

Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests

Fiscal Year
2022



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**Brooklyn
Community District
8**

INTRODUCTION

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

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

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

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

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

CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov

This report is broadly structured as follows:

1. Overarching Community District Needs

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

2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

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

3. Community Board Budget Requests

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

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Address: 1291 St. Marks Avenue

Phone: (718) 467-5574

Email:

Website: www.brooklyncb8.org

Chair: Ethel Tyus

District Manager: Michelle George

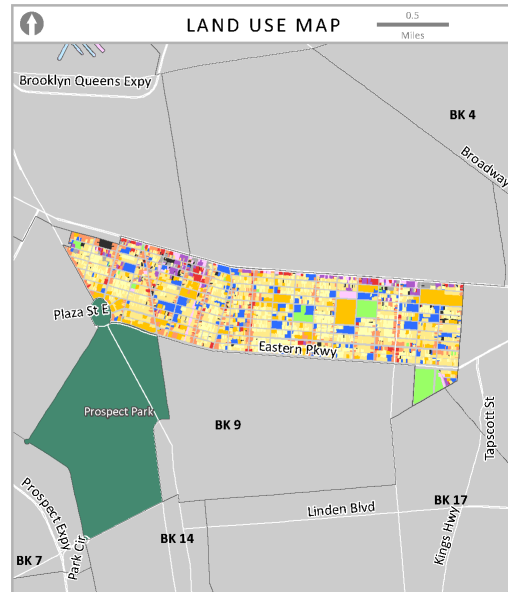
2. COMMUNITY DISTRICT PROFILE AND LAND USE MAP

Brooklyn Community District 8

See BK 8's profile online at
communityprofiles.planning.nyc.gov

Neighborhoods¹: Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, Weeksville

POPULATION & DENSITY		
2000 ²	2010 ³	2000-2010
96,076	96,317	0%
2014-2018 Estimate ⁴		120,909
Square Miles		1.6
Population Density		60,198/sq mi



COMMUNITY BOARD PERSPECTIVES

Top 3 pressing issues identified by Brooklyn Community Board 8 in 2020:

1. Affordable housing
2. Infrastructure resiliency
3. Parks and open space

To learn more, please read Brooklyn CD 8's Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2022.

Website: www.brooklyn8.org/
Email: brooklyn8@gmail.com

Land Use Category	# Lots	% Lot Area
1 & 2 Family Bldgs	2,720	19%
Multifamily Walk-up	3,160	32%
Multifamily Elevator	189	13%
Mixed Use	1,035	9%
Commercial	118	3%
Industrial	99	3%
Transportation/Utility	67	2%
Public/Institutional	207	10%
Open Space	30	5%
Parking	133	2%
Vacant	216	2%
Other	56	0%

Map Source: PLUTO 20v8

A Snapshot of Key Community Indicators

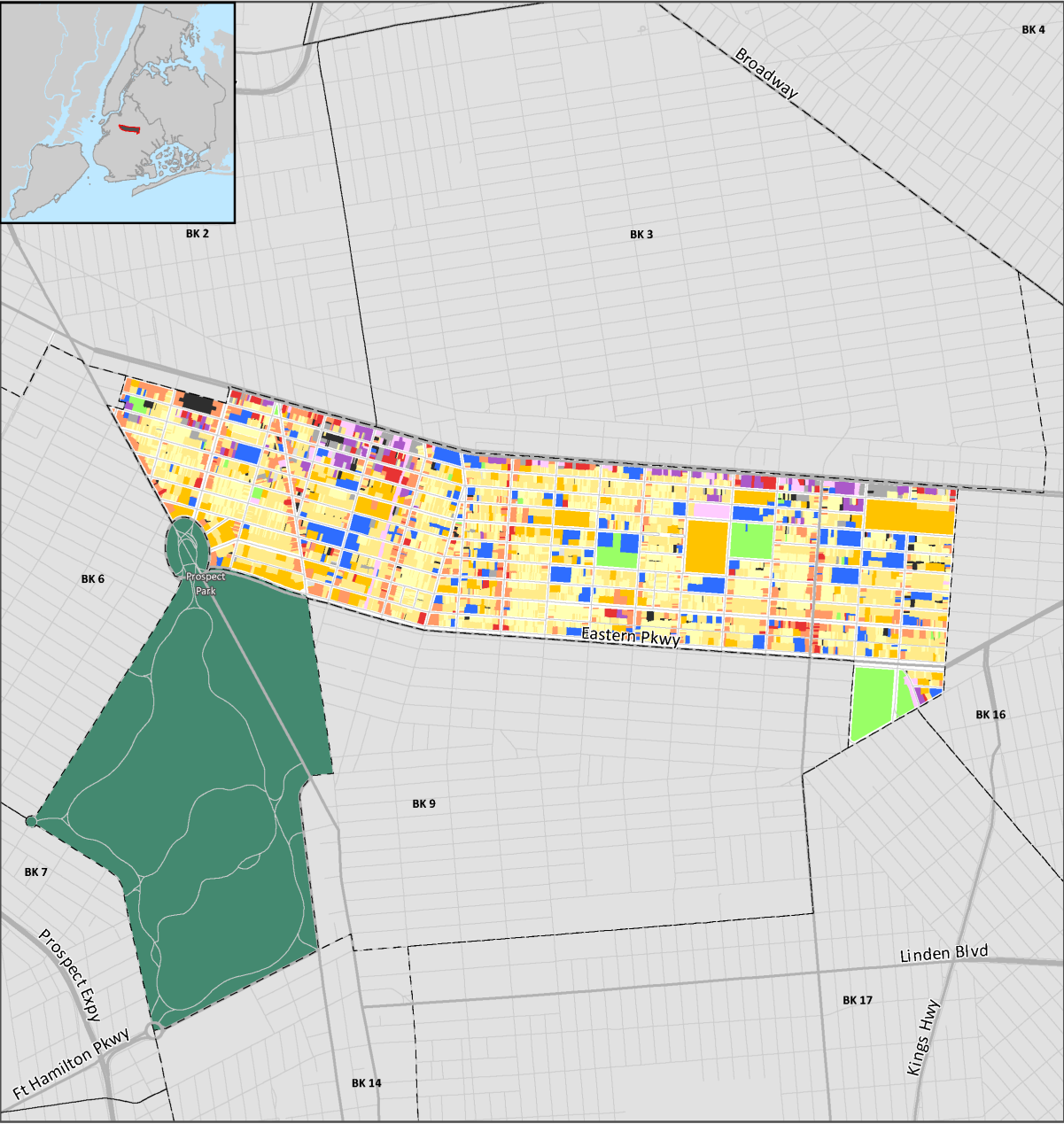
COMMUNITY ASSETS ⁵		RENT BURDEN ⁴		ACCESS TO PARKS ⁶	
Public Schools	17	Brooklyn CD 8 42% of households spend 35% or more of their income on rent	Brooklyn 45%	Brooklyn CD 8 76% of residents live within walking distance of a park or open space	Citywide Target 85%
Public Libraries	1		NYC 44%		
Hospitals and Clinics	15				
Parks	4				
Visit CapitalPlanning.nyc.gov for more information					
MEAN COMMUTE TO WORK ⁴		LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ⁴		CRIME RATE ⁷	
Brooklyn CD 8 41 minutes	Brooklyn 43* minutes	Brooklyn CD 8 7% of residents 5 years or older have limited English proficiency	Brooklyn 22%	Brooklyn CD 8 9.4 major felonies were reported per 1,000 residents in 2019	Brooklyn 10.2
	NYC 41* minutes		NYC 23%		NYC 11
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT ⁴		UNEMPLOYMENT ⁴		NYCgov POVERTY MEASURE ⁸	
Brooklyn CD 8 45% of residents 25 years or older have earned a bachelor's degree or higher	Brooklyn 37%	Brooklyn CD 8 4.6% of the civilian labor force was unemployed on average from 2014 to 2018	Brooklyn 4.4%*	Brooklyn CD 8 21% of residents have incomes below the NYCgov poverty threshold	Brooklyn 20%*
	NYC 37%		NYC 4.4%*		NYC 20%*

¹Neighborhoods may be in multiple districts. Names and boundaries not officially designated. ²2000 US Census; ³2010 US Census; ⁴American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates, approximated by aggregating data from blocks and block-groups. When comparing CD estimates to Borough and City averages, due to survey sampling error values with an asterisk (*) are not statistically significant differences. Visit the Community District Profiles tool online to find Margins of Error (MOEs) for all estimates. ⁵NYC Dept of City Planning Facilities Database (2020); ⁶NYC Dept of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (2019). DPR considers walking distance to be 1/4 mile for parks less than 8 acres, and 1/2 mile for larger parks and pools. ⁷NYPD Complaint Data (2019); ⁸2014-2018 NYCgov Poverty Measure by Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA). PUMAs are geographic approximations of community districts. This metric from the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity accounts for NYC's high cost of housing, as well as other costs of living and anti-poverty benefits.

