

***Statements of Community
District Needs
and
Community Board
Budget Requests***

Fiscal Year
2023

**Manhattan
Community District
7**

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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:

CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov

This report is broadly structured as follows:

1. Overarching Community District Needs

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

2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

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

3. Community Board Budget Requests

The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the 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.

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Manhattan Community Board 7

Address: 250 West 87th Street, 2nd Floor

Phone: (212) 362-4008

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Website: www.nyc.gov/manhattancb7

Chair: Steven Brown

District Manager: Michelle Booker

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

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage 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
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC 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 housing 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

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage 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 / HISPANIC 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 housing 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 7

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	209,084	100.00	222,129	100.00	13,045	6.2	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	30,997	14.8	32,905	14.8	1,908	6.2	0.0
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	209,084	100.0	222,129	100.0	13,045	6.2	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	31,347	15.0	32,844	14.8	1,497	4.8	-0.2
White non-Hispanic	140,850	67.4	139,967	63.0	-883	-0.6	-4.4
Black non-Hispanic	15,834	7.6	14,946	6.7	-888	-5.6	-0.9
Asian non-Hispanic	15,933	7.6	22,826	10.3	6,893	43.3	2.7
Some other race, non-Hispanic	947	0.5	2,163	1.0	1,216	128.4	0.5
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	4,173	2.0	9,383	4.2	5,210	124.9	2.2
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	120,694	100.0	126,397	100.0	5,703	4.7	0.0
Occupied housing units	109,058	90.4	110,770	87.6	1,712	1.6	-2.8
Vacant housing units	11,636	9.6	15,627	12.4	3,991	34.3	2.8

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. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Manhattan Community District 7 (MCD7) encompasses Manhattan's Upper West Side, from 59th Street to 110th Street, and from Central Park West to the Hudson River. Our District is home to 222,128 people (according to the 2020 Census), up from 209,084 in 2010.

The Upper West Side is a vibrant community. Residents and millions of visitors are attracted to its cultural institutions, parks, retail, restaurants, and diverse architecture. Prominent points of interest include Central Park, Riverside Park, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Historical Center, the Bard Center, the Children's Museum, Lincoln Center, the Beacon Theater, Symphony Space, Time Warner Center and numerous houses of worship. Even though tourism was greatly reduced during the pandemic, residents and tourists are now venturing out in greater numbers. Public Transportation is easily accessible with 5 major subway lines, 4 crosstown bus lines, and 5 north-south bus lines. Yet sadly there are too many in our community struggling in pockets of poverty.

- While median household income in 2019 was \$139,070 compared to \$70,590 City wide, 9.2% live below the poverty line.
- 25% are food insecure.
- The district has the third largest proportion of seniors in the City, many with limited resources and a variety of special needs.
- The district continues to lose its stock of affordable housing, making it harder for the working poor and the middle class to remain in the district.
- Over 6,000 units of public housing for low income residents are in desperate need of major repair and upgrading.
- Cuts to programs and services during the Pandemic have created serious problems for vulnerable children and adults.

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Manhattan Community Board 7

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Affordable housing

Affordable housing is the district's most critical need and its lack contributes to a myriad of other issues facing district residents -- homelessness, food insecurity, social and emotional problems, inadequate health care and domestic violence. Only 26% of housing is considered affordable. Over 20% of Manhattan Community Board 7 (MCB7) residents are severely rent burdened, paying more than 50% of their income on rent. In addition, a significant percentage of units are illegally warehoused. The vacancy rate in MCD7 is almost double that of the City as a whole (12.4% versus 6.9% for New York City). The recent end of the State-imposed moratorium on evictions from residential and commercial properties sets the stage for greater dispossession and homelessness, further deepening the personal crises facing many MCB7 families.

Schools

The most vulnerable children in our district face the steepest barriers to accessing local educational, social and mental health resources. The estimated percentage of children under 18 living in poverty in the district grew from 6.5% in 2010 to 9.3% in 2019. Indications are that the Pandemic has further increased this percentage. There are 22,000 students in public schools (pre-K through 12 grade) in Community District 7 (CD7), who comprise most of Community School District 3 (CSD3), which continues north into West Harlem with a few schools not in CD7. CSD3 is among the most diverse districts in the New York City public school system, whether measured by race, ethnicity, socio-economic status or student performance, yet many of the schools in the district do not reflect that diversity. Free and reduced-price lunch eligibility, a Federal measure of poverty, comprised 43.9% of K-8 students and 54% of high school students in CSD3. These racial and economic disparities mean that many children are in schools that are underserved by the school system and by after-school programming. To address these equity problems, there is an urgent need to target the budgets of the Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development on Community District 7's pockets of poverty, to fund Summer Rising, to add professional staff and to provide after school programs.

Social services

Food insecurity: Twenty five percent of Community District 7 (CD7) residents are food insecure. The Meal Gap, New York City's measure of food insecurity, represents families' and individuals' missing meals that result from inadequate household food budgets. In CD7, the annual Meal Gap is 4 million meals, up from 3.3 million pre Pandemic. This gap directly impacts community health and health care costs. Every person needs stable, reliable access to food that meets their specific nutritional requirements. Many seniors rely on meals at their local Senior Center but the Centers' food programs are underfunded. Currently senior center contracts cover less than half the actual cost of the meals. Children rely on free meals at public schools, but lack food on the weekends and school holidays. Hunger impacts a child's nervous system and prevents that child from learning and staying focused. Food insecurity is also a leading cause of lifelong health and mental health issues. Meal programs and food pantries face ongoing increases in costs of meals (due to labor and raw food costs) without a corresponding increase in government funds and donated food. The need for increased government support is compelling.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Manhattan Community Board 7

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Access to healthy food and lifestyle programs

Food Insecurity now haunts more than one in every four residents of Community District 7. The Meal Gap, NYC's measure of food insecurity, represents families' and individuals' missing meals that result from inadequate household food budgets. In Community District 7, the annual Meal Gap is 4 million meals, up from 3.3 million pre Pandemic. This gap directly impacts community health and health care costs. During the Pandemic, food access was also reduced by disruptions to local food sources. During 2020, the food workforce was reduced by two thirds and 1,000+ restaurants and food retail outlets closed. While 2021 has seen the reopening of many food establishments, the shortage of service workers and new health protocols have contributed to a limited recovery. Meal programs and food pantries face ongoing increases in costs of meals (due to labor and raw food costs) without a corresponding increase in government funds and donated food. Home Delivered Meals contracts only covered about 60% of the costs of weekend meals and 64% for the week-day meal. Senior centers have not seen increases in many years although both food and labor costs have gone up substantially (both rising prices of raw food and the mandatory increase in the minimum wage.) To address this crisis, Community Board 7 requests: continued financial support and food access for all children and youth who qualify for free and reduced price lunch; A higher reimbursement rate for meal providers for senior citizens; More funding for programs that address food insecurity, including West Side Campaign Against Hunger, Goddard Riverside and Get Food NYC.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

District Need: Health coverage and public benefit enrollment assistance. At St. Luke's and Mt. Sinai West, a "HEAL" office assists patients who do not have insurance in enrolling in insurance or Medicaid; and offers payment plans for services according to Medicare rates. The Ryan Center charges patients based upon their income. Additional sites offering similar services are needed to reach all CD7 residents.

District Need: More access to financial counseling and legal assistance is needed for people who are unable to pay medical bills (e.g., reports to collections, litigation).

District Need: More information and access to comprehensive and preventative care is needed for low-income patients, including for infant nutrition and to support pregnant mothers.

District Need: Funding to increase awareness of available relief from Covid-related bills via marketing and communications efforts, both about the appeal process and about providers who are positioned to help guide clients through the process.

District Need: More funding for mental health services in jails and for justice-involved youth transitioning from jails.

District Need: Health care access for out-of-school/out-of-work (OSOW) youth. According to census data 11 percent of youth aged 16 to 24 in Community District 7 are considered "disconnected" or OSOW. Over the decade prior to the pandemic, the city's OSOW population declined by nearly 40 percent, largely due to sustained improvements in the high school graduation rate and consistent job growth, but remained at one in eight 16 to 24 year-old New Yorkers before Covid-19.. The OSOW population in the City is overwhelmingly black and hispanic.

District Need: Increase education and programs, such as NYC Smoke-Free, to prevent and reduce vaping (use of e-cigarettes) and other forms of addiction. While the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes, vapor products or liquid nicotine to persons under age 21 is now prohibited in New York State, and use among high school students has declined, E-cigarettes remain a cause of negative health impacts, including lung damage among the young, and may increase the risk of severe illness from Covid-19. The Food and Drug Administration, faced with a September 2021 deadline for ruling on whether a number of vape products could remain on the market, stated that they need more time to complete their review of applications for Juul products and other top brands, which meanwhile remain available. NYC Smoke-Free works with schools in CD7 and would benefit from more support to have greater reach and impact.

District Need: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene should collect and report more information to the public and Community Board on lead poisoning, including any initial positive test, any retest results, and results six months later; as well as findings of investigations.

Needs for Older NYs

A large percentage of seniors in the district reside in New York City Public Housing.

District Need: Senior centers, a necessary lifeline for seniors to maintain connections to necessary health and social services, must be adequately funded, kept in good repair and maintained. The Department For The Aging must always ensure that they are properly staffed.

District Need: Thousands of seniors and residents eligible for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) are not currently enrolled in those programs, and therefore may be paying more rent than necessary despite their limited incomes. This underenrollment is of particular concern as many seniors are outliving their retirement savings. Community Board 7 urges the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to expand community outreach to senior centers and non-profit organizations and provide more information, including informational sessions, to ensure that every qualified resident is getting proper rent increase exemptions.

