

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

Fiscal Year
2026

**Brooklyn
Community District**

November 2024

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) 2026. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from June to November, 2024.

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 FY24 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 2026. 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

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Phone: 7184675574
Email: brooklyncb8@gmail.com
Website: www.brooklyncb8.org

Chair: Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon
District Manager: Ms. Michelle George

2. 2020 CENSUS DATA

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

New York City

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

Brooklyn

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	2,504,700	100.00	2,736,074	100.00	231,374	9.2	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	594,378	23.7	595,703	21.8	1,325	0.2	-1.9
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	2,504,700	100.0	2,736,074	100.0	231,374	9.2	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	496,285	19.8	516,426	18.9	20,141	4.1	-0.9
White non-Hispanic	893,306	35.7	968,427	35.4	75,121	8.4	-0.3
Black non-Hispanic	799,066	31.9	729,696	26.7	-69,370	-8.7	-5.2
Asian non-Hispanic	260,129	10.4	370,776	13.6	110,647	42.5	3.2
Some other race, non-Hispanic	15,904	0.6	37,579	1.4	21,675	136.3	0.8
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	40,010	1.6	113,170	4.1	73,160	182.9	2.5
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	1,000,293	100.0	1,077,654	100.0	77,361	7.7	0.0
Occupied housing units	916,856	91.7	1,009,804	93.7	92,948	10.1	2.0
Vacant housing units	83,437	8.3	67,850	6.3	-15,587	-18.7	-2.0

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

Brooklyn Community District 8

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
AGE							
Total population	96,317	100.00	108,259	100.00	11,942	12.4	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	20,724	21.5	18,521	17.1	-2,203	-10.6	-4.4
MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN							
Total population	96,317	100.0	108,259	100.0	11,942	12.4	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	11,498	11.9	14,131	13.1	2,633	22.9	1.2
White non-Hispanic	16,056	16.7	31,077	28.7	15,021	93.6	12.0
Black non-Hispanic	63,111	65.5	49,705	45.9	-13,406	-21.2	-19.6
Asian non-Hispanic	2,712	2.8	5,451	5.0	2,739	101.0	2.2
Some other race, non-Hispanic	636	0.7	1,467	1.4	831	130.7	0.7
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	2,304	2.4	6,428	5.9	4,124	179.0	3.5
HOUSING OCCUPANCY							
Total housing units	43,351	100.0	49,525	100.0	6,174	14.2	0.0
Occupied housing units	39,852	91.9	46,222	93.3	6,370	16.0	1.4
Vacant housing units	3,499	8.1	3,303	6.7	-196	-5.6	-1.4

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

Statement on Data Accuracy

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

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

3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Community Board No. 8 encompasses the neighborhoods of North Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and Weeksville, and is bounded by Atlantic Avenue on the north, Flatbush Avenue on the west, Eastern Parkway on the south, Ralph Avenue and the carved-out portion of Lincoln Terrace Park south of Eastern Parkway to East New York Avenue between Rochester Avenue and Ralph Avenue on the east. Our growing Districts' resident demographics and socio-economic statuses are evolving and some of the changing statuses have caused tensions between residents that do not share the same or even similar intersections. New York City's resurgence following the Covid-19 pandemic continues to highlight various disparities among its residents, especially in District 8. Key areas affected include housing (in terms of security, access, and affordability), healthcare, food resources, access to open spaces, and transportation.

The intense development of the few remaining undeveloped parcels in our District—primarily within the M-1 manufacturing zone from Atlantic Avenue to Bergen Street, between Grand and Franklin Avenues (formerly the MCROWN zone, now known as the "Atlantic Avenue Mixed-Use Corridor" or AAMUP)—along with the expansion of existing structures, has intensified gentrification and displacement. This development has led to increased rental prices over a larger area and heightened tensions between longtime residents and newer, more affluent arrivals. A new, more troubling issue has arisen, rooted in a perceived disconnect between local elected officials and residents who feel their concerns about housing access are not being addressed. Increasingly, residents believe that elected officials' focus on building luxury housing as the sole solution to the housing affordability crisis is failing the working-class individuals and families who have shaped this city. Many have called on officials to stop overlooking the resulting displacement, rising rents, and landlord harassment of long-term residents, as luxury units remain vacant and homelessness rises due to unaffordable rental prices.

Two of the District's key population groups—the elderly and youth—are critically underserved and lacking essential resources. There is a growing need for senior programs, accessible transportation, and a variety of youth-focused initiatives