Brooklyn Community District 8 - Land Use

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| One & Two Family Buildings | Commercial/Office Buildings | Open Space | Community Districts |
| MultiFamily Walkup Buildings | Industrial/Manufacturing | Parking Facilities | |
| MultiFamily Elevator Buildings | Transportation/Utility | Vacant Land | |
| Mixed Commercial/Residential Buildings | Public Facilities & Institutions | All Others or No Data | |


0 1,300 2,600 Feet
Source: MapPLUTO™ 20v7
BYTES of the Big Apple
Created January 2021



3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Community Board No. 8 encompasses the neighborhoods of North Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and Weeksville, and is bounded by Atlantic Avenue on the north, Ralph Avenue on the east, Eastern Parkway on the south, and Flatbush Avenue on the west. The District's demographics and socio-economic statuses are changing rapidly due to many circumstances, and unfortunately, these changes have and continue to lead to tensions between residents interests. New initiatives from Mayoral agencies that seek to capitalize on certain infrastructure changes and interests such as reduced carbon emissions and increased usage of transportation alternatives to motor vehicles, have arisen at the forefront of the battle between long-time residents and what they perceive to be newcomers set on driving them out.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the forefront multiple disparities for not only District 8 residents, but different intersections of New York City's populace ranging from education, healthcare, infrastructure, housing security or lack thereof, healthy food sources, open spaces, and many more. A recent survey submitted to the community for assistance in identifying the top three concerns facing the District at this time illustrated that the top concerns for all residents regardless of race and ethnicity are a more equitable distribution of wealth, equitable education, equitable housing, and equity in policing. Survey respondents noted the differences in availability of educational resources between not only black and white residents, but also between socioeconomic classes. Glaring inequalities in housing infrastructure and rent burdens for residents became painfully evident shortly after the start of the Pause. Over-crowded households, micro units, lack of air flow and quality air due to air pollution, poorly ventilated shared spaces, and other housing based insecurities have increased and exacerbated community tensions. The battle of wills between long-time residents and those they have termed newcomers to the rapidly gentrifying community are at an all-time high and are only increasing as new initiatives to increase social distancing while preserving the economy are implemented.

Additionally, the Covid-19 Pandemic and measures to overcome and subdue dangers of virus transmission have further increased tensions. Due to the need for open spaces, more streetscape spaces have been allocated for open use by the hospitality industry, for recreation outside of parks and playgrounds, and schools. The community once renowned for its cultural diversity and acceptance of differences now finds itself now pitted against each other in many aspects of community life, with debates based on black/white, old/new, less affluent/very wealthy residents often at the forefront of the debates and resulting tensions. Swift and constant displacement of residents resulting from the conversion of rent-stabilized housing to luxury housing, development of large quantities of luxury housing coupled with the paucity of affordable housing, the laughable versions of "affordable housing" created during the luxury flux that long-time residents still cannot afford, and property owners intent on maximizing profits/return on investment serves to exacerbate existing tensions and creates new ones. Our community is reflective of the national crisis of morality focused on differences rather than that which unites us: our humanity.

Furthermore, even prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic and resulting exposed inequalities, the District office of CB 8 had been fielding complaints from many life-long residents that feel as though their needs are being flouted for the sake of the newer and often wealthier and affluent neighbors. Staff has noticed an increase in what seems to be a cultural insensitivity toward neighbors, especially those that are of Caribbean descent, as some residents are seeking to eliminate cultural foundations of the community, mainly steel drum practice in the manufacturing district. There are residents that have moved into recently developed luxury condominiums in the M1-1 zone that are applying pressure on government agencies to disallow historical use of certain lot and manufacturing spaces for practice and even outdoor parties and gathering. This in turn causes long-time residents that have embraced the cultural diversity of the community to feel as though their needs are being flouted for the desires of others. Additionally, there had been a marked increase in complaints against black-owned establishments that have existed in relative harmony in the community for decades, and some of these business owners believe that the complaints are being made only because they are black. Many proprietors also believe that even the precinct commands are harassing them because they and their clientele are black despite not having any issues while habitually ignoring "bad-acting white owned establishments" that are indeed causing complications in community harmony.

There are, however, additional situations that are leading to tensions between residents. Rising rents are causing the merger of many families in smaller units and the need for apartment shares by those

incapable of affording monthly rent rates without the assistance of their extended families and friends. This in turn reduces the amount of necessary space and resources for individuals to decompress. Consequently, due to the increased number of people in a smaller space, with or without the Covid Pandemic, it is imperative that sufficient recreational activities outside of the home be present within the community to provide mental health respites and calming and soothing effects. These spaces ideally would be multifunctional, serving the purposes of not only physical activity, but meditation, relaxation, communication, and fostering community attributes among other things. Additionally, the needs of children must also be prioritized as more and more families and younger adults looking to start families are moving into the district. The needs of children have been long ignored in our district with few resources allocated for their growth, development, and creativity. Thus, a need for greater child-based activities across a multitude of demographics has arisen and must be addressed quickly in a manner that allows everyone access regardless of their socio-economic status.

The emerging trend of dog ownership as a necessary accessory to Brooklyn living has created a need for a space that can serve as activity spaces for both humans and their pet companions. Unfortunately, there have been occasions where the tenuous balance between the needs of humans and the needs of humans with animal companions teeter on the brink of unstable, consequently creating additional friction, and accelerating animosity between residents across all backgrounds. Commercial gentrification was a feature that plagued our commercial dostracts prior to the Covid Pandemic, and astronomically high commercial rent has caused many businesses to suffer during the pause. More and more businesses are closing because they are unable to continue to meet rising overhead costs as their primary cost is a rental burden that already makes it difficult for them to be prosperous. The increased rent rates that led to an increase in liquor serving and hospitality staples of eating and drinking establishments has proven to be more than unstable and indeed have proven to be not sustainable and untenable.

We understand that change is necessary, is not always linear, and is not always accepted by everyone. However, there are ways that an equitable as possible approach can be made to benefit as many as possible without disproportionately harming the most vulnerable. An alarmingly high decrease in truly affordable housing units available in the district, especially for seniors and low and middle-income residents; lack of quality medical services and hospital coverage; uncertain public school options due to constant school closures and co-locations; unaddressed mental and economic stresses amongst a multitude of the district's population; and property owners willing to flout the city's reach in terms of either recouping losses, maintaining habitable conditions, or even basic maintenance for public safety are issues all requiring ample priority and attention from government officials. These needs were necessary prior to the Covid Pandemic and have become even more necessary as a result of the issues brought to the forefront during the Pause. As previously stated, glaring inequalities amongst all of these issues and many more have become evident and too costly to continue to ignore. Consequently, we advocate for increased equity not only in District 8 but citywide across all areas of city living. In the past, we have advocated for extensive discussions amongst the various stakeholders in the community as well as District office staff, with input from our volunteer members when agencies seek to implement new changes, and the thought was that these discussions would limit the ideation that the community has no input. It was believed that limiting this ideation by increasing discussions would also allow us greater opportunity to mitigate any foreseeable issues that would arise. However, during the Pause, we had little to no input at all on any measure taken to combat covid-related issues. As such, many residents have taken umbrage with the many liberties that they feel have hindered their ability to navigate the cityscape while others feel the city has not done enough to combat Covid related fatigue and economic damage.

This year's Statement of Community District Needs and Budget Requests will be dedicated to finding a way to ameliorate the disparities brought to the surface during the Covid Pandemic. We acknowledge that every city agency is faced with budget cuts and an inability to provide standard services in the manner than many residents have come to anticipate and expect. We have sympathy for our agencies and great city due to the lack of federal funds to assuage lost revenue caused by the Pause, and also revenue spent on much needed PPE, covid testing, and covid research. We encourage oversight agencies such as HPD, DOB, and DOHMH to institute substantial fines to encourage property owners to remediate areas of concern that warrant fines (such as active rodent complaints, unsafe construction practices, immoral tactics to force rent regulated tenants from their homes, etc. to reduce the city's burden in amending the

result of such offenses. Especially relating to rodent abatement and street cleaning, individual property owners and residents can do a greater part to ensure reduced rodent populations and increase street cleanliness. Community Board No. 8 is committed to participating in the formulation of plans to address service delivery, housing, infrastructure and overall quality of life needs and concerns of the residents within the district. The furnishing of requests detailed within will facilitate achievement of Community Board No. 8's goals for equality in the wake of Covid-19 for Fiscal Year 2022 and beyond.

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Brooklyn Community Board 8

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Affordable housing

During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the lack of affordable housing for residents citywide became too glaring to ignore. For over a decade, the data indicating that residents were rent-burdened was available, but this data was largely ignored as more and more private "luxury" development with scant truly affordable housing was created. Complicating matters further were rent-stabilized units being renovated leading to much higher rates than the majority could afford, thus furthering the rent crisis, and also the conversion of small private homes to luxury condominiums also outside of the price range for most residents. Combined family units in one small space became the norm, as well as apartment shares with more people in one unit than comfortable for most. Reports that a good portion of the city's residents were one paycheck away from homelessness, while not necessarily falling on deaf ears, still did not lead to any real measures to end the rent burden crisis. Greed still abounds, programs that have proven insufficient at creating truly affordable housing are still touted as the savior of affordable housing in the city despite alarming rates of resident displacement telling a different story, and residents in income brackets not covered by Housing Connect's laughable "affordable" housing program are still ignored and left to compete for the few rent stabilized units that they can manage. There are many that believe development is the only way to curb the affordability crisis, as the glut of market rate units will ultimately create such competition that developers will charge less money for their units to avoid high vacancy rates. If history has taught us anything, it is that the trickle-down effect is neither true nor valid. Luxury and market-rate units remain at an alarmingly high vacancy rate while non-market rate stabilized units have scant vacancy. The lack of oversight by government agencies relying on development to stem the man-made housing crisis further exacerbates this, especially as the NYC Dept. of Homeless Services continues to pay exorbitant amounts of dollars each year housing homeless individuals and families in shelters, and the Dept. of Human Resources spends millions each year on rent vouchers for qualified residents to meet their rent burden. Unfortunately, for residents in the voucher program, when the voucher expires, they are not able to cover rent costs on their own, and the city is met with a decision to either continue using vouchers, or house such unfortunate individuals and families in shelters. Neither is a good option, especially when you consider that many individuals and families would be able to afford rent were landlords and developers not so greedy and seeking to maximize their immediate return on investment. Covid-19 has illustrated just how dangerous hyper dense housing units can be. Persons unable to isolate in their homes to avoid spreading or avoid covid places unnecessary strains on medical infrastructure and even family bonds. Furthermore, persons that are displaced and forced to move further away from family networks and social support systems due to lack of affordability are put at greater risk of isolation and despair. We as a city can no longer afford the man-made greed-driven affordability crisis.