Needs for Homeless

District Need: Provide technology devices, infrastructure and support. Shelter and supportive housing residents as well as those living outside in Community District 7 need access to a) technology, including Wifi, cell service, and hardware; and b) staff to conduct training on how to use that technology. This is urgently needed for residents to communicate with medical and mental health providers and access care as well as have educational and economic opportunities (Goddard Riverside). Children and youth experiencing homelessness need technology access for remote learning.

District Need: Provide Consistent preventive services and treatment in shelters. The Coalition for the Homeless has documented the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on shelter residents and the street homeless. Those experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19 due to lack of consistent access to cleaning and sanitation facilities and supplies; access to face coverings; screening upon entry to shelters; distance from those testing positive for Covid-19; ability to access DHS staff when ill; access to free testing; timely notification of test results; timely isolation placements when ill; and following protocols.

District Need: Provide funding to maintain current services for supportive housing facilities in Community District 7, including case management services, social work, mental health services, health services related to medication, nutrition, and social activities. Supportive housing is another effective way to end homelessness for individuals and families, especially those living with physical and psychiatric disabilities. Even prior to the pandemic, there was not sufficient supply to meet the record demand, and state reimbursement rates for supportive housing lagged behind operational costs. Providing housing first gets people back on their feet and allows them to pull their lives together more quickly. As one example, research has shown a 50% decrease in alcoholism when people who are homeless are housed.

District Need: Provide designated housing for specific homeless populations. Additional designated housing is needed specifically for women, victims of domestic violence, people who identify as transgender or gender nonconforming, and people with HIV. In addition, more housing is needed which would allow residents to keep pets, as animal prohibitions are often a barrier to entering shelters. And more designated space for families is needed to ensure children have the stability they need for growth, mental health, and educational equity.

District Need: Monthly data by district to support the homeless population in their community. Without current data, it is impossible to act and communicate from an informed position about the needs, conditions, services, and supports for those experiencing homelessness in our community. At a minimum, communities need monthly statistics on shelters by type, district, resident demographics (e.g., family composition, age, gender, race, disabilities), and capacity. In addition, statistics on Covid-19 infection, hospitalization, and mortality rates among the homeless would assist local organizations in targeting aid. Of concern is the disparate impact of DHS's decisions for particular populations, such as young adults or people with disabilities, which is impossible to assess without data.

District Need: Provide additional disaggregated data from city agencies to enable evaluation of fair share claims, and revise outdated criteria as recommended by the City Council (NYC Council, 2017).

Needs for Low Income NYs

Families and individuals with low incomes face myriad difficulties including access to affordable housing, healthy nutritious food, quality education, as well as health and social services. Because too many households in the District are rent burdened they are also food insecure; many aren't able to afford necessary medication. The City needs to incentivize developers to include a mix of income levels in all new developments. (See section on Housing). The threat of eviction and homelessness is a major concern.

District Need: The New York City Public Housing developments in the District need to be adequately repaired and maintained, including all individual apartments and all buildings. Elevators, security systems, heat and hot water, front doors and grounds all need to be in proper working order.

District Need: Social service providers lack funding to provide programming and services for the specific and unique needs of this population including training, help accessing resources, child care, access to health care and medicine and access to educational and vocational opportunities.

Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/20	HHC	Provide a new or expanded health care facility	<i>Create a dedicated Health Clinic for abused children. More trauma-informed care is needed for victims of child abuse. In Community District 7, a hospital unit or community health center could work in collaboration with Safe Horizon and NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault to establish a child-centered clinic or child advocacy center that provides evidence-based mental health care treatment and intervention for children who experience abuse. Since the start of the pandemic, many children have not had access to school staff and caseworkers; and there has been an increase in health care provider reports of sexual assaults against children. Seventy percent of assaults are directed at children, yet most funding is designated for adult victims.</i>	
7/20	DHS	Provide new homeless shelters or SROs	<i>Create a Safe Haven Shelter to address the rising number of those living on the street in Community District 7. The Safe Haven model includes smaller facilities (50-60 beds) and supportive services, and is considered to be the most effective means by which to persuade those living on the street to accept an offer of shelter (Center for Urban Community Services). Providers who do street outreach report that most people reject offers of shelter if they are not proximate to the neighborhood to which they've become accustomed. Currently, Community District 7 has only one Safe Haven shelter; adding another would provide a valuable tool for street outreach teams working to move this vulnerable population off the streets in Community District 7 and into the shelter system.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
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1/22	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance food assistance, such as Food Stamps / SNAP	<i>Provide funding for programs that address food insecurity, including West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH), Meals on Wheels, DOROT, other food pantries, and Get Food NYC. The Meal Gap, NYC's measure of food insecurity, represents families' and individuals' missing meals that result from inadequate household food budgets. In Community District 7, the annual Meal Gap is 4 million meals, up from 3.3 million pre Pandemic. More than one in four people in Community District 7 is food insecure. WSCAH donates food for 100,000 meals every week. Public Schools provide free breakfast and lunch for children only when school is in session. These children need nutritious food on weekends and when school is not in session.</i>
3/22	DHS	Expand street outreach	<i>Homeless Outreach: More funding for the Manhattan Outreach Consortium (MOC), a multiagency effort established by Goddard Riverside, to provide outreach to those experiencing street homelessness. Goddard Riverside dispatches MOC teams to respond to 311 calls and Goddard's caseload remains high. It can take up to 200 interactions over months or years to develop relationships with those experiencing street homelessness and provide them with access to healthcare, counseling, nutrition, and shelter. According to Goddard Riverside, since 2007, "the MOC has placed more than 1,500 formerly homeless adults in permanent housing."</i>
7/22	HHC	Other expense budget request for HHC	<i>Mental Health Training: Allocate expense budget funding for hospitals and healthcare facilities to provide training for medical providers in trauma-informed care and forensics (to identify, report, and care for children who are victims of sexual assault and abuse). Since the start of the pandemic, many children have not had access to school staff and caseworkers; and there has been an increase in health care provider reports of sexual assaults against children. Seventy percent of assaults are directed at children, yet most funding is designated for adult victims.</i>

9/22	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Address sexual assault of adolescents and adults: Community Board 7 requests increased funding for the Crime Victims Treatment Center to administer and provide services for sexual assault survivors, including training of SAFE Examiners. Over 600 victims of sexual assault were served by Mount Sinai West and Mount Sinai Morningside Hospitals in 2020. The medical staff is trained in a comprehensive 40-Hour SAFE Training Course, called "The Assessment and Evaluation of Adult/Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence." The course trains medical professionals to provide competent, compassionate care to sexual assault victims, while using the most advanced technology associated with DNA and other sexual assault forensic evidence collection and preservation.</i>
20/22	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Funding for reliable, accurate, and rapid Covid-19 testing of staff working in congregate settings (nursing homes and adult care facilities). While New York State now requires nursing home staff to be vaccinated (with medical and religious exceptions), risks from those with waivers and from breakthrough infections leave patients in these settings vulnerable.</i>

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Manhattan Community Board 7

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Educational attainment

In school year 2020-2021, enrollment in public schools on the Upper West Side declined sharply, in some schools by as much as 30%. Families leaving the City, struggles with virtual attendance and fears of contagion all played a part. At the date of this writing, official enrollment figures for school year 2021-2022 are not yet available. We will know soon how much of this decline was a blip and how much was a trend. Enrollment is a central component in how the Department of Education (DOE) provides funding to schools and funding levels create the constraints on what services schools can offer to their students. While adequate funding does not translate directly to student achievement, it is a necessary precondition. The Department of Education's Fair Student Funding (FSF) formula determines a dollar amount for each student weighted for the costs associated with the services that student requires. In school year 2021-2022, for the first time since the formula was adopted in 2007, all schools City-wide received at least 100% of FSF, enabled by one-time Federal funds flowing through the State of New York. A significant number of schools in Community Board 7 saw increased resources from this full funding. Along with special purpose funds the DOE has provided to mitigate the impacts of the Pandemic, such as the Summer Rising Program, full funding of the formula has enabled schools in the district to add critical staff to address student academic and socio-emotional needs that have resulted from a year and a half of disrupted schooling. There are three sources of risk that raise equity concerns for Community Board 7 about FY2023 funding for schools in the district: 1. The current increases in school allocations are funded by one-time Federal resources. While New York State has committed to use these funds to maintain aid levels until 2025, future revenue shortfalls could undermine that commitment. 2. Reductions in enrollment that persist will require schools to cut back on staffing, program offerings and support services, as the FSF formula, if left unchanged, drives fewer dollars to those schools. Ironically, under-enrolled schools are more likely to be those where academic performance is weaker, and financial need greater, because families use the school choice system to go elsewhere. 3. In the Upper West Side's Community School District 3, many schools do not meet the cut-off that determines eligibility for Federal Title 1 funding, the principal source of dedicated resources for poor students. (In Manhattan, schools must have 50% of their students eligible for free or reduced price lunch). Schools that are not eligible may have 40% or more of their students living in poverty, requiring additional services without dedicated funds. Covid related funds have helped schools fill this gap. As they are spent down, the gap will again grow.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

The Covid pandemic has challenged all areas of our educational system and, as in so many other areas of civic life, called into even starker contrast and exacerbated pre-existing inequities in public education

Though remote and hybrid learning proved an inferior substitute for in-person learning for most students during the last school year, the most vulnerable students and families in the District and Citywide faced the steepest barriers to accessing the educational resources needed, including:

- a shortage of working laptops, tablets and other devices;
- difficulty accessing reliable and fast Wifi (especially for those in NYCHA housing and homeless facilities);
- and challenges accessing in a timely fashion the mandated full program of services for students with special needs.

