate-income tenants in anticipation of the expiration of the eviction moratorium. At present, it is set to expire in January 2022, and vulnerable tenants will flood social services organizations when that happens. Legal Services must be prepared and staffed up to handle this influx. Tenants need rapid access to an attorney to educate them about their rights, guide them in housing court cases, and even assist them in their applications for available funding targeted at eviction prevention, such as the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
9/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Increase funding to add staff lines for more DOT after hours inspectors
10/25	Other	Other expense budget request	Increase the enforcement budget of the Office of Special Enforcement in the NYC Mayor's Office to enforce existing and future short-term rental laws. As NYC recovers from COVID, we anticipate a significant increase in efforts by some landlords and building owners to circumvent the law to profit off of platforms like AirBNB, moving housing units off of the market from NYC residents and contributing to the broader housing affordability crisis.
11/25	NYPD	Other NYPD programs requests	Make permanent the Midtown Business Recovery Detail. Funding to commit more "beat cops" to the district - officers whose diversity matches their beat, who can know the area, its people, and can address their public safety concerns from a community perspective rather than an external NYPD "enforcement" perspective.

12/25	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance the Summer Youth Employment Program	To add funding to the Youth Employment program to meet need. SYEP is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experience each summer. Participants have the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help in developing their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and workbased opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future. This program is a win-win for employers and NYC youth.
13/25	DFTA	Funding for a new senior center program	Provide for senior center programming in CB5. We have no city site specifically to address senior needs in the district. Increase funding to the Department for the Aging for the purpose of opening additional neighborhood-specific housing services sites in CB5 and citywide.
14/25	ACS	Other expense budget request for ACS	Baseline an additional \$8M to Fair Futures to maintain year over year funding levels through which thousands of young people in foster care ages 11-21 are receiving coaching, tutoring and/or educational advocacy and support. The City invested \$20 million to continue this model in FY2022, however only \$12 million is baselined in FY2023 and beyond.
15/25	DHS	Expand street outreach	Increase funding for Home-Stat. Fully fund the street outreach program that follows client from street to permanent housing. (Additional Case Managers for DHS: Additional funding to provide case managers to homeless individuals and especially families. These individuals face a myriad of problems,
16/25	DSNY	Increase enforcement of dirty sidewalk/dirty area/failure to clean area laws	Increase funding for more DSNY inspectors
17/25	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	Increase funding to add more DOHMH inspectors

18/25	DEP	Other expense budget request for DEP	Increase funding for more DEP after hours inspectors
19/25	DSNY	Provide or expand NYC organics collection program	Increase Funding for a comprehensive education and outreach campaign for NYC composting.  People are not signing up to the program but it is not clear that people know about the program or how the program works. It is also not clear how much outreach has been done to communities.
20/25	DYCD	Other expense budget request for DYCD	To increase the number of Summer Rising seats available in our district in order to support social, emotional, and academic learning in kids left behind by the pandemic, and to support working households.
21/25	DOE	Other educational programs requests	To increase funding for special needs programs, and services to student and their families to address significant impact of pandemic loss of services.
22/25	DCWP	Other expense budget request for DCA	Increase funding for the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement to properly to oversee and implement Local Law 18 of 2021, which allows for the issuance of 4,000 new street vendor permits over the next 10 years, creates an Office of Street Vendor Enforcement, and establishes a street vendor advisory board.
23/25	NYPL	Extend library hours, expand library programs, and enhance library collections (NYPL)	Support increased expense funding for library to reengage with patrons following pandemic and implementation of new strategies such as outdoor programming
24/25	DOT	Other expense budget request for DOT	Study assessing cost, benefits, and feasibility of transitioning NYC's concrete procurement for infrastructure projects, sidewalks, and ongoing maintainance to solely/mostly carbon concrete (i.e., concrete containing recycled CO <sub>2</sub> ) sources
25/25	DEP	Investigate air quality complaints at specific location	Additional Street level air quality monitoring in high traffic corridors and child recreational areas within CB5.