Infrastructure resiliency

Infrastructure and resiliency is not merely about reducing carbon emissions, heat absorption, reliance on fossil fuels, and standard combating of climate change. Focuses on infrastructure and resilience enters every facet of city life, even residual reach. For instance, the streets, sidewalks, bike lanes and bus stops in and around many sections of District 8 and especially the northern portion of Prospect Heights, are overburdened resulting in dangerous conditions to pedestrians, bikers, bus riders and drivers due to construction. Community Board 8 is fortunate to have an extensive bike network, with bike lanes on segments of all but 3 of our east-west lanes and an increasing number of bike lanes on north-south travel lanes. Unfortunately, residents have brought to the attention of the District office that they do not feel safe traveling in certain bike lanes due to vehicular traffic and bike lane blockages. Vehicle owners have expressed their frustration at what they believe are one-way programs designed only to limit vehicular traffic in an effort to reduce vehicle/pedestrian-bike collisions and fatalities, thus causing an undue burden as bikers are not held accountable for not following the rules of the road, and pedestrians are not held accountable for not being cognizant of their surroundings. We advocate for equitable traffic and transit studies so that no one population feels stressed, thus causing driver angst and leading to aggressive driving out of frustration. While bike lanes are a wonderful addition to the streetscape, the reduction of travel lanes and the resultant squeeze of vehicles in less space has created an inorganic traffic condition that feeds the belief that vehicles are the sole source of the problem when the problem results from everyone on the road: bikers that disregard traffic laws and do not use lights/reflectors; pedestrians that do

not pay attention to rules of the road and jaywalk, walk between cars, walk while distracted, etc. We all have a part to play in keeping our streets safe for all, and an equitable traffic calming project that does more than further box (and in the minds of drivers, penalizes) in drivers. Proper compromise should not result in sacrifice, but the general feeling of many in District 8 is that vehicles are sacrificing—and this sacrifice leads to resentment and aggressive driving, thus causing the potential for increased traffic incidents. Equity is essential to cooperation for the sustaining of traffic and transportation resiliency measures. Further increasing the need for equity are the many development projects ongoing in the District, which causes traffic nightmares for pedestrians, bikers, and vehicle owners. Especially at corner development sites and sites that block the sidewalk, numerous issues arise. Specific examples include the decades long Pacific Park Project, which despite constant community meetings, has yet to implement any quality traffic calming and safety measures. To provide perspective, specifically at the intersections of Bergen Street and Sixth Avenue and Dean Street and Sixth Avenue have poor or no sight lines, traffic lights are poorly coordinated, and double parking abounds on both streets due to construction at Pacific Park and the 78th Precinct self-enforcement zone. The expectation that people should not walk on the side of the street where construction is, is laudable but not realistic. Traffic remediation for these issues must be done immediately, and we encourage DOT and developers to review the conditions before agreeing upon a fencing plan. Understandably, safety is key; however, development sites must be amended accordingly with other agencies (such as the Dept. of Buildings that approves building plans) to limit the deleterious impacts on the streetscape during construction, especially those projects that will be underway for extended periods of time. Moving toward other aspects of resiliency, we applaud the bioswale/rain garden initiative implemented by the Dept. of Environmental Protection. However, we recognize that the program does not go far enough or extend well enough to assist with storm water runoff. Notwithstanding the decrepit look of many bioswales, the number of trees within them that have died in less than one season, the overgrown grass plantings, and the garbage and dirt that accumulates in them, we urge not only additional attention to be paid to the rain gardens, but also an expansion of other programs to assist with storm water runoff. The gardens can be amended to serve multiple purposes, including quality fresh food with minimal additional cash expenditures while also increasing resident participation. As mentioned in the previous section, we encourage Parks and DEP to plant herbs and vegetables in the bioswales/rain gardens to increase absorption of water, increase community participation in keeping the gardens well-kept, and also provide fresh food options for those looking to eat healthy and also those with limited funds to purchase food in general. Furthermore, previous requests for incentives for homeowners to create greenspace on their properties and roofs have largely been ignored by the administration. The desire of homeowners to concretize their property in a feeble effort to minimize rodent populations have only aided in the increase of storm water flooding and over burdening the city's aging storm drain systems. We encourage the use of permeable concrete and walkways whenever the city does such work on pathways, and also any increase in plantings and shrubbery that can assist with water capture. Property owners with gardens, greenspaces, and greenroofs should be encouraged to use rain barrels to capture rainwater to water their plantings. Again, this will have many positive benefits that will immediately pay for themselves in other areas and eventually even financially. Additional resiliency measures related to the reduction of carbon emissions should include incentives for property owners to install solar panels on their roofs. Installation of solar panels to provide electricity to the city's massive network of street lamps should also be considered as the sun is a valuable free energy resource. The covid-19 pandemic has illustrated the wide-ranging network of interdependency as well as unnecessary financial costs. While the city's self-sufficiency cannot be entirely assured, we can implement specific measures that will reduce the financial burden in many areas. Housing remains a solid top two issue in BK CB 8—primarily affordable housing for those living below the 90% AMI percentile, which is roughly about half of the population of our residents. When people are forced to worry about their sustainable housing needs, they worry about other things as well. When people are forced to spend the majority of their income on housing needs, other aspects of their lives are impacted and/or ignored, and certain things, such as medical care and healthy eating, suffer as a result. Some psychologists focus on the Maslow Hierarchy of Needs to espouse the need for as few stresses as possible in the external environment to increase the mental fortitude of individuals. Maslow's hierarchy states that the baseline needs, or the physiological needs (which include shelter, air, water—or the basic needs for survival), when met, allow for the recognition of the safety/personal needs (which include a feeling of security, improved employment, better health), which then leads to a greater sense of love and belonging, which improves relationships with friends and family, which then creates better self-esteem (more respect for the self and environment/others, freedom, fortitude of judgment), and leads to the final tier of the pyramid, self-actualization, or the desire to be the best that one can be. If the baseline physiological needs are not met, individuals remain in a state of pain and mental crisis, and the results are catastrophic. Unfortunately, in District 8, and for a growing number of New York City residents, housing remains a source of great

discomfort, thus leading to issues of concern across numerous areas of city life. If baseline needs are not met, the result is usually an increase in mental health issues such as depression or anger related lashing out, increased crime, decreased productivity, increased substance abuse, increased cases of preventable diseases, increased discord between neighbors, and so much more. This has never been more apparent than during the Covid-19 State-wide shutdown, or Pause.

Parks and open space

The state of New York sets a goal of 2.5 acres of open space for every 1,000 people, and the New York City average is 1.5 acres per 1,000. Unfortunately, due to enhanced development in the District, our residents are falling short with government mandates for open space. The Covid-19 Pandemic has made it impossible to ignore just how precious and necessary open space is. Scientific directives that sent people outdoors for exercise, socializing, and even eating in the name of safety has illustrated the paucity of open space necessary to keep residents safe while providing a plethora of activity options. The parks and playgrounds in our District were stretched thin, and the decaying infrastructure—primarily the fitness equipment—in many of our parks led residents to avoid them even when outdoor activity was the safest way to be active and obtain the health benefits of being outdoors in fresh air and sunlight. While there is a growing trend of creating “open space” on rooftops or small, individual terraces, these exclusive spaces are nowhere near adequate to provide the recreational need required to maintain proper mental and physical health. For decades, sanctioned studies have found that open space and recreational activities provides substantial mental respite to aid in creating a happier and healthier population. The “Pause” confirmed this. With myriad mental health issues on the rise even prior to the Pause or state-wide shutdown, we advocate for the use of vacant lots for community gardens and open space areas to provide greenspace for resident enjoyment. Nature is healing, and the concrete jungle that is New York City requires as much open space as possible. Additionally, in District 8, the streets used during the Open Streets Initiative to provide additional car-free space for recreation, were quite effective, and many residents would like to see the initiative continued even once the threat of covid is over. Furthermore, the glaring lack of quality fresh food for many residents—especially on the eastern end of the district—dictates that we also advocate for the City to provide incentives to property owners to create green roofs and participate in small scale urban gardening in their yards and roof space. This will have multiple beneficial effects across numerous areas of need, not relegated to only open space, but also dietary benefits, stress release, street cleanliness, etc. Gardening is an activity studies have shown decreases stress, aids relationship building, and also assists with certain other disorders. Moreover, locally grown food allows for healthier meals and less exhaust from food delivery; plantings absorb rainwater runoff, and the rooftop gardens absorb sunlight and heat, lowering cooling costs. What the city loses in tax revenue to finance and subsidize the incentive program will be regained in other areas. Furthermore, those benefiting from the program will be healthier and likely happier, creating a more positive atmosphere in the city overall. Children will also be imbued with a healthy relationship with nature, the city’s wildlife population will have space to cohabitate with humans that have invaded and removed all of their space, and the like. Additionally, seeing as right of way bioswales/rain gardens have proven to be ill-kept over time, we advocate for the planting of herbs and vegetables to encourage community adoption of the gardens to reduce the city’s cleaning burden and resulting eye-sore of the spaces. Furthermore, many residents remain dissatisfied with the Parks Department’s handling of street trees. Most residents are dissatisfied with the pruning schedule of trees, the inability of multiple agencies to work together to solve simple issues that merely require inter-agency cooperation (for instance, the Dept. of Transportation raising or lowering a street sign to prevent Parks from having to lope off half the canopy of a perfectly healthy tree for the sign to be visible; DOT adding a second arm to a street light should the adult healthy tree’s foliage block light, etc.). In addition to pruning, residents often complain about the cleanliness (or lack thereof) of parks and playgrounds, the lack of lights, lack of parks enforcement, illegal activity, in parks and playgrounds, outdated play equipment and features, and the fact that parks are overrun with dogs off leash. Needless to say, we urge conversations between Parks officials, the Community Board staff, and residents to address many of the issues presented.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs

The Covid-19 Pandemic brought to light many glaring issues and unattended conditions for our residents. The dearth of understanding of mental health issues can no longer be ignored. Substance and alcohol abuse, as well as cigarette smoking, domestic violence, apathy, etc., can all be traced back to unhealed trauma experienced at some point in a person's life. The reliance on things to sway the mind from things a person does not want to deal with merely increases the mental burdens and mental load carried. Understanding the intricacies of what mental health is and reducing the stigma around it should be a top priority, especially as we move through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

We encourage additional one stop-shop clinics and health care centers that provide many if not all health care services of a hospital. Facilities such as these that offer health screenings, dialysis, asthma treatment, walk-in services, etc., are a great addition to the community, especially since our District does not have a hospital. While we are not advocating for such small care medical centers to replace hospital care, they are convenient, easily accessible, and provide necessary services to many residents that otherwise would not seek medical care. In addition to these centers, we hope they will offer more comprehensive mental health and substance abuse care/preventative services.

Needs for Older NYs

A growing and oft neglected population, our senior population requires special services and care that should come automatically to a class of well-deserving citizens. We need to recognize and reward the efforts and hard work of our senior population by providing them the fundamental means of existing above the Federal poverty line, which unfortunately for many seniors living in New York City, is not a reality with rising medical and health insurance bills and increasing rent and property tax burdens. As proponents of elderly care and in recognition of the special needs of the elderly in District 8, we appeal to a course of action that will make this goal possible. More services focused on improving the quality of life, residential opportunities, home-care and health-care need to be provided by City-operated and neighborhood based agencies. Services should focus on the forgotten population that earns too much to be eligible for Medicaid, and consequently do not qualify for Medicaid paid services as well as those that earn too much to qualify for low income senior housing opportunities. We acknowledge the City's efforts to increase eligibility for certain services such as SCRIE and DRIE and property tax breaks by raising the maximum yearly income. However, more needs to be done as to be eligible for the programs, seniors must still bear a large cost burden. SCRIE and DRIE should be available to every senior, not just those that are paying more than 30% of their income in rent. Factors such as taxes on income, healthcare insurance costs, medical and prescription copays, basic necessities, and the like need to be factored in as well. Finally, an emphasis on home-care will help reduce costly institutional care and the burdens placed upon kin that serve as caregivers, and will also provide additional freedom to relatively self-sufficient individuals. The Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated that many seniors are very capable of using technology if they have the tools and education available to them. We must consider ensuring that every senior has a device that will allow them to stay in contact with their loved ones and social networks, especially in situations where we have to isolate and distance for safety.

Needs for Homeless

Affordable housing and limiting landlord greed will assist with dispelling homelessness.

Needs for Low Income NYs

As more and more people become economically unstable, it is imperative that adequate services be available for them to make their financial statuses more secure. Education and training programs, housing assistance programs, and cash and food assistance programs are all needed to help the economically vulnerable get back on their feet. Additionally, since cash strapped homes can lead to rising tensions between partners, domestic violence prevention programs are needed to dispel anger and angst that might otherwise be taken out on domestic partners. Feelings of inadequacy can arise from people that feel as though they are failing in their attempts to be good parents, partners/spouses, caregivers, etc., and thus can contribute to substance abuse related issues as a means of escapism. Support in areas of social services must include addiction treatment options and counseling to help people understand that their perceived failures are not worth the risk of their health, well-being, and relationships. Programs designed to assist with coping with issues often outside of an individuals control must be provided and easily accessible. HRA/DSS must work with DOHMH to create these programs. Finally, our elderly must be looked after. They must be cared for and their safety from abuse and predatory behavior ensured. Services to help educate them on signs and symptoms of elder abuse and scams are needed.

Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

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

Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the substantial rent burden that residents citywide and especially in District 8 face. We applaud the efforts of City and State officials for allocating funds to help residents pay rental arrears during the Pandemic. Unfortunately, more funds are needed as the crisis is not over, and funds are needed for a wider array of residents. The definition of rent burden should be expanded beyond the current 30% of gross annual salary so that a greater number of residents can qualify for rental assistance vouchers to help them cover the gap between the affordable and unaffordable, to avoid rent burden.</i>	
4/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>We must keep in mind that our elderly population is at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional and physical states. Our elderly population is the most vulnerable and often forgotten. They require considerable attention to maintain their safety and well-being, thus preventing them from being subjected to unnecessary hardship, pain, and mental aggravation in the form of fear.</i>	
6/29	HRA	Expand access to public health insurance such as Medicaid	<i>With the federal government extracting every ounce of worth from the Affordable Care Act, now more than ever, individuals in need of health care must have a viable option for health care than the skeleton plans designed to undermine what the ACA was attempting to accomplish. Decreasing eligibility requirements to receive Medicaid, or even having a payment system to make more people Medicaid eligible would help bridge the gap between those with quality health insurance and those without. Costs of private markets are increasing drastically due to cuts in federal subsidies and fewer people are able to afford private insurance. Having Medicaid as an option would allow access to the preventative care many people need to prevent grave illnesses.</i>	

7/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color where sentiments such as "mental illness is not a disease you can afford to have," continue to be a plague. This stigma prevents those suffering from symptoms from seeking help. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has certainly illustrated the need for mental health programs and greater understanding of the issues and the ways mental health issues can manifest and be expressed. At this point, no one can say the often repeated phrase, "mental health issues are not something you can afford to have" as nearly everyone is experiencing some sort of mental strain. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the pandemic.</i>
8/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>Residents of multiple dwelling units face an often times forgotten issue: any resident living next to or upstairs from a smoker, is subject to secondhand smoke, which studies have shown is just as toxic if not MORE toxic than the primary smoke inhaled by the smoker. Residents should not be forced to endure health issues brought about by inconsiderate neighbors and apathetic landlords. As such, we urge the City to eliminate smoking in multiple dwellings and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke.</i>
9/29	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>The large number of development projects scattered throughout the District along with renovation projects in older buildings in our historic districts have disrupted rodent burrows to the point where rodents are visible during daylight hours. We understand that city coffers are currently devoid of cash, and as such, we overwhelmingly support DOHMH implementing a policy change mandating that developers bait more than just the perimeter of their projects and instead bait a wider berth, as well as the city enforcing harsh penalties on properties that do not perform abatement to allow the city the opportunity to focus on other health related issues and needs rather than baiting. We all need to do our part to reduce rodent populations, including baiting and cleaning.</i>

11/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>The state-wide shutdown (Pause) caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated just how few households and individuals have the tools and resources available to them to properly budget based on their income. Financial education and planning is direly needed in less economically advantaged households. Due to the inevitability of having to stretch their finances even further than they are capable, it is imperative that residents have access to financial planning and budgeting information to learn how to properly plan their monthly spending. This financial literacy is not about just getting a better job to increase income as the Pause has taught us just how important low-paying jobs are, as well as how easily distressed a household can become with just a small reduction in income.</i>
12/29	HRA	Other domestic violence services requests	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the surface many glaring needs for households and families experiencing violence in the home. The state-wide shutdown (Pause) that kept people at home for months created a funnel effect amplifying abuse in homes as no one had an opportunity for escape. It is imperative that funding be provided for preventative services to educate individuals all ages on the signs of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological, and how to exit a situation that could be potentially life threatening. Furthermore, abusers should have multiple forms of assistance at their disposal to assist them in overcoming their root and core issues that causes their disruptive behavior.</i>
13/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the vast disparities of food choice and knowledge amongst residents. Additionally, the inability for many to afford healthy food options combined with the lack of healthy food options for many residents on the eastern end of the district only compounds these problems. Lower income residents without excess expendable cash should have access to quality fresh food and be trained in healthy living without exceeding their budget. A healthy diet yields a healthier body and offers protection against disease, as has been stated repeatedly by the CDC during the Pause. Programs stressing proper nutrition and avoidance of certain health restrictive activities like smoking should be increased.</i>

16/29	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Too often, our elders are too ashamed or afraid to speak up for themselves, leading them to suffer continued abuse at the hands of caregivers or even strangers. We encourage DFTA to increase outreach efforts and initiate public service announcements to inform seniors of their options and services should they ever come face to face with elder abuse. We also advocate for increased public awareness programs to help people identify the signs and signals of elder abuse.</i>
24/29	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>The elderly have a difficult enough time traveling, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has made it even more difficult and dangerous to travel. Unreliable and presently deemed unsafe public transportation options are at times their only choice. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, should be provided--especially for those that are properly afraid of contact with others due to their fragility and age making them a greater risk to perish from Covid-19.</i>
25/29	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>For many years, there has been an increase in non HIV related STD transmission due to avoidance of condoms has indicated that a growing number of people are becoming lax in their healthcare. Additional education is needed to help residents understand their role in keeping themselves and their partners safe.</i>
26/29	DOHMH	Promote vaccinations and immunizations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown us how important being healthy is. Childhood immunizations are extremely necessary at this time to avoid preventable diseases.</i>
27/29	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>Homebound seniors should not have to live a life of unintentional isolation because they are self-sufficient enough to be able to live on their own. Medicaid ineligible seniors should not be forced to pay exorbitant out of pocket costs for assistance in day to day needs. We encourage increasing home care services for homebound seniors to include not only basic care and assistance, but also for interactive conversation and companionship to prevent the ails of isolation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated to all--regardless of age--just how important both social interaction and companionship are.</i>