As a result, NYC public school students entered the 2021-2022 school year with unprecedented levels of academic and social/emotional need, requiring unprecedented levels of support as the City seeks to mitigate the impact of the past 18 months, combat learning loss, and ensure that students have the tools they require to be successful,

both in the classroom and in life.

The goals as laid out in the New York City Universal Academic Recovery plan, combined with the full funding of the Fair Student Funding formula, align with many of the most critical needs currently being experienced by the schools in our District. Sustaining these services into FY 2022-2023, however, will require finding alternative funding sources as one-time federal funds are depleted. With the Delta Variant surging and additional variants beginning to spread, schools will face ongoing Covid-related needs into FY 2023 and beyond.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

Community District 7 families with children have long relied heavily on services provided by the City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed how critical this reliance is to significant numbers of parents, guardians and caregivers -- and the economy that employs them. Access to DYCD funded services addresses both the needs of students whose lives have been disrupted and the needs of parents for a safe, enriching environment for their children during the afterschool and summer workday.

Programs that care for children and youth when schools are not in session are crucial to the wellbeing of young people in MCD7, providing a safe refuge for children and youths who would otherwise be prey to dangerous influences, including gang activity. These programs provide remedial and enrichment learning opportunities, physical activity, productive “downtime”, plus social and emotional support crucial to the physical and mental health of young people, especially the most vulnerable. These DYCD programs are coordinated with community-based organizations and within schools as after class activities and serve the elementary, middle and high school levels, as well as young adults to the age of 24yrs. They include the BEACON, COMPASS and CORNERSTONE programs, Adult Literacy, Homeless Youth Services, Street Outreach, Drop-in Service Centers, Residential Services, Services for Immigrants and Immigrant Families and Workforce Development. Their continuation is critical to the well-being of families in Community Board 7, particularly the most needy.

District Need: Modify funding formulas for afterschool programs to acknowledge pockets of poverty, not just area average household income. Service providers report challenges procuring funding for afterschool programs for elementary age children from low-income families in Manhattan Community District 7 due to metrics which factor in average household income in the populations they serve. Upper West Side neighborhoods have significant income disparity, requiring more refined metrics to serve low income students equitably.

District Need: More research to determine community needs and availability of mental health services for youth, including depression, anxiety, and suicide risk assessment and prevention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, intentional self-harm (suicide) is one of the leading causes of death for children aged 5-14 years.

Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
5/20	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Upgrade school facilities to conform with new COVID-protocols and needs such as faster school Wi-Fi and automatic water faucets to support hand washing, ensuring a stockpile of important capital equipment (e.g., air purification/ventilation systems) for schools and city-funded family and youth programs. DOE personnel in CSD 3 have stressed the need for improved Wi-Fi, additional ventilation system upgrades and hand-washing facilities in the schools. These same issues persist in non-DOE sites under contract with the City to provide youth programming. These needs are directly related to the need to respond to the Pandemic and provide supplemental virtual instruction to assist students in reversing the instructional losses of the last year and a half.</i>	
11/20	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school	<i>Provide funding for District schools selected as new U3K and UPK sites to ensure their facilities are suitable to serve the needs of the City's youngest learners without compromising educational opportunities for existing students; expand 3K seat availability in CSD3 to meet demand. The DOE's 3-K Finder for school-year 2021-2022 shows only two 3K sites in Community School District 3, not nearly enough to meet district demand. Given the crowded nature of many CSD3 schools, where additional 3K and UPK sites are needed but would take space away from valued district programs, CD7 requests that the School Construction Authority seek alternative sites in the many non-profit spaces available in the neighborhood.</i>	

16/20	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Obtain 2020-24 Capital Plan funding for four additional elementary and middle schools in Community School District 3 to ensure that at least one-third of these schools are handicapped accessible. Currently, only 4 of the 23 buildings housing public elementary and middle schools located in Community School District 3, qualify as fully accessible under the ADA. Eight elementary and middle schools in Community School District 3 are listed on the NYC DOE's website as not accessible at all. New capital commitments for 4 additional schools should be equitably distributed throughout the CSD3, be appropriately split between elementary and middle schools and consider the current locations of special programs that would otherwise not be available to physically handicapped students.</i>
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Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
5/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Fund all schools at least 100% of Fair Student Funding, enabling schools to increase needed staffing positions (e.g., additional teachers, literacy specialists, social workers, and school psychologists). For FY2022, full funding of State Foundation Aid has provided NYC public schools with 100 percent of the allocation due under the Fair Student Funding formula, offering much-needed relief to schools which have not received their full allotment of funding since the adoption of the formula in 2007. The challenge will be sustaining funding levels beyond the 2021-2022 school year, as one-time federal funds are spent down by the City and State.</i>	

6/22	DYCD	Other expense budget request for DYCD	<i>Provide increased funding for Department of Youth and Community Development programs sufficient to provide the purchasing power to cover increases in costs for community programming, including the Summer Rising initiative, community-based centers/camps, after school programming (Cornerstone, Beacon, SONYC, Compass), Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Work-Grow-Learn (WGL) and other programs. These programs provide a respite for young people traumatized by the Covid Pandemic. Baseline funding for them and providing the same collective bargaining allowances to the non-profits that run them that are provided to City agencies would allow for planning and effective implementation.</i>
11/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide Department of Education funding for ongoing socio-emotional training for those who work with students (e.g. teachers, principals, administrators, and any adults in contact with students). Community Board 7 also requests that the Department of Education allocate adequate professional development dollars to schools in Community School District 3 for training for teachers and staff on new curriculum and for professional development for teachers at all levels on the design and use of formative assessments to identify and track students so that the appropriate services are provided.</i>
14/22	DOE	Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services	<i>Provide funding for increased medical and school safety support staff (e.g. nurses, school safety agents and crossing guards). Many schools in Community School District 3 have shared nurses during the pandemic such that there is not consistent availability. Safety remains a major parental concern, both within schools and on the streets students must navigate en route to and from schools.</i>

17/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide schools with ongoing supplies and maintenance materials to mitigate the impact of the Pandemic (e.g., a continuous supply of PPE/masks, air filters, back-up electronic devices for students to replace those that are lost or broken). Community Board 7 requests the Department of Education to prioritize funding and procurement support for schools to ensure that sufficient supplies necessary to keep students safe and connected on-line are readily available on an on-going basis.</i>
18/22	DOE	Other expense budget request for DOE	<i>Funding to support the virtual learning infrastructure developed during the Pandemic to supplement in-person learning and make new resources available to schools on an ongoing basis. Some of the innovative programming launched during the 2020-2021 school year has proven successful in reaching and engaging the highest-need students, and should continue to be leveraged. While returning to 100% in-person learning is critical to helping students rebound from the learning loss experienced during the pandemic, programs which supplement the learning done during in-person school hours will continue to be beneficial, including evening/weekend programming and remote options for supplemental work.</i>
19/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Funding for staffing and training to expand certain Community School District 3 educational programs which have been available on a limited or pilot basis that does not meet demand. These programs include U3K, dual language schools and programs, language enrichment programs, support for English language learners and computer science coursework.</i>

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Manhattan Community Board 7

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Police-community relations

The pandemic has led to an increase in residents suffering from mental health problems at the same time that tragic incidents nationally have focused attention on police-community relations. This confluence of events has made funding to provide mental health training and support for uniformed officers of the NYPD an urgent priority. Such training would both assist the NYPD to manage internal issues and enable uniformed officers to identify and deal effectively and appropriately with mental health issues in encounters with the public. Community District 7 requests that the new NYPD crisis intervention curriculum -- Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) -- announced in June 2021, be made available to all officers in Manhattan precincts 20 and 24, as well as the Central Park precinct. While Community Board 7 has great confidence in the officers serving the district, it has been troubling that previous training for officers in how to recognize and work with people in crisis was suspended during the pandemic at a time when mental health stresses in the community were on the rise. This request has the support of the NYPD and the precincts serving the Upper West Side.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

Safety is a major concern for residents and visitors in our community. All public spaces need to be safe for all users.

District Need: Restore overtime funding for the New York Police Department in the 20th, 24th and Central Park Precincts. Overtime is an effective way to supplement the ability of the police to respond to changing circumstances and create a presence when needed. With the use of certain data models for permanent assignment of officers, the use of overtime is needed to fill in gaps of coverage, respond to exigencies, and evenly distribute workflow, and will enable officers familiar with their own precincts to be the ones to respond to such exigencies and needs.

Needs for Emergency Services

The pandemic highlighted the importance of emergency services in the District. The Fire Department played a major role along with the Police Department in keeping the community safe. EMT and the ambulances of area hospitals worked tirelessly to provide care and get patients safely to hospitals. Local hospitals and medical facilities, and pharmacies have been invaluable in caring for residents, providing Covid-19 vaccination and testing sites. We are indebted to and proud of the continuing courageous work by our Fire and Police officers. They work closely with other City agencies to maintain the public safety during storms, floods, fires, and infrastructure breakdowns. They are too often the unsung heroes.

District Need: Provide sufficient funds for the Fire Department for overtime and for infrastructure.

District Need: More funding is needed for the NYPD Sex Crimes Unit to increase staffing and reduce caseloads.