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Other

The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated just how much inequity exists in the NYC Public School system. While some students are benefiting from remote learning, there are others that do not have the means in any way, shape, or form, to benefit from the Great Pause of 2020. Lacking the necessary technological tools needed for remote learning stymies many students from the start. This in turn limits the educational achievements they can make. Additionally, and quite sadly, there are many children that are further endangered in the home and no longer have the escape and outlet of spending up to 8 hours daily in a safe school environment and away from abusive relatives. Fear in the home further hampers their ability to learn and retain information, and also perform effectively during distance learning. For children whose parents have elected to send their children to school for dual learning, there exists fear around capacity and cleanliness in school buildings. Many of our school buildings are not designed for social distancing in the classroom, and this heightens fears. Furthermore, educational support services for many populations are difficult to receive during distance learning, and there must a plan in place to ensure that all students receive what they need to excel--regardless of learning platform.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

We urge the Dept. of Education to do more to ensure equity for all students. The Covid-19 Pandemic shined light on numerous disparities in our education system ranging from lack of technology in schools, teacher preparation and skill, parental involvement, etc. While it would be foolish to expect the DOE to be able to remedy everything a student faces that enables inequity, there are indeed the department can do to ensure at least that all students have the basics necessary for new learning platforms. This includes teacher training and support, partnering with technology companies to provide learning tools for students, and partnering with internet providers to ensure that all students have access to internet to participate in distance learning. Since students can no longer rely on the safety of libraries for educational enrichment, it is now, unfortunately, the DOE's responsibility to foresee and provide all necessary enrichment services.

Too often school buildings in lower socio economic areas are over-crowded and have a denser student population. This does not bode well for social distancing. We encourage the DOE to consider multiple measures and tactics for educational services during the continuation of the Pause and beyond to ensure that as many students as possible, including those that lack basic resources in their home and extended community, are able to achieve academic success. It is no longer a desire for smaller class sizes, and rather now a necessity. It is no longer a desire for greater parent/teacher cooperation, but a necessity. Many parents have experienced a rude wake-up call that teachers are not glorified babysitters and have not only an extremely important role in the community, but a very difficult job. We at CB 8 applaud the strides and efforts of our teachers, and express our gratitude for them.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

The Covid-19 Pandemic has put more children in harms way as tensions and anxiety levels for pretty much every living being increased during the Pause. We do not know the long-term effects of the Pause on children, family dynamics, and mental health, but we advocate for and encourage additional resources for parents with children.

Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
CS	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	37 Sixth Avenue

Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
15/29	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>	
20/29	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth	<i>With the passage of Raise the Age legislation, many of our youth are now presented with an opportunity to receive services necessary for their continued community presence within their home communities. With ATS options, youth can receive the mental health services they need, training, mentoring, and counseling services to begin the process of properly integrating into the community to build social capital. Intervention programs are key to helping reduce the number of youth straying toward incarceration, and programs geared toward this end are necessary.</i>	

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Police-community relations

2019 and 2020 was not kind to the crime stats in District 8. While 2019 had an overall minor reduction in crime on the year, the community saw a major increase in violent crimes and homicides in the first 10 months of the year. The same trend upward in violent crime and homicides was repeated in 2020 as well. As such, we cannot blame the increase in violent crimes solely on the Covid-19 Pandemic as other communities might be able to do. Compounding matters, during the State-wide shutdown, or Pause, residents have expressed concern over the behavior of the officers of our two police precincts, stating that they do not believe officers are doing sufficient work to ameliorate the rising tide of fear inducing crime. Furthermore, residents have cited an apathetic police department resulting from the Black Lives Matter protests and resultant calls to defund the police. We encourage better education around what defunding the police means for all parties involved so that the city can return to safety. No residents should expect officers of the NYPD to continue carrying out responsibilities that they are not training for, only to become enraged when officers respond in the same manner to every situation. Additionally, black and minority residents should not have to bear the burden of fear of disparate treatment at the hands of officers due to their race. Unfortunately, BLM and calls to defund police have not remedied racial tensions but instead have heightened them. That being said, we continue to applaud the NYPD and the relative success of the NCO program. However, we acknowledge that there still remains some adjustments to be made for the success of the program. We hope the NYPD enhances the program by adding additional officers to each section in each precinct and enhance foot patrol as well so that the burden of policing an entire segment of a command does not fall solely on the shoulders of two officers.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

The Pause of 2020 has led to a marked increase in nuisance crime complaints often overlooked by the Precinct commands. For instance, complaints of late night stoop gatherings, gatherings in front of parks/playgrounds or vacant lots, gatherings on corners in front of shuttered stores, drug activity, open container and public drunkenness, not to mention the noise of fireworks that plagued the city the majority of the summer, skyrocketed in our district. The locations of many of these complaints remained the same despite different people seeking assistance.

Furthermore, the eastern side of Community Board 8 is more heavily populated than the western and central portions because of NYCHA developments and large apartment buildings in addition to the private single to four family houses. There is still a need for additional patrol in the area bounded by Troy Avenue and Ralph Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway. The blocks of Sterling and Park Places in this area are especially problematic. Consequently, additional police officers are needed for the 77th and 78th Precincts and PSA #2 to effectively monitor the community and NYCHA developments in our District and to put additional officers in these problem areas. It is troubling to hear that multiple sex trafficking rings were discovered in District 8. We need to monitor the situation closely to ensure that women, especially underage women, are protected from sexual predators. Our local precincts need to monitor constant traffic at locations and listen closely to resident complaints that houses are being used for nefarious purposes. We encourage the NYPD to work closely with the Kings County District Attorney's office to educate the public on the signs of sex trafficking so that the public can assist in identifying problem locations. These needs have not, and will not change despite the Covid-19 Pandemic, and instead, become even more great.

Needs for Emergency Services

No comments

Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
8/8	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
17/29	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has kept kids out of school for months with few outlets and few recreational activities has illustrated with certainty that kids will engage in illegal activities not out of malice, but rather out of boredom. The midnight basketball program implemented in the 1990s was effective in reducing youth crime by offering alternative activities and stimulation, thus reducing the need for youth, especially males, to engage in illegal activities out of curiosity. We urge funding for programs similar to the midnight basketball program and its derivatives to provide alternative activities for youth to engage in.</i>	

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Other

It is difficult for District office staff to isolate one core area on which to focus in terms of resiliency, core infrastructure, and city services. Due to rampant development, multiple nuisances resulting from construction have arisen as have other health concerns. Construction causes a disruption in rodent burrows, sending them scurrying to other areas to escape the vibrations. While New York City has always had a large rodent population, construction and renovation projects have run them from their underground homes and onto the surface—into sight. We can no longer say “out of sight, out of mind,” as rodents are visible even during the day time hours for what are usually nocturnal beasts. Furthermore, construction has created additional nuisances such as noise and dust and the increased number of after hours variances yields less rest from construction that residents can obtain. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, we saw a marked increase in construction complaints as there was no escape on any day coupled with the damaging effects of residents trying to work and their children trying to remote learn—all from their noise filled apartments. We continue to receive an increase in light pollution complaints as agencies continue to pass the buck and disavow oversight responsibility. Additionally, the Pause kept more people in their homes and forced more residents than ever before to cook and shop, increasing household trash generation at a time when Sanitation’s budget was cut. The resulting experience rightfully left many residents upset at the city’s handling of trash removal. While we recognize the hard work of our fellow service members in other agencies, we urge department commissioners and the Mayor’s office to be honest and upfront about agency-wide issues and budget cuts to help generate and maintain patience amongst residents when they believe their needs are not being met, and also to cease demands for the restitution of temporarily suspended services such as residential compost collection and graffiti removal. Lastly, the Pause that brought to a near halt a burgeoning nightlife scene in District 8 has created new street uses that impact resident life. We applaud the restaurant street seating initiative to allow our hospitality industry a way to hold on during the worst economic crisis they might ever face, but the semi-permanent seating structures has created numerous issues. For instance, street cleanliness is suffering as the sweeper that many residents rely on to clean streets is hampered; rodent activity flourishes in ill-kept and improperly cleaned dining areas; garbage trucks are often perched precariously close to street seats, and even trash removed from premises awaiting collection are often placed too close to the dining areas creating unsanitary conditions for patrons. There are improvements that must be made should the program continue and maintain success.

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

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Complaints of flooding in the basements of homes in the District are increasing as are ponding complaints around certain intersections and uneven roadways. The Right of Way Bioswale installation projects occurring throughout the city are designed to assist with runoff and flooding for sewers not equipped to handle the quantity of water running through the system. Unfortunately, these bioswales are neither well maintained nor adequate to handle the growing strain on our sewer. We hope that the city allocates funds to implement other methods to employ to assist with runoff and sewer capacity such as providing incentive for homeowners and developers to create green roofs or green areas in their yard spaces. Many residents prefer to concrete over their front and back yards in an effort to reduce the possibility of any vegetation attracting rodents. What is not understood is that all of this concrete is impermeable and increases the runoff to the sewer. We need to incentivize residents to have as much green space and vegetation on their property as possible to help absorb rain water, while providing a valuable environmental benefit. Unfortunately, this form does not allow us to specifically request funding for the maintenance of bioswales or funding for homeowners to create green roofs or gardens. However, to reiterate: we advocate for incentives for homeowners to create green roofs and as much vegetation on their property as possible to absorb rain water. We also advocate for increasing the size of tree pits to not only allow for root growth, but also to increase the amount of permeable surfaces in the city's concrete jungle.