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
4/22	NYPD	Provide resources to train officers, e.g. in community policing	<i>Funding to provide mental health training and support for uniformed officers of the NYPD both to manage internal issues and to enable NYPD uniformed officers to identify and deal effectively and appropriately with mental health issues in encounters with the public. Community District 7 requests that the new crisis intervention curriculum -- Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) -- announced in June 2021, be made available to officers in Manhattan precincts 20 and 24, as well as the Central Park precinct. It is troubling that previous training for officers in how to recognize and work with people in crisis was suspended during the pandemic at a time when mental health stresses in the community were on the rise.</i>	
15/22	NYPD	Other NYPD programs requests	<i>Restore Overtime Funding for the 20th, 24th and Central Park Precincts. Overtime is an effective way to supplement the ability of the police to respond to changing circumstances and create a presence when needed. With the use of certain data models for permanent assignment of officers, the use of overtime is needed to fill in gaps of coverage, respond to exigencies, and evenly distribute workflow, and will enable officers familiar with their own precincts to be the ones to respond to such exigencies and needs.</i>	

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Manhattan Community Board 7

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

Cleanliness/trash collection

Deep cuts to the budget of the Department of Sanitation driven by revenue shortfalls in the early days of the Pandemic have had a lasting impact on the Upper West Side: the rat population has expanded dramatically. City-wide, rodent complaints to 311 increased by 80% from March 2020 to March 2021. Speculation is that rats relocated from the central business district as workers moved to remote work and the restaurants that fed them closed. As outdoor eating, and its attendant garbage, expanded in residential neighborhoods like the Upper West Side, so did the rat population. Federal funds from the American Rescue Act enabled the restoration in spring 2021 of litter basket service, cut 54% the prior year. However, rat infestations in areas not usually prone to them remain a problem as New York continues on the path of reopening. The September 6, 2021 New York Post features a picture of the great blue heron in Central Park swallowing a giant rat. Community District 7 has many buildings with signs of rats and failed inspections compared to other districts. In addition to expanding current initiatives (such as the expansion of rat-proof trash cans by the Department of Sanitation), new approaches to the rat problem would include working with businesses to eliminate rat-friendly conditions, shifting pickup times to make sure trash is not left out overnight, continuing and publicizing education programs like the Rat Academy, and prioritizing high-risk areas using GIS and data tracking to target trouble spots and pinpoint rat dens. In addition, education of building managers, tenant associations, block associations and enforcement by the Department of Sanitation are essential to controlling the pest population in a safe and effective manner.

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

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Factors that complicate efforts to address the impacts of climate change on our District include the fact that most development is allowed to proceed as-of-right without robust environmental review. Storm drains, roadways and open spaces are frequently flooded by the increased frequency of major storms.

District Need: it is incumbent upon the City to require all new development to review existing loads for water, sewage, electrical and sanitation (composting and garbage collections). The City needs to develop more incentives to encourage energy efficient and green design construction. This will require changes to the Zoning Resolutions and funding for these initiatives for those who are barely able to conform to current regulations.

District Need: The City needs strategies to address forecasts that climate change - rising sea levels and more frequent catastrophic storms - will overwhelm storm sewers and drainage runoff systems, which then discharge human and solid waste into the Hudson River.

District Need: The City needs to continue upgrading its water pumping stations and network of pipes.

Needs for Sanitation Services

Sanitation services were reduced during the pandemic, resulting in increased litter overflowing litter boxes and enabling the rat population to increase.

District Need: Install additional solar trash compactors and trash cans in Community District 7 and maintain litter basket collection at 7 days a week. Due to budget cuts at DSNY in 2020, sanitation conditions in Community District 7 deteriorated. The increase in Park visitors due to the Pandemic resulted in an increase in trash volume, which has contributed to flooding by clogging drains. The exposed waste, mostly food, has led to an explosion of the rat

population. Solar trash compactors (such as the "Big Belly") are needed in Verdi, Strauss, and Riverside Parks, as well as a variety of playgrounds in the district. Additionally, more trash cans are needed throughout the district - at least two on blocks with greenmarkets and one on all other blocks.

District Need: Restore the Composting collecting program to its pre-pandemic levels.

Capital Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

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

Expense Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

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

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Manhattan Community Board 7

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

Condition of public housing

The lack of affordable housing is the highest priority issue in Community District 7, contributing to a range of social and economic crises among residents. The three major complexes in the district run by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) -- Amsterdam Houses, Stephen Wise Towers and Frederick Douglass Houses -- together comprise a significant portion of the local affordable housing stock. Recently NYCHA placed Wise Towers and many of the small buildings in its vicinity into a Rental Assistance Demonstration program which will maintain and manage those buildings. The remaining buildings, which will continue to be managed by NYCHA, have been poorly maintained for decades. Problems include the need for improved security, facility repairs, non-working boilers, unreliable elevators, need for effective and efficient mold and lead remediation, and lack of affordable, reliable broadband service necessary for connecting residents to educational programming, tele-health, social services and workforce opportunities. The complexes suffer from inadequate resources for youth and senior programs and poor sanitation services. In addition, residents and local officials face a lack of accountability from NYCHA management and a labyrinthine process for troubleshooting and redressing on-going maintenance needs. Community District 7 requests increased capital and expense funding for NYCHA to address these problems as well as more responsiveness to tenant and community concerns.

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

Needs for Land Use

Preserving the character, place and quality of life for all is a guiding principle of urban land use. In the past few years there have been lawsuits against excessively high, non-contextual buildings and zoning lot mergers in Community District 7. The construction on these sites was unexpected, leading to vigorous community opposition, and creating negative environmental impacts on the surrounding neighborhood, including loss of air and light as well as permanent shadows on parks and playgrounds at various times of the day.

District Need: Greater community involvement in rezoning is critical. All zoning loopholes permitting out-of-scale construction should be closed. Reforms to the Bureau of Standards and Appeals should support this effort. The Lincoln Square Special District requires rezoning to include the former properties where ABC has had their studios on Columbus Avenue, West 66 and West 67th Streets. Community Board 7 has joined with Landmarks West in supporting a ULURP application to that effect.

District Need: Provide funds for inspection of sidewalk sheds and scaffolding to ensure that sheds and scaffolds are not left in place for unreasonably long times while no work is being done.

District Need: Provide funds to the Department of Buildings for additional inspectors to inspect buildings during construction.

Needs for Housing

The City should expand the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) program to all new residential and mixed-use buildings rather than confine it to a few rezoned areas in poorer neighborhoods. New buildings would be required to allocate 20 percent of floor area to permanent rent-restricted apartments for lower- and middle-income households. New affordable housing is needed on a vast scale, with availability in diverse areas with differing economic structures, sometimes known as Universal Affordable Housing. This change would increase needed economic diversity.

District Need: Developers need to be incentivized to include a mix of income levels in any new developments in the District. There has been a significant reduction in the availability of housing that is accessible to those with incomes at 100-150 percent of Area Median Income. Rents are at an all-time high, making homes inaccessible to young adults (including those who cannot afford to live in the communities in which they grew up), as well as to young families and older people who have lived in the neighborhood for decades. New construction all too often creates residential units that sell or rent at luxury rates beyond the reach of many New Yorkers with moderate incomes.

District Need: The City could require special permits for buildings over a certain size to provide permanent affordable housing in those buildings based on the amount of additional height resulting from zoning lot mergers and transfers of air rights.

District Need: The City needs to investigate the potential for funding the conversion of vacant and/or underutilized hotels into permanent affordable apartments, with supportive services if needed, managed by a local service provider, thus providing permanent housing for families and single adults.

District Need: The City needs to survey publicly-owned land in the district and under-built lots, including lots containing one-story firehouses, police stations, libraries and other community resources which have the potential to be developed into new facilities for these City agencies, incorporating affordable housing above.

District Need: The SROs that are currently threatened with conversion should be purchased by the City through the Neighborhood Pillars Program creating rent-regulated units managed by nonprofit housing providers.

Needs for Economic Development

Prior to the pandemic it was becoming difficult for many retail and local small businesses to survive. Both “mom-and-pop” and chain stores were shuttering at an alarming rate. Banks started shuttering branch offices and large chain pharmacies did as well. According to Patch, 42 chain stores have closed in the District; a 21% decrease in area code 10023, an 18% decrease in area code 10024, and a 14% decrease in area code 10025. In September of 2020 Borough President Gale Brewer’s staff surveyed vacancies of store fronts on Broadway from 59th to 96th street; there were 66 vacant store fronts.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused greater turmoil for local businesses including restaurants, retail, banking and other small businesses. When the order to “shelter in place” began, grocery stores and some essential businesses remained open. Those who were able to work from home relied heavily on shopping on the internet and using services like insta-cart for home delivered food and supplies. Delivery businesses thrived, while local merchants and restaurateurs relied on government loans and assistance. Many businesses closed permanently. Double parked delivery trucks clog the already congested streets. Bike delivery personnel are timed by how fast they deliver food to customers, which creates havoc in busy bike lanes and on the street.

Consumers are returning to shop locally and to eat in restaurants. New rules by the Department of Transportation have been a big help to local restaurants, coffee shops and bakeries, allowing them to create outdoor dining in protected areas on the street. Our local cultural institutions, newly opened, are attracting local residents and tourists. The City and State need to continue to ensure that businesses, restaurants and cultural institutions are able to thrive in our District. Our three Business Improvement Districts have been working around the clock to keep their areas clean and safe and to improvise on ways to help their area businesses.

Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/20	NYCHA	Renovate or upgrade public housing developments	<i>Preserve the New York City Housing Authority as a source of deeply affordable housing in Community District 7 by working to repair and maintain all property and individual apartments, including front doors, elevators and security systems. This housing provides affordable housing for lower income working families and seniors, ensuring the diversity of the neighborhood. Repairs need to be efficient and timely to ensure the safety of all residents.</i>	
3/20	NYCHA	Other capital budget request for NYCHA	<i>Provide free high quality and safe broadband for all New York City Housing Authority households, to ensure access for educational, tele-health, social services, economic and workforce opportunities. Community Based Organizations will need to assist with providing training to residents. A NYC Government analysis of the economic impact of access to broadband shows that it will have a favorable impact on residents and the city. Broadband is essential for those seeking employment opportunities, access to medical care, quality education and social services. The lack of broadband access during the Pandemic has been a major hardship especially for families with children unable to keep up with course work, young people needing to join the workforce and seniors.</i>	
8/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Create permanent affordable housing in SROs threatened with conversion. The SROs that are threatened with conversion need to be purchased by the City through the Neighborhood Pillars Program and acquired by non-profit housing providers. The SROs need to be rent regulated through preservation financing; preserved through regulatory agreements ensuring that they are maintained as permanent affordable rental housing. When possible, convert SROs into supportive housing to serve the most vulnerable and help reduce the homeless population.</i>	

12/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Create permanent affordable housing in Manhattan Valley under HPD's Neighborhood Pillars Program. HPD's Neighborhood Pillars program needs to continue to target buildings in Manhattan Valley for purchase by nonprofit developers for renovation. These need to provide long term regulatory agreements to maintain them as affordable rent stabilized units.</i>
14/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Ensure funding for projects in Community District 7 that were previously allocated funding from the HPD capital budget. Fund and convert vacant and/or underutilized hotels into permanent affordable housing with supportive services if necessary.</i>

Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/22	NYCHA	Other expense budget request for NYCHA	<i>Provide on-going free broadband service for all New York City Housing Authority households and on-going technical training for residents. This is essential for access to tele-health, social services, educational, economic and workforce opportunities. The economic impact of access to broadband has been shown to result in increase in jobs, health and educational outcomes.</i>	
10/22	HPD	Other expense budget request for HPD	<i>Supportive Housing: Funding to cover services and operational costs for supportive housing facilities in Community District 7. Supportive housing is the most successful way to end homelessness for individuals and families, especially those living with physical and psychiatric disabilities.</i>	

Manhattan Community Board 7

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

Pedestrian safety (safer crossings, sidewalk management, etc.)

With cars and delivery trucks, the Open Restaurants Program, increased bicycle use and growth in motorcycle and other motorized vehicle traffic all competing for space on the streets of the Upper West Side, the Goal of Vision Zero has become more difficult to reach. From September 2020 to September 2021, there were 405 traffic injuries in Community District 7 -- 217 to motorists, 97 to pedestrians and 91 to cyclists. There were 6 deaths, 4 of them pedestrians. While total collisions of all kinds for 2021 through September 12 declined from the same period in 2020 (to 765 from 823) the percent of collisions with injuries showed a 25% increase. The Department of Transportation has taken numerous steps to address the increased congestion and potential for injury, including implementing safety upgrades at many intersections, including the West End Avenue Corridor. Manhattan Community Board 7 supports the use of tools that will improve safety, including: curb extensions, pedestrian islands, protected bike lanes, mid-block bulb-outs, split-phase signals, leading pedestrian intervals, raised crosswalks, left turn bans, Barnes Dances, narrowed lanes, abrupt changes in road surface, and lower speed limits - all tools which, when implemented district-wide, could reduce speeding and failure to yield (two leading causes of pedestrian deaths). Continuous and consistent enforcement of the 25 mile per hour speed limit, and the 20 mile per hour speed limit around all schools, would improve pedestrian and student safety. Specific areas where the Department of Transportation could focus to address pedestrian safety issues include: The corridor between 95th and 100th Streets, super-block west of Central Park West; Continued monitoring of Commercial Loading Zones - along the redesigned Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues and also along Central Park West and West End Avenue; Narrowing travel lanes on West 66th Street between Amsterdam and West End Avenues, along with curb extensions in order to discourage speeding on the wide street. (A similar design was implemented on 70th Street.) Changing the timing on the traffic signal at 66th Street and West End Ave to discourage speeding to make the light. Addition of crosstown protected bike lanes. Addition of signage at the 79th & 96th St interchanges of the Henry Hudson Pkwy alerting motorists to the 25 mph speed limit unless otherwise posted and No Right turns at red lights. Study of the crosstown block of West 94th Street. Study the feasibility of a 96th Street exit option for southbound traffic on the Henry Hudson Parkway to relieve the intense traffic on the narrower and residential 95th Street. Allowing traffic to exit onto 96th Street will provide direct travel to the Central Park transverse and provide a safer pedestrian experience on 95th Street, which was never intended to be a major thoroughfare.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

District Need: Managing Competing Street Uses

- The “Complete Streets” on Amsterdam and Columbus Avenues create new challenges for Community District 7 to balance the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and local businesses. Loading Zones are a serious concern for local businesses and residents, because they reduce curbside parking. Some have argued that raising the price and timing of metered parking would increase turnover at available curbside spaces.
- Double Parking has become a problem on all the Avenues in Community. Community Board 7 requests that the Department of Transportation implement as soon as possible the loading zone plan adopted by our Board for Central Park West and West End Avenue to mitigate this problem.
- Mixing Zones: Mixing Zones increase the risk for cyclists, who often cannot be seen by the driver of the motor vehicle and there have been some serious injuries. The mixing zones where motor vehicles enter the bike lanes to turn create a danger for cyclists who are often in the blind spot for the driver of the vehicle.

District Need: Supporting Pedestrian Safety and Sidewalk Access

- Pedestrian Islands provide refuge and shorter crossing distances for pedestrians and thrill gardeners who enjoy tending the tree pits.
- Shared Sidewalks: The increased congestion on sidewalks of local residents, tourists and visitors has emboldened street vendors to take advantage of new markets. The proliferation of food trucks and sidewalk vendors frustrates Upper West Siders because of the lack of enforcement and/or licensing.
- Additionally, street furniture (newsstands, bus shelters, bike rack, news boxes, pay phones, mail boxes, benches, etc.) and sidewalk cafes overcrowd the sidewalks. Community Board 7 encourages a comprehensive approach to optimizing shared use and management of sidewalks to eliminate obstructions and visual clutter.
- Community Board 7 encourages minimizing permanently enclosed sidewalk cafes especially after they have become vacant. Except in rare circumstances, enclosed cafes unduly narrow the sidewalk and cause pedestrian congestion. Perhaps a mechanism could be created to guarantee the removal of structures when they become vacant.

District Need: Balancing Parking Needs and Congestion Mitigation: While car ownership by residents of the district is down, Community District 7 residents have strong and varied opinions about the amount of paid private garage space to be allocated in the district. Increasing the amount of free parking would likely contribute to increased pollution, congestion, frustration, etc. The goal is to balance the need for access to motor vehicles while minimizing the negative aspects.

District Need: Responsibly Regulate Emerging Technologies Community Board 7 supports the exploration of emerging technologies that can be implemented in the district as a way to safely and more equitably move people, goods and services within the District and throughout the City. These technologies include bike share, pedal-assist and motorized bikes, ride share/ride hail, electric scooters, autonomous vehicles, and civilian and possibly commercial drones. In many cases, these technologies can serve as valuable "last mile" solutions to successfully transport people to mass transit, which remains the most feasible option for the majority of Community District 7 residents, if funding and service issues are improved. These technologies also could help more efficiently and safely move goods to retail establishments or to the elderly or health care providers. Community Board 7 believes that the use of these emerging technologies, if regulated responsibly, could align with and potentially advance our core priorities related to a clean environment, affordable housing, equity among residents, and overall pedestrian and residential safety.

Needs for Transit Services

During the pandemic the MTA made major cuts to train and bus service. Ridership went down. The MTA stopped train service for several hours in the early morning to enable staff to clean subway cars and stations. Ridership is still not back to pre-pandemic levels. Community District 7 had the third largest number of subway riders in the City. Service cuts have caused off-peak trains to be overcrowded.

District Need: More frequent service on all lines, especially the C

District Need: Transit signal prioritization is needed on major bus routes. Also needed: additional bus lanes with enforcement cameras to ensure enforcement, additional on-street supervisions to improve Transit's response to operating conditions, especially on weekends; the M104 service should be extended back to East 42nd Street; M11 service level needs to be expanded to meet the new levels of ridership by seniors; M60 Select Bus Service needs to be extended South to 96th Street; and the M96 bus route needs to be upgraded to Select Service.

Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/20	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Install street-safety improvements including count-down timers, speed cameras, red light cameras, speed bumps, thermo-plastic street markings and “Stop Here” signs for left turns at every cross street on Broadway. Ensuring pedestrian safety throughout Community District 7 is a major priority especially for our most vulnerable populations including seniors, children and people with disabilities.</i>	
18/20	NYCTA	Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.	<i>Increase the number of accessible subway stations, including adding escalators and elevators. Without access at many stations in CD7 people with disabilities, seniors, parents with young children and others are unable to use the subway system. Subways provide efficient, environmentally friendly transportation.</i>	
20/20	DOT	Other traffic improvement requests	<i>Study the possibility of Installing a 96th Street exit option for South-bound traffic on the Henry Hudson Parkway and calming traffic at the intersection of 96th and West End Avenue. Presently traffic exits the Parkway on 95th Street. There have been multiple accidents at 95th and West End Avenue by cars speeding through the traffic light, or making turns onto West End Avenue. Additionally there are serious problems of cars speeding through the intersection at 96th and West End Avenue.</i>	Henry Hudson Parkway West 96th Street

Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
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8/22	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Request enforcement for all vehicles, including cars, trucks, e-bikes and all alternative vehicles for all traffic violations with the intention of reducing death and injuries in Community District 7. Traffic in the district keeps increasing with more types of vehicles vying for space on the streets, in bike lanes and sometimes on sidewalks including: e-bikes, e-scooters, for-rent bikes and motorcycles, in addition to increasing numbers of trucks and automobiles.</i>	
22/22	DOT	Provide new bike lanes	<i>Fund the work required to give Community Board 7 its requested proposal for possible cross-town protected bike lanes on west 72nd street from Central Park to Riverside Drive. There has been a rapid increase in bike ridership throughout CD7, increasing the need for cross-town protected bike lanes connecting through Central Park to the East Side.</i>	West 72nd Street Central Park West Riverside Drive