Needs for Sanitation Services

CB 8 is cognizant of the fact that budget cuts have hampered DSNY operations and will continue to do so for at the least this fiscal year and possibly the next. As such, we will not put in requests for funding for services and programs we know to have been temporarily suspended. Instead, we will use this space to advocate for services and programs that we value.

We value residential composting and organics collection, but as the program was discontinued due to budget cuts, we urge the city to continue its evaluation of how to make the program more efficient, and to return it when all kinks have been ironed out and we can all experience a functional composting program. In the meantime, we encourage expansion of community garden compost collection sites for organics to still provide some compost removal for residents interested in the program and its benefits.

We value curbside electronics collection and eagerly await its return.

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
19/29	DSNY	Provide more frequent litter basket collection	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has wrecked havoc on the City's budget and has led to an increased amount of litter on streets due to overflowing corner baskets. While the start of the Fiscal Year initially saw a massive reduction in basket collection that has been partially restored, it is still necessary that commercial corridors receive additional corner basket collection. Outdoor activity remains the safest way to socialize and be active, and this increases the number of people on the streets and the amount of litter in baskets. As such, we encourage an increase in corner basket collection, especially among commercial corridors.</i>	
21/29	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>It is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced and that signs alerting dog owners that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs are installed. AS A RESULT, WE ARE ASKING THAT FUNDING TO RE-INSTATE THE SIGNAGE UNIT BE PROVIDED. Furthermore, additional Sanitation Police Officers are also needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs as canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for properly caring for their pets.</i>	

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Neighborhood preservation

Community Board 8 members and residents alike often feel as though the community is "under attack" from hyper development. The creation of multiple historic districts to preserve the charming housing integrity of our housing stock has not truncated the excessive development. Developers have targeted the "underbuilt" according to zoning laws historic districts and are seeking to increase their profits by converting the two and three family homes into five or more condominiums by adding extensions and cutting floors. All available lot space is being turned into so-called luxury housing. Larger lots in the M1 zone are being targeted for zoning variances outside of the scope and use as designed by the CB 8 MCROWN Committee and submitted to the Dept. of City Planning. Developers are buying residential air rights to increase the size and scope of their development projects at the detriment of residents who do not understand what it means to sell their air rights. We can continue, but lack the space to do so. Neighborhood preservation is not only about preventing development; it is, instead, about retaining the essence of the community as residents have come to know it. Granted, there will always be change and improvements that serve at that time; however, long term effects of hyper development are too dangerous to consider to allow the massive development to continue in our boundaries. While some believe that the only way to solve the affordability crisis is to create more housing and glut the market, the majority of our members do not agree that this is the way. Reports are indicating a massive exit of residents from the City to other areas with more space; now is the time for us to look into preserving the housing stock we have instead of building more that might not be necessary and that has the potential to turn fallow. There are many alternative ways to increase housing. We encourage the city to look into these alternatives.

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

Needs for Land Use

Our Land Use needs are centered around preservation.

Needs for Housing

We urge the City to consider using derelict, fallow structures for affordable housing opportunities rather than attacking community gardens and taking away green space for small scale development projects. Property owners should be held accountable for their property and should know that if they refuse to take care of it, there is the possibility that they can lose it to address a grave need at truly affordable rates, not inflated rates that are grossly unaffordable. We believe that a proper accounting of vacant NYCHA units should be done, especially considering the dire need for affordable units. The units that are deemed uninhabitable because of various repair needs need to be fixed and made available for occupation as soon as possible. It is saddening that we have thousands of families living in temporary shelters when there are over 4,000 vacant NYCHA units that could be used for permanent housing if only they were habitable. Demolition by neglect is inhumane and immoral, and should be deterred by any means necessary. We need our local lawmakers to seriously consider the issue of arbitrary market rate rents that developers force on a community. The city needs to take a hard line stance on the amount of rent that can be charged to prevent displacement of residents. Following the federal guidelines for the Area Median Income is not feasible in a city with a high standard of living such as New York City. Competition is great for the few so-called affordable units that are available, and the families most in need are ineligible usually because of poor credit. With HUD proposing to increase the burden of responsibility to 35% of income, the strain on already struggling families is merely going to increase. Our elected officials need to step in and institute policy changes that address the glaring and blatant greed of developers that are decimating the housing market in New York City. We believe that the Mayor and City Council have the ability to enact legislation that can help reduce this financial burden by capping rent rates that developers can charge, especially when they enter certain underdeveloped or underprivileged communities. No one should be at risk of displacement, and consequently, our local government needs to do a better job of ensuring that no one faces this danger.

Needs for Economic Development

The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown how untenable and unsustainable high commercial rents can be on valued commercial strips. With more and more hospitality businesses closing permanently and fewer shops and boutiques able to meet overhead costs of a brick and mortar, we are seeing more commercial vacant spaces than in the last 10 years. We understand that private property allows property owners to charge what they desire, but we also encourage EDC to work with business and potential business owners on ways to remain in business. This can include more incubator spaces, more facilities such as Industry Park and the Navy Yard, and also shared spaces for restaurants and bars. It is time to start thinking outside of the box.

Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/8	HPD	Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>Many small scale landlords desire to maintain their apartments but are unable to afford the rising costs of doing so without raising rents to unaffordable levels. Loan programs to help them with rehabilitation projects are necessary to ensure that these landlords and property owners do not have liens levied against their properties because of code enforcement violations. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time. The Covid-19 Pandemic that forced most residents into their units for the majority of every day has illustrated the need for quality housing. Existing conditions in need of remedy must be prioritized to allow residents access to quality housing in their existing spaces.</i>	
2/8	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations. As vulnerable populations, they need to be watched carefully and catered to just as much as families. Many seniors and disabled individuals live on fixed incomes of minimal amounts, and are thus unable to afford the current housing market--even the "affordable units." This increases the homeless population and the need for shelters. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and greater incentives for property owners to keep rents low to reduce the growing numbers of rent burdened households. Housing across the city is being created at a fast pace, but not affordable for existing residents, and vacant newly created units leads to increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.</i>	

3/8	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>
6/8	EDC	Build or expand affordable work or research lab spaces	<i>A Food & Drink Small-scale Manufacturing, Package and Bottling Incubator space is needed in CB8. A number of locations in our manufacturing district (M1) can potentially serve as the venue for small-scale manufacturing in local food and drink that serves Central Brooklyn. The industry in New York City is booming, and additional spaces outside of the glutted Brooklyn Navy Yard, Industry City in Sunset Park, and Red Hook are needed.</i>

Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/29	EDC	Expand programs to support local businesses and entrepreneurs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated just how untenable the current commercial state of the city is. While the city's restaurant and bar scene continues to struggle, retail shops are closing at a very fast pace. CB8 has an abundance of restaurants and bars which would benefit from trained staff that live in the community to serve multiple roles including front house staff, media, marketing, and others. Additionally, non hospitality commercial tenants need assistance to help them weather the pandemic's economic consequences. Resources to assist non hospitality industry spaces selling goods and merchandise to help them move to online platforms are needed to preserve the local market and reduce overhead costs.</i>	

3/29	SBS	Provide commercial lease support for business owners	<i>Many of our commercial tenants are suffering from what is now being referred to as "commercial gentrification." Property owners with commercial spaces are often raising rents on commercial properties at lease renewal by astronomical amounts, usually tripling or quadrupling the previous rent rate. The majority of our businesses cannot survive these increases and are forced to close, thus leading to high turnover and vacancy rates. Lease negotiation support for commercial tenants is necessary to assist them in remaining in their spaces and continue the trend of economic growth in CB 8.</i>
5/29	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning. We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into any and all private applications in this area.</i>
10/29	HPD	Expand programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the need for quality, safe, and comfortable housing for all residents. Unfortunately, many residents do not have access to quality housing due to outstanding repair requests. HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions of allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units.</i>
14/29	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary. Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.</i>

TRANSPORTATION

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility.

Traffic safety and enforcement (cars, scooters, ebikes, etc.)

The Covid-19 Statewide Pause saw a marked increase in complaints and concerns regarding traffic safety and enforcement. While there was a definite decrease in the number of motorized vehicles in terms of cars on the road, our district saw elevated numbers of bikers, skateboarders, and electric scooter users. For the first time in many years, complaints against vehicle/car owners did not rise, but complaints against bikers, skateboarders, and electric scooter users did. Vehicle owners reiterated their concerns over other streetscape users that do not follow the rules of the road. For instance, riding wrong way on one way streets, not using the bike lane even when clear of obstacles, riding while distracted, and the like increased. Concerns by everyone about the proliferation of electric bikes, especially as restaurant delivery increased, skyrocketed. Complaints ranged from noise, illegal use of the sidewalks and endangering pedestrians, repair shops that operate with little to no regard for pedestrian safety as they openly engage in repair on the street, etc. Furthermore, complaints against the scooter share company, Revel, increased dramatically as well. Concerns ranged from wanton usage of people not licensed to drive motorcycles/mopeds, and as such, do not necessarily know how to properly utilize the scooter; the lack of helmet usage endangering lives; disobeying traffic regulations and rules resulting in increased accidents or near accidents; collisions with pedal bikes and pedestrians, etc. Enforcement by the NYPD on all of these concerns has been lacking, thus leading to additional concerns. Please note that CB 8 supports transportation alternative options. However, we must caution that all transportation alternatives remain equitable with the same rules and regulations applying to all. Any operators of motor vehicles must be held accountable for their actions, not just car owners. Furthermore, with electric scooter shares now being greenlighted citywide with a pilot coming to CB 8 potentially, we must attempt to strategize the best usage of our streetscape to avoid unnecessary collisions. The amount of street furniture has increased during the Covid Pause with restaurant street seating, as has the number of pedestrians and pedal bikes. We must ensure that all are safe regardless of their mode of transportation.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility.

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

Prior the Great Pause of 2020, we at CB 8 often questioned some of DOT's actions. The Pause has not reduced many of the questions. While we recognize that streets need to be shared, we do not all believe that many of the measures being used to divide the streetscape and also plans for eliminating vehicles if the proper course. For instance, while our district currently does not have protected bike lanes, we have received many requests from bikers and vehicle owners not to bring protected bike lanes to our district because there are certain consequences of them that actually increase the danger for bikers. Additionally, while we support pedestrian plazas, an increased number of roadway embedded bike lanes, and other initiatives, we question the layout and implementation of them, and whether or not DOT performed the necessary traffic studies to see just how closing off specific blocks to vehicular traffic for a pedestrian plaza, or eliminating turns and the like, actually hurt traffic flow and create traffic dangers. We encourage and support the agency working with us to better implement traffic initiatives to maximize benefit.

Needs for Transit Services

Many seniors and people with disabilities rely on bus service to travel. It becomes disheartening knowing that some people prefer to remain home rather than attempt to rely upon unreliable bus service in District 8. We request better service along our bus lines, especially during non peak hours and weekends.

Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/8	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>The Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. Efforts should be made to ensure that the shuttle line is held to the same quality standards as other major transit stations.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
29/29	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>	

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Park care and maintenance

Our parks, cultural institutions, and libraries provide invaluable resources, education and entertainment to our residents. They should be maintained in a manner that will allow them to continue providing pleasure and enjoyment to their users and visitors. That being said, it is unfortunate that many of our parks and playgrounds were neglected in terms of trash pickup, maintenance, and even security long before the Covid-19 Pause. The District office often receives complaints about illegal activity in a park or playground, in addition to multiple complaints of garbage strewn parks and overflowing trash cans on Parks property. We understand that the Parks Department had its limited resources further reduced to budget cuts resulting from City efforts to stem the covid-19 danger, and are unable to clean parks daily and also to provide PEP officers at every park and playground. However, more needs to be done to keep our parks and playgrounds cleaner and safer, especially now that outdoor activity remains the safest activity for all to participate. We encourage a rotation of PEP officers to patrol our parks and playgrounds just to inform people that their activity is monitored. While this will not entirely stop illegal activity, we believe it will help dispel some of it as people will think twice before engaging in activity that can lead to potential fines. It is time that the city restores Parks' budget so that the department can provide adequate services to the community and we at CB 8 can stop making excuses for the lack of services. Additionally, many of the street trees in District 8 are in terrible shape. Many are dying and/or have dead limbs, a good number are in need of pruning and care, and newly planted trees are not properly maintained and consequently die young. A wind storm in May 2020 that felled hundreds of trees citywide and caused millions of dollars in damage illustrated just how important proper arbor care is. In addition to newly planted trees not being properly cared for by contractors, in some circumstances, trees not suitable for the soil or climate are planted, and do not thrive, raising residents' ire and dissatisfaction with service delivery.

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

Needs for Parks

The need for safe and well-maintained parks and playgrounds is more crucial than ever due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. A regular maintenance program with adequate manpower is crucial. Currently, maintenance staff needs to be increased for all of our Parks and Playgrounds, malls along Eastern Parkway, and the St. John's Recreation Center. Additional Playground Associates, Park Enforcement Officers, and other personnel are required to keep children at play free from harassment and dangerous elements that lurk in unguarded areas. It has been proven that with personnel in our parks, they are cleaner and safer for those that utilize them. Also, while we are aware that the response to each of our Capital requests will be, "The Department supports this request but does not have funds to accommodate the request. Please contact your local elected officials," we will maintain our Capital requests in the hopes that the City Council and Mayor will notice the trend in Community Board requests and increase the budget for the Parks Department.

Needs for Cultural Services

We urge the City to continue its financial support for the renovation of our cultural institutions. The Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) is one of New York City's unique educational and cultural treasures. Since its inception in 1899, it has been recognized for educational excellence and innovation and has had strong local and national impact while attendance continues to grow. Funding is required to complete necessary repairs and upgrades, and is also needed to maintain operating hours for the museum and staff levels at a livable wage. Weeksville Heritage Center (WHC) is another cultural jewel in District 8. The newly completed educational center and office space should further enhance the eastern end of the District. WHC is a multi-dimensional museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 19th century African American community of Weeksville, Brooklyn. Using a contemporary lens, the center activates this unique history through the presentation of innovative, vanguard and experimental programs.

Needs for Library Services

In recent years, the three public library systems serving NYC have been threatened annually with drastic cuts. Libraries provide job seekers assistance, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, computer training, tax preparation, US Passport processing, fine arts exhibits, access to the internet, and serve as a repository for historic material. Taken as a whole, the Brooklyn Public Library system requires its full funding due to its multi-service delivery to youth and adults alike.

Needs for Community Boards

Community Boards are the first advocates for community residents facing issues with other city agencies. It is our charter mandated duty to interface with community residents and city municipalities to ensure service delivery in a timely manner. 311 is not an adequate substitution for the interaction of community boards and community residents. Residents increasingly complain about the difficulty of obtaining useful and accurate information from the 311 system concerning resolution of complaints submitted via the central hotline and other general questions. The net result of the 311 hotline has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution. The Covid-19 Pandemic has re-affirmed the value of community boards and the important work that we do.

Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
5/8	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors. The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced residents outdoors for safe recreation and socializing. As there are still capacity limitations, it is imperative that a system be in place to allow residents to stagger their interactions. During short daylight months, additional light is needed for the safety of these small groups.</i>	
7/8	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights around playground area in Brower Park. There are currently no lights in the playground, and the area is completely dark and encourages dangerous activities.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
18/29	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to outdoor spaces makes this much more necessary than ever before. We urge the city to allocate additional funds to the Parks Dept. to hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP officers) to enforce the rules of the park such as no littering, no fire (BBQ), and no off leash dogs during specified hours and many others. Funding must be provided in order to rectify these problems and make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all, especially as we remain in a state of social distancing and outdoor gatherings.</i>	

22/29	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>We are pleased with the number of new trees that have been planted in the district over the last few years. The Parks Department must hold contractors accountable for not following the mandates of their contract as many of the recently planted trees are either dead or dying. Better street tree maintenance is needed to prevent these issues from plaguing a valuable resource. Additionally, older trees need better care such as pruning and larger tree pits to remain healthy and vibrant.</i>
23/29	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and these complaints only increased during the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to neighborhood parks and playgrounds for recreation and social distancing socialization. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>
28/29	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>

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
1/8	HPD	Expand loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>Many small scale landlords desire to maintain their apartments but are unable to afford the rising costs of doing so without raising rents to unaffordable levels. Loan programs to help them with rehabilitation projects are necessary to ensure that these landlords and property owners do not have liens levied against their properties because of code enforcement violations. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time. The Covid-19 Pandemic that forced most residents into their units for the majority of every day has illustrated the need for quality housing. Existing conditions in need of remedy must be prioritized to allow residents access to quality housing in their existing spaces.</i>	
2/8	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations. As vulnerable populations, they need to be watched carefully and catered to just as much as families. Many seniors and disabled individuals live on fixed incomes of minimal amounts, and are thus unable to afford the current housing market--even the "affordable units." This increases the homeless population and the need for shelters. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and greater incentives for property owners to keep rents low to reduce the growing numbers of rent burdened households. Housing across the city is being created at a fast pace, but not affordable for existing residents, and vacant newly created units leads to increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.</i>	

3/8	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>
4/8	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>The Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. Efforts should be made to ensure that the shuttle line is held to the same quality standards as other major transit stations.</i>
5/8	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors. The Covid-19 Pandemic has forced residents outdoors for safe recreation and socializing. As there are still capacity limitations, it is imperative that a system be in place to allow residents to stagger their interactions. During short daylight months, additional light is needed for the safety of these small groups.</i>
6/8	EDC	Build or expand affordable work or research lab spaces	<i>A Food & Drink Small-scale Manufacturing, Package and Bottling Incubator space is needed in CB8. A number of locations in our manufacturing district (M1) can potentially serve as the venue for small-scale manufacturing in local food and drink that serves Central Brooklyn. The industry in New York City is booming, and additional spaces outside of the glutted Brooklyn Navy Yard, Industry City in Sunset Park, and Red Hook are needed.</i>
7/8	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights around playground area in Brower Park. There are currently no lights in the playground, and the area is completely dark and encourages dangerous activities.</i>

8/8	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue.</i>	
CS	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	37 Sixth Avenue

Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance rental assistance programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the substantial rent burden that residents citywide and especially in District 8 face. We applaud the efforts of City and State officials for allocating funds to help residents pay rental arrears during the Pandemic. Unfortunately, more funds are needed as the crisis is not over, and funds are needed for a wider array of residents. The definition of rent burden should be expanded beyond the current 30% of gross annual salary so that a greater number of residents can qualify for rental assistance vouchers to help them cover the gap between the affordable and unaffordable, to avoid rent burden.</i>	
2/29	EDC	Expand programs to support local businesses and entrepreneurs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated just how untenable the current commercial state of the city is. While the city's restaurant and bar scene continues to struggle, retail shops are closing at a very fast pace. CB8 has an abundance of restaurants and bars which would benefit from trained staff that live in the community to serve multiple roles including front house staff, media, marketing, and others. Additionally, non hospitality commercial tenants need assistance to help them weather the pandemic's economic consequences. Resources to assist non hospitality industry spaces selling goods and merchandise to help them move to online platforms are needed to preserve the local market and reduce overhead costs.</i>	
3/29	SBS	Provide commercial lease support for business owners	<i>Many of our commercial tenants are suffering from what is now being referred to as "commercial gentrification." Property owners with commercial spaces are often raising rents on commercial properties at lease renewal by astronomical amounts, usually tripling or quadrupling the previous rent rate. The majority of our businesses cannot survive these increases and are forced to close, thus leading to high turnover and vacancy rates. Lease negotiation support for commercial tenants is necessary to assist them in remaining in their spaces and continue the trend of economic growth in CB 8.</i>	

4/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>We must keep in mind that our elderly population is at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional and physical states. Our elderly population is the most vulnerable and often forgotten. They require considerable attention to maintain their safety and well-being, thus preventing them from being subjected to unnecessary hardship, pain, and mental aggravation in the form of fear.</i>
5/29	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning. We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into any and all private applications in this area.</i>
6/29	HRA	Expand access to public health insurance such as Medicaid	<i>With the federal government extracting every ounce of worth from the Affordable Care Act, now more than ever, individuals in need of health care must have a viable option for health care than the skeleton plans designed to undermine what the ACA was attempting to accomplish. Decreasing eligibility requirements to receive Medicaid, or even having a payment system to make more people Medicaid eligible would help bridge the gap between those with quality health insurance and those without. Costs of private markets are increasing drastically due to cuts in federal subsidies and fewer people are able to afford private insurance. Having Medicaid as an option would allow access to the preventative care many people need to prevent grave illnesses.</i>

7/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color where sentiments such as "mental illness is not a disease you can afford to have," continue to be a plague. This stigma prevents those suffering from symptoms from seeking help. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has certainly illustrated the need for mental health programs and greater understanding of the issues and the ways mental health issues can manifest and be expressed. At this point, no one can say the often repeated phrase, "mental health issues are not something you can afford to have" as nearly everyone is experiencing some sort of mental strain. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the pandemic.</i>
8/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>Residents of multiple dwelling units face an often times forgotten issue: any resident living next to or upstairs from a smoker, is subject to secondhand smoke, which studies have shown is just as toxic if not MORE toxic than the primary smoke inhaled by the smoker. Residents should not be forced to endure health issues brought about by inconsiderate neighbors and apathetic landlords. As such, we urge the City to eliminate smoking in multiple dwellings and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke.</i>
9/29	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>The large number of development projects scattered throughout the District along with renovation projects in older buildings in our historic districts have disrupted rodent burrows to the point where rodents are visible during daylight hours. We understand that city coffers are currently devoid of cash, and as such, we overwhelmingly support DOHMH implementing a policy change mandating that developers bait more than just the perimeter of their projects and instead bait a wider berth, as well as the city enforcing harsh penalties on properties that do not perform abatement to allow the city the opportunity to focus on other health related issues and needs rather than baiting. We all need to do our part to reduce rodent populations, including baiting and cleaning.</i>

10/29	HPD	Expand programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the need for quality, safe, and comfortable housing for all residents. Unfortunately, many residents do not have access to quality housing due to outstanding repair requests. HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions of allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units.</i>
11/29	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>The state-wide shutdown (Pause) caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic illustrated just how few households and individuals have the tools and resources available to them to properly budget based on their income. Financial education and planning is direly needed in less economically advantaged households. Due to the inevitability of having to stretch their finances even further than they are capable, it is imperative that residents have access to financial planning and budgeting information to learn how to properly plan their monthly spending. This financial literacy is not about just getting a better job to increase income as the Pause has taught us just how important low-paying jobs are, as well as how easily distressed a household can become with just a small reduction in income.</i>
12/29	HRA	Other domestic violence services requests	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has brought to the surface many glaring needs for households and families experiencing violence in the home. The state-wide shutdown (Pause) that kept people at home for months created a funnel effect amplifying abuse in homes as no one had an opportunity for escape. It is imperative that funding be provided for preventative services to educate individuals all ages on the signs of abuse, whether physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological, and how to exit a situation that could be potentially life threatening. Furthermore, abusers should have multiple forms of assistance at their disposal to assist them in overcoming their root and core issues that causes their disruptive behavior.</i>

13/29	DOHMH	Create or promote programs for education and awareness on preventing chronic diseases including quitting smoking, nutrition, physical activity, etc.	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated the vast disparities of food choice and knowledge amongst residents. Additionally, the inability for many to afford healthy food options combined with the lack of healthy food options for many residents on the eastern end of the district only compounds these problems. Lower income residents without excess expendable cash should have access to quality fresh food and be trained in healthy living without exceeding their budget. A healthy diet yields a healthier body and offers protection against disease, as has been stated repeatedly by the CDC during the Pause. Programs stressing proper nutrition and avoidance of certain health restrictive activities like smoking should be increased.</i>
14/29	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary. Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.</i>
15/29	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>
16/29	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>Too often, our elders are too ashamed or afraid to speak up for themselves, leading them to suffer continued abuse at the hands of caregivers or even strangers. We encourage DFTA to increase outreach efforts and initiate public service announcements to inform seniors of their options and services should they ever come face to face with elder abuse. We also advocate for increased public awareness programs to help people identify the signs and signals of elder abuse.</i>

17/29	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has kept kids out of school for months with few outlets and few recreational activities has illustrated with certainty that kids will engage in illegal activities not out of malice, but rather out of boredom. The midnight basketball program implemented in the 1990s was effective in reducing youth crime by offering alternative activities and stimulation, thus reducing the need for youth, especially males, to engage in illegal activities out of curiosity. We urge funding for programs similar to the midnight basketball program and its derivatives to provide alternative activities for youth to engage in.</i>
18/29	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. However, the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to outdoor spaces makes this much more necessary than ever before. We urge the city to allocate additional funds to the Parks Dept. to hire additional Park Enforcement Personnel (PEP officers) to enforce the rules of the park such as no littering, no fire (BBQ), and no off leash dogs during specified hours and many others. Funding must be provided in order to rectify these problems and make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all, especially as we remain in a state of social distancing and outdoor gatherings.</i>
19/29	DSNY	Provide more frequent litter basket collection	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic that has wrecked havoc on the City's budget and has led to an increased amount of litter on streets due to overflowing corner baskets. While the start of the Fiscal Year initially saw a massive reduction in basket collection that has been partially restored, it is still necessary that commercial corridors receive additional corner basket collection. Outdoor activity remains the safest way to socialize and be active, and this increases the number of people on the streets and the amount of litter in baskets. As such, we encourage an increase in corner basket collection, especially among commercial corridors.</i>

20/29	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth	<i>With the passage of Raise the Age legislation, many of our youth are now presented with an opportunity to receive services necessary for their continued community presence within their home communities. With ATS options, youth can receive the mental health services they need, training, mentoring, and counseling services to begin the process of properly integrating into the community to build social capital. Intervention programs are key to helping reduce the number of youth straying toward incarceration, and programs geared toward this end are necessary.</i>
21/29	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>It is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced and that signs alerting dog owners that it is their responsibility to clean up after their dogs are installed. AS A RESULT, WE ARE ASKING THAT FUNDING TO RE-INSTATE THE SIGNAGE UNIT BE PROVIDED. Furthermore, additional Sanitation Police Officers are also needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs as canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for properly caring for their pets.</i>
22/29	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>We are pleased with the number of new trees that have been planted in the district over the last few years. The Parks Department must hold contractors accountable for not following the mandates of their contract as many of the recently planted trees are either dead or dying. Better street tree maintenance is needed to prevent these issues from plaguing a valuable resource. Additionally, older trees need better care such as pruning and larger tree pits to remain healthy and vibrant.</i>

23/29	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and these complaints only increased during the Covid-19 Pandemic that sent residents rushing to neighborhood parks and playgrounds for recreation and social distancing socialization. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>
24/29	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>The elderly have a difficult enough time traveling, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has made it even more difficult and dangerous to travel. Unreliable and presently deemed unsafe public transportation options are at times their only choice. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, should be provided-especially for those that are properly afraid of contact with others due to their fragility and age making them a greater risk to perish from Covid-19.</i>
25/29	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>For many years, there has been an increase in non HIV related STD transmission due to avoidance of condoms has indicated that a growing number of people are becoming lax in their healthcare. Additional education is needed to help residents understand their role in keeping themselves and their partners safe.</i>
26/29	DOHMH	Promote vaccinations and immunizations	<i>The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown us how important being healthy is. Childhood immunizations are extremely necessary at this time to avoid preventable diseases.</i>

27/29	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>Homebound seniors should not have to live a life of unintentional isolation because they are self-sufficient enough to be able to live on their own. Medicaid ineligible seniors should not be forced to pay exorbitant out of pocket costs for assistance in day to day needs. We encourage increasing home care services for homebound seniors to include not only basic care and assistance, but also for interactive conversation and companionship to prevent the ails of isolation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has illustrated to all--regardless of age--just how important both social interaction and companionship are.</i>
28/29	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>
29/29	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>