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Manhattan Community Board 7

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

Quality of parks and park facilities

Each child in Community District 7 needs a nearby playground in good working condition that is clean, updated and inviting. With the stresses on young people from disrupted school and family life during the pandemic, access to safe places to exercise is more important than ever. Unhappily, the quality of play space across the district is dramatically uneven. Equity and inclusion are increasingly recognized as issues in park funding and management. Certain parks, most notably Central Park through the Central Park Conservancy, and to a more modest extent Riverside Park through the Riverside Park Conservancy, enjoy access to private donations and independent fundraising. Smaller neighborhood parks in Community District 7, like many similar spaces throughout our City, have no or limited access to such funding. Within Community District 7, the disparity in access to funding and its impact on the experience in public open space can readily be demonstrated by a comparison of the overall conditions of playgrounds north of West 96th Street versus those to the more affluent south. As a down payment on park equity, Community Board 7 urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide funds to prioritize upgrades to two of our northern play spaces -- Frederick Douglass Playground and Sol Bloom Playground. The Frederick Douglass Playground needs a total renovation of the playground, handball courts and a comfort station. It is used by a large population because it is adjacent to Frederick Douglass Houses (a large public housing complex) and several area schools. The Sol Bloom Playground is used by PS84 during school hours and the surrounding community after school and on weekends. While it has received major financing from City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal, significant additional work remains unfunded. These projects are ideal sites for the Community Parks Initiative, which decentralizes the task of meeting local needs by inquiring directly of local users and neighbors of parks and playgrounds what resources they most value, and in what priority certain investments should be made.

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

Needs for Parks

The parks, playgrounds and public plazas provide essential outdoor space for residents and visitors to the district. They are essential to health and well being. They became even more valuable resources during the pandemic. One of our guiding principles is that everyone have access, within walking distance, to outdoor space. There is a need to re-imagine how play and other spaces can be organized and used to provide for a variety of users and abilities. Environmental impacts must also be taken into account in both planning and upkeep of facilities. (Please see our Capital and Expense Budget Priorities)

District Need: Critical funding for all parks in the District that are equitable and inclusive.

Needs for Cultural Services

During the pandemic museums, theaters and other cultural institutions closed. They have recently opened with limitations on the numbers of visitors, making it difficult for them to cover costs. They are important for our community offering education, entertainment, and social outlets for residents and tourists. They are essential to the economy of the District. Visitors to these institutions spend money in local shops and restaurants, helping these businesses to remain open.

District Need: The City needs to provide adequate funding for these important cultural and economic resources.

Needs for Library Services

Manhattan Community District 7 hosts four branches of the New York Public Library System (NYPL), including three circulating branches—St. Agnes, Bloomingdale and Riverside---and a research branch, Library for the Performing Arts, that serves local and city-wide needs in support of the cultural activities of the City. The role of Libraries in the district has expanded over the past decades as the needs of their constituents changed. No longer the primary source of reading material, libraries have taken on the role of “community center”. They provide access to classes in technical training, career building, social and recreational outlets and educational advancement. Recently they have served as polling stations, cooling centers and Covid-19 vaccination sites. Service has been expanded to serve senior centers, nursing homes, places of incarceration and a Bookmobile service. The Covid-19 Pandemic forced libraries to become more innovative in programming, moving many services online. In collaboration with Lincoln Center, an outdoor reading room was created. The Department of Education used the St Agnes Library as a learning lab/day care center.

District Need: Manhattan Community Board 7 endorses the NYPL request for \$50 million citywide for FY2023 and appreciates that the proposed cut of \$20 million to the FY2022 budget was restored on a one-time basis.

Needs for Community Boards

For Community Board 7, as for all public agencies, serving the community over the last eighteen months has required ingenuity and flexibility, as Board meetings and outreach to the public became virtual and direct personal contact largely disappeared. Uncertainties regarding future changes to the Open Meeting Law and the course of the Covid pandemic continue to impede planning.

District Need: Outreach from City officials to State elected representatives urging that they announce any changes to the Open Meeting Law well ahead of the January deadline embedded in current legislation.

District Need: Technical support from the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications and the Manhattan Borough President on managing hybrid meetings, should that become an option.

Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/20	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Provide funds for upgrades to Frederick Douglass Playground and Sol Bloom Playground. The Frederick Douglass Playground needs a total renovation of the playground, handball courts (\$350K) and a comfort station. It is used by a large population because it is adjacent to the NYCHA complex, Frederick Douglass Houses, and several area schools. The Sol Bloom Playground serves PS84 during school hours and the surrounding community after school and weekends. While Councilmember Rosenthal has funded some major improvements, the playground needs funding for the spray shower, play equipment, safety surface, paving, seating, fencing and landscaping (\$2.1M), reconstructing the handball court (\$650K), and replacing the sidewalk (\$760K).</i>	
9/20	NYPL	Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (NYPL)	<i>Secure funding for continued renovations of the New York Public Library Bloomingdale Branch, including refurbishment of the upper floor (e.g., children's area and community rooms) and reconstruction of the facility's basement to facilitate a broad and flexible community purpose. While the first floor of the library has been renovated, the upper floor has not and requires renovation to offer quality services. The basement area has been vacated since 2016 except for ad-hoc staff use and housekeeping storage. It is elevator accessible, making it friendly to people with disabilities. The area is prime for development that can better serve the varied needs of the community.</i>	150 West 100 Street, Manhattan, New York, NY
10/20	DPR	Provide a new, or new expansion to, a building in a park	<i>Build a Comfort Station in Riverside Park South at 62nd Street with a Department of Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operation facility. This facility was included in the designated plans for the Riverside South Park. The final phase of the Park will include a multi-purpose playing field along with other amenities which will result in a strong need for this amenity.</i>	

13/20	DPR	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	<i>Rebuild Ramp at Riverside Park and 78th St. The step-ramp leading to the 78th Street underpass below the northbound off-ramp from the Henry Hudson Parkway is badly deteriorated. NYC Department of Transportation is in the final stages of a major reconstruction of the 79th Street Rotunda, but the project does not include restoration of the stairs. The bluestone stairs and pathways provide pedestrian access from the lower level of Riverside Park to the upper level. It is essential that they be restored by the time work on the Rotunda is completed.</i>
15/20	DPR	Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Reconstruct interior path and perimeter sidewalk from 95th Street to 110th Street in Riverside Park. The paths and sidewalk are badly deteriorated, and have suffered from lack of maintenance. The project needs to include: improving drainage, repairing and rebuilding retaining walls and steps in the area. The interior paths between 104th and 116th Streets are in greatest need of repair. The sidewalk between 95th and 97th has been reconstructed.</i>
17/20	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Replace the skylight at Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center over the multi-purpose room built in the early 1990s in the old portion of the room. Heavy rains caused leaks in the skylight which caused damage to the rubber flooring. Many of the facilities in the Recreation Center are unusable whenever it rains. The Center has been closed to the public, but was used as a remote learning center for public school children during the Covid-19 Pandemic.</i>
19/20	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Recreate a kayaking dock for the resumption of a kayak program in Riverside Park. In the past a non-profit volunteer group provided a free program on weekends; however the program was suspended when the dock and its underwater structure were destroyed in a storm in 2015.</i>

Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
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12/22	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Install additional solar trash compactors and trash cans in Community District 7 and restore litter basket collection to 7 days a week. Due to budget cuts at DSNY in 2020, sanitation conditions in CD7 deteriorated. The increase in Park visitors due to the Pandemic resulted in an increase in trash volume, which has contributed to flooding by clogging drains. The exposed waste, mostly food, has led to an explosion of the rat population. Solar trash compactors (such as the "Big Belly") are needed in Verdi, Strauss, and Riverside Park, as well as a variety of playgrounds in the district. Additionally, more trash cans are needed throughout the district - at least two on blocks with greenmarkets and one on all other blocks.</i>
13/22	DPR	Provide better park maintenance	<i>Restore funding for permanent and seasonal staffing for the parks, as well as additional playground associates and recreation specialists. Parks full time workforce are responsible for park maintenance and cleanliness (City Park Workers, Associate Park Service Workers and Gardeners). Seasonal workers provide additional services to maintain the Parks. Funding cuts have eliminated too many staff. The FY22 budget included the restoration of \$25 million in PlayFair funds. Additional funds are needed to rebuild the agency's permanent year-round workforce and sufficient seasonal workers in Community Board 7.</i>
16/22	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) Officers for Riverside Park and Central Park. Community District 7 is covered by the 16 city funded PEP officers who report out of North Meadow in Central Park. They cover both the east and west sides of Manhattan above 59th Street to 125th Street, including Riverside Park. They help cover calls that fixed post officers in Central Park aren't able to cover. In addition there are four fixed post officers, paid by dedicated funding, who are available in Riverside Park only for emergencies. An additional eight officers and a sergeant are needed to improve safety and address graffiti, other vandalism, littering, skateboarding, electric bikes on paths, homelessness, alcohol, dogs off-leash, smoking and other quality of life issues.</i>

21/22

OMB

**Other community
board facilities and
staff requests**

Provide an increase to the Community Board budget for Manhattan Community Board 7 to take account of inflation and increased needs related to the Pandemic to purchase and maintain expensive equipment necessary for hybrid and online meetings, computer back-up systems and other technology.

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Other Capital Requests

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

Other Expense Requests

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

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

Capital Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/20	NYCHA	Renovate or upgrade public housing developments	<i>Preserve the New York City Housing Authority as a source of deeply affordable housing in Community District 7 by working to repair and maintain all property and individual apartments, including front doors, elevators and security systems. This housing provides affordable housing for lower income working families and seniors, ensuring the diversity of the neighborhood. Repairs need to be efficient and timely to ensure the safety of all residents.</i>	
2/20	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Provide funds for upgrades to Frederick Douglass Playground and Sol Bloom Playground. The Frederick Douglass Playground needs a total renovation of the playground, handball courts (\$350K) and a comfort station. It is used by a large population because it is adjacent to the NYCHA complex, Frederick Douglass Houses, and several area schools. The Sol Bloom Playground serves PS84 during school hours and the surrounding community after school and weekends. While Councilmember Rosenthal has funded some major improvements, the playground needs funding for the spray shower, play equipment, safety surface, paving, seating, fencing and landscaping (\$2.1M), reconstructing the handball court (\$650K), and replacing the sidewalk (\$760K).</i>	

3/20	NYCHA	Other capital budget request for NYCHA	<i>Provide free high quality and safe broadband for all New York City Housing Authority households, to ensure access for educational, tele-health, social services, economic and workforce opportunities. Community Based Organizations will need to assist with providing training to residents. A NYC Government analysis of the economic impact of access to broadband shows that it will have a favorable impact on residents and the city. Broadband is essential for those seeking employment opportunities, access to medical care, quality education and social services. The lack of broadband access during the Pandemic has been a major hardship especially for families with children unable to keep up with course work, young people needing to join the workforce and seniors.</i>
4/20	HHC	Provide a new or expanded health care facility	<i>Create a dedicated Health Clinic for abused children. More trauma-informed care is needed for victims of child abuse. In Community District 7, a hospital unit or community health center could work in collaboration with Safe Horizon and NYC Alliance Against Sexual Assault to establish a child-centered clinic or child advocacy center that provides evidence-based mental health care treatment and intervention for children who experience abuse. Since the start of the pandemic, many children have not had access to school staff and caseworkers; and there has been an increase in health care provider reports of sexual assaults against children. Seventy percent of assaults are directed at children, yet most funding is designated for adult victims.</i>

5/20	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Upgrade school facilities to conform with new COVID-protocols and needs such as faster school Wi-Fi and automatic water faucets to support hand washing, ensuring a stockpile of important capital equipment (e.g., air purification/ventilation systems) for schools and city-funded family and youth programs. DOE personnel in CSD 3 have stressed the need for improved Wi-Fi, additional ventilation system upgrades and hand-washing facilities in the schools. These same issues persist in non-DOE sites under contract with the City to provide youth programming. These needs are directly related to the need to respond to the Pandemic and provide supplemental virtual instruction to assist students in reversing the instructional losses of the last year and a half.</i>
6/20	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Install street-safety improvements including count-down timers, speed cameras, red light cameras, speed bumps, thermo-plastic street markings and “Stop Here” signs for left turns at every cross street on Broadway. Ensuring pedestrian safety throughout Community District 7 is a major priority especially for our most vulnerable populations including seniors, children and people with disabilities.</i>
7/20	DHS	Provide new homeless shelters or SROs	<i>Create a Safe Haven Shelter to address the rising number of those living on the street in Community District 7. The Safe Haven model includes smaller facilities (50-60 beds) and supportive services, and is considered to be the most effective means by which to persuade those living on the street to accept an offer of shelter (Center for Urban Community Services). Providers who do street outreach report that most people reject offers of shelter if they are not proximate to the neighborhood to which they’ve become accustomed. Currently, Community District 7 has only one Safe Haven shelter; adding another would provide a valuable tool for street outreach teams working to move this vulnerable population off the streets in Community District 7 and into the shelter system.</i>

8/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Create permanent affordable housing in SROs threatened with conversion. The SROs that are threatened with conversion need to be purchased by the City through the Neighborhood Pillars Program and acquired by non-profit housing providers. The SROs need to be rent regulated through preservation financing; preserved through regulatory agreements ensuring that they are maintained as permanent affordable rental housing. When possible, convert SROs into supportive housing to serve the most vulnerable and help reduce the homeless population.</i>	
9/20	NYPL	Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (NYPL)	<i>Secure funding for continued renovations of the New York Public Library Bloomingdale Branch, including refurbishment of the upper floor (e.g., children's area and community rooms) and reconstruction of the facility's basement to facilitate a broad and flexible community purpose. While the first floor of the library has been renovated, the upper floor has not and requires renovation to offer quality services. The basement area has been vacated since 2016 except for ad-hoc staff use and housekeeping storage. It is elevator accessible, making it friendly to people with disabilities. The area is prime for development that can better serve the varied needs of the community.</i>	150 West 100 Street, Manhattan, New York, NY
10/20	DPR	Provide a new, or new expansion to, a building in a park	<i>Build a Comfort Station in Riverside Park South at 62nd Street with a Department of Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operation facility. This facility was included in the designated plans for the Riverside South Park. The final phase of the Park will include a multi-purpose playing field along with other amenities which will result in a strong need for this amenity.</i>	

11/20	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school	<i>Provide funding for District schools selected as new U3K and UPK sites to ensure their facilities are suitable to serve the needs of the City's youngest learners without compromising educational opportunities for existing students; expand 3K seat availability in CSD3 to meet demand. The DOE's 3-K Finder for school-year 2021-2022 shows only two 3K sites in Community School District 3, not nearly enough to meet district demand. Given the crowded nature of many CSD3 schools, where additional 3K and UPK sites are needed but would take space away from valued district programs, CD7 requests that the School Construction Authority seek alternative sites in the many non-profit spaces available in the neighborhood.</i>
12/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Create permanent affordable housing in Manhattan Valley under HPD's Neighborhood Pillars Program. HPD's Neighborhood Pillars program needs to continue to target buildings in Manhattan Valley for purchase by nonprofit developers for renovation. These need to provide long term regulatory agreements to maintain them as affordable rent stabilized units.</i>
13/20	DPR	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	<i>Rebuild Ramp at Riverside Park and 78th St. The step-ramp leading to the 78th Street underpass below the northbound off-ramp from the Henry Hudson Parkway is badly deteriorated. NYC Department of Transportation is in the final stages of a major reconstruction of the 79th Street Rotunda, but the project does not include restoration of the stairs. The bluestone stairs and pathways provide pedestrian access from the lower level of Riverside Park to the upper level. It is essential that they be restored by the time work on the Rotunda is completed.</i>
14/20	HPD	Other affordable housing programs requests	<i>Ensure funding for projects in Community District 7 that were previously allocated funding from the HPD capital budget. Fund and convert vacant and/or underutilized hotels into permanent affordable housing with supportive services if necessary.</i>

15/20	DPR	Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Reconstruct interior path and perimeter sidewalk from 95th Street to 110th Street in Riverside Park. The paths and sidewalk are badly deteriorated, and have suffered from lack of maintenance. The project needs to include: improving drainage, repairing and rebuilding retaining walls and steps in the area. The interior paths between 104th and 116th Streets are in greatest need of repair. The sidewalk between 95th and 97th has been reconstructed.</i>
16/20	SCA	Renovate other site component	<i>Obtain 2020-24 Capital Plan funding for four additional elementary and middle schools in Community School District 3 to ensure that at least one-third of these schools are handicapped accessible. Currently, only 4 of the 23 buildings housing public elementary and middle schools located in Community School District 3, qualify as fully accessible under the ADA. Eight elementary and middle schools in Community School District 3 are listed on the NYC DOE's website as not accessible at all. New capital commitments for 4 additional schools should be equitably distributed throughout the CSD3, be appropriately split between elementary and middle schools and consider the current locations of special programs that would otherwise not be available to physically handicapped students.</i>
17/20	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Replace the skylight at Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center over the multi-purpose room built in the early 1990s in the old portion of the room. Heavy rains caused leaks in the skylight which caused damage to the rubber flooring. Many of the facilities in the Recreation Center are unusable whenever it rains. The Center has been closed to the public, but was used as a remote learning center for public school children during the Covid-19 Pandemic.</i>
18/20	NYCTA	Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.	<i>Increase the number of accessible subway stations, including adding escalators and elevators. Without access at many stations in CD7 people with disabilities, seniors, parents with young children and others are unable to use the subway system. Subways provide efficient, environmentally friendly transportation.</i>

19/20	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Recreate a kayaking dock for the resumption of a kayak program in Riverside Park. In the past a non-profit volunteer group provided a free program on weekends; however the program was suspended when the dock and its underwater structure were destroyed in a storm in 2015.</i>	
20/20	DOT	Other traffic improvement requests	<i>Study the possibility of Installing a 96th Street exit option for South-bound traffic on the Henry Hudson Parkway and calming traffic at the intersection of 96th and West End Avenue. Presently traffic exits the Parkway on 95th Street. There have been multiple accidents at 95th and West End Avenue by cars speeding through the traffic light, or making turns onto West End Avenue. Additionally there are serious problems of cars speeding through the intersection at 96th and West End Avenue.</i>	Henry Hudson Parkway West 96th Street

Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/22	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance food assistance, such as Food Stamps / SNAP	<i>Provide funding for programs that address food insecurity, including West Side Campaign Against Hunger (WSCAH), Meals on Wheels, DOROT, other food pantries, and Get Food NYC. The Meal Gap, NYC's measure of food insecurity, represents families' and individuals' missing meals that result from inadequate household food budgets. In Community District 7, the annual Meal Gap is 4 million meals, up from 3.3 million pre Pandemic. More than one in four people in Community District 7 is food insecure. WSCAH donates food for 100,000 meals every week. Public Schools provide free breakfast and lunch for children only when school is in session. These children need nutritious food on weekends and when school is not in session.</i>	
2/22	NYCHA	Other expense budget request for NYCHA	<i>Provide on-going free broadband service for all New York City Housing Authority households and on-going technical training for residents. This is essential for access to tele-health, social services, educational, economic and workforce opportunities. The economic impact of access to broadband has been shown to result in increase in jobs, health and educational outcomes.</i>	
3/22	DHS	Expand street outreach	<i>Homeless Outreach: More funding for the Manhattan Outreach Consortium (MOC), a multiagency effort established by Goddard Riverside, to provide outreach to those experiencing street homelessness. Goddard Riverside dispatches MOC teams to respond to 311 calls and Goddard's caseload remains high. It can take up to 200 interactions over months or years to develop relationships with those experiencing street homelessness and provide them with access to healthcare, counseling, nutrition, and shelter. According to Goddard Riverside, since 2007, "the MOC has placed more than 1,500 formerly homeless adults in permanent housing."</i>	

4/22	NYPD	Provide resources to train officers, e.g. in community policing	<i>Funding to provide mental health training and support for uniformed officers of the NYPD both to manage internal issues and to enable NYPD uniformed officers to identify and deal effectively and appropriately with mental health issues in encounters with the public. Community District 7 requests that the new crisis intervention curriculum -- Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) -- announced in June 2021, be made available to officers in Manhattan precincts 20 and 24, as well as the Central Park precinct. It is troubling that previous training for officers in how to recognize and work with people in crisis was suspended during the pandemic at a time when mental health stresses in the community were on the rise.</i>
5/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Fund all schools at least 100% of Fair Student Funding, enabling schools to increase needed staffing positions (e.g., additional teachers, literacy specialists, social workers, and school psychologists). For FY2022, full funding of State Foundation Aid has provided NYC public schools with 100 percent of the allocation due under the Fair Student Funding formula, offering much-needed relief to schools which have not received their full allotment of funding since the adoption of the formula in 2007. The challenge will be sustaining funding levels beyond the 2021-2022 school year, as one-time federal funds are spent down by the City and State.</i>
6/22	DYCD	Other expense budget request for DYCD	<i>Provide increased funding for Department of Youth and Community Development programs sufficient to provide the purchasing power to cover increases in costs for community programming, including the Summer Rising initiative, community-based centers/camps, after school programming (Cornerstone, Beacon, SONYC, Compass), Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), Work-Grow-Learn (WGL) and other programs. These programs provide a respite for young people traumatized by the Covid Pandemic. Baseline funding for them and providing the same collective bargaining allowances to the non-profits that run them that are provided to City agencies would allow for planning and effective implementation.</i>

7/22	HHC	Other expense budget request for HHC	<i>Mental Health Training: Allocate expense budget funding for hospitals and healthcare facilities to provide training for medical providers in trauma-informed care and forensics (to identify, report, and care for children who are victims of sexual assault and abuse). Since the start of the pandemic, many children have not had access to school staff and caseworkers; and there has been an increase in health care provider reports of sexual assaults against children. Seventy percent of assaults are directed at children, yet most funding is designated for adult victims.</i>
8/22	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>Request enforcement for all vehicles, including cars, trucks, e-bikes and all alternative vehicles for all traffic violations with the intention of reducing death and injuries in Community District 7. Traffic in the district keeps increasing with more types of vehicles vying for space on the streets, in bike lanes and sometimes on sidewalks including: e-bikes, e-scooters, for-rent bikes and motorcycles, in addition to increasing numbers of trucks and automobiles.</i>
9/22	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Address sexual assault of adolescents and adults: Community Board 7 requests increased funding for the Crime Victims Treatment Center to administer and provide services for sexual assault survivors, including training of SAFE Examiners. Over 600 victims of sexual assault were served by Mount Sinai West and Mount Sinai Morningside Hospitals in 2020. The medical staff is trained in a comprehensive 40-Hour SAFE Training Course, called "The Assessment and Evaluation of Adult/Adolescent Survivors of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence." The course trains medical professionals to provide competent, compassionate care to sexual assault victims, while using the most advanced technology associated with DNA and other sexual assault forensic evidence collection and preservation.</i>
10/22	HPD	Other expense budget request for HPD	<i>Supportive Housing: Funding to cover services and operational costs for supportive housing facilities in Community District 7. Supportive housing is the most successful way to end homelessness for individuals and families, especially those living with physical and psychiatric disabilities.</i>

11/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide Department of Education funding for ongoing socio-emotional training for those who work with students (e.g. teachers, principals, administrators, and any adults in contact with students). Community Board 7 also requests that the Department of Education allocate adequate professional development dollars to schools in Community School District 3 for training for teachers and staff on new curriculum and for professional development for teachers at all levels on the design and use of formative assessments to identify and track students so that the appropriate services are provided.</i>
12/22	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Install additional solar trash compactors and trash cans in Community District 7 and restore litter basket collection to 7 days a week. Due to budget cuts at DSNY in 2020, sanitation conditions in CD7 deteriorated. The increase in Park visitors due to the Pandemic resulted in an increase in trash volume, which has contributed to flooding by clogging drains. The exposed waste, mostly food, has led to an explosion of the rat population. Solar trash compactors (such as the "Big Belly") are needed in Verdi, Strauss, and Riverside Park, as well as a variety of playgrounds in the district. Additionally, more trash cans are needed throughout the district - at least two on blocks with greenmarkets and one on all other blocks.</i>
13/22	DPR	Provide better park maintenance	<i>Restore funding for permanent and seasonal staffing for the parks, as well as additional playground associates and recreation specialists. Parks full time workforce are responsible for park maintenance and cleanliness (City Park Workers, Associate Park Service Workers and Gardeners). Seasonal workers provide additional services to maintain the Parks. Funding cuts have eliminated too many staff. The FY22 budget included the restoration of \$25 million in PlayFair funds. Additional funds are needed to rebuild the agency's permanent year-round workforce and sufficient seasonal workers in Community Board 7.</i>

14/22	DOE	Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services	<i>Provide funding for increased medical and school safety support staff (e.g. nurses, school safety agents and crossing guards). Many schools in Community School District 3 have shared nurses during the pandemic such that there is not consistent availability. Safety remains a major parental concern, both within schools and on the streets students must navigate en route to and from schools.</i>
15/22	NYPD	Other NYPD programs requests	<i>Restore Overtime Funding for the 20th, 24th and Central Park Precincts. Overtime is an effective way to supplement the ability of the police to respond to changing circumstances and create a presence when needed. With the use of certain data models for permanent assignment of officers, the use of overtime is needed to fill in gaps of coverage, respond to exigencies, and evenly distribute workflow, and will enable officers familiar with their own precincts to be the ones to respond to such exigencies and needs.</i>
16/22	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP) Officers for Riverside Park and Central Park. Community District 7 is covered by the 16 city funded PEP officers who report out of North Meadow in Central Park. They cover both the east and west sides of Manhattan above 59th Street to 125th Street, including Riverside Park. They help cover calls that fixed post officers in Central Park aren't able to cover. In addition there are four fixed post officers, paid by dedicated funding, who are available in Riverside Park only for emergencies. An additional eight officers and a sergeant are needed to improve safety and address graffiti, other vandalism, littering, skateboarding, electric bikes on paths, homelessness, alcohol, dogs off-leash, smoking and other quality of life issues.</i>

17/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Provide schools with ongoing supplies and maintenance materials to mitigate the impact of the Pandemic (e.g., a continuous supply of PPE/masks, air filters, back-up electronic devices for students to replace those that are lost or broken). Community Board 7 requests the Department of Education to prioritize funding and procurement support for schools to ensure that sufficient supplies necessary to keep students safe and connected on-line are readily available on an on-going basis.</i>
18/22	DOE	Other expense budget request for DOE	<i>Funding to support the virtual learning infrastructure developed during the Pandemic to supplement in-person learning and make new resources available to schools on an ongoing basis. Some of the innovative programming launched during the 2020-2021 school year has proven successful in reaching and engaging the highest-need students, and should continue to be leveraged. While returning to 100% in-person learning is critical to helping students rebound from the learning loss experienced during the pandemic, programs which supplement the learning done during in-person school hours will continue to be beneficial, including evening/weekend programming and remote options for supplemental work.</i>
19/22	DOE	Other educational programs requests	<i>Funding for staffing and training to expand certain Community School District 3 educational programs which have been available on a limited or pilot basis that does not meet demand. These programs include U3K, dual language schools and programs, language enrichment programs, support for English language learners and computer science coursework.</i>
20/22	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>Funding for reliable, accurate, and rapid Covid-19 testing of staff working in congregate settings (nursing homes and adult care facilities). While New York State now requires nursing home staff to be vaccinated (with medical and religious exceptions), risks from those with waivers and from breakthrough infections leave patients in these settings vulnerable.</i>

21/22	OMB	Other community board facilities and staff requests	<i>Provide an increase to the Community Board budget for Manhattan Community Board 7 to take account of inflation and increased needs related to the Pandemic to purchase and maintain expensive equipment necessary for hybrid and online meetings, computer back-up systems and other technology.</i>	
22/22	DOT	Provide new bike lanes	<i>Fund the work required to give Community Board 7 its requested proposal for possible cross-town protected bike lanes on west 72nd street from Central Park to Riverside Drive. There has been a rapid increase in bike ridership throughout CD7, increasing the need for cross-town protected bike lanes connecting through Central Park to the East Side.</i>	West 72nd Street Central Park West Riverside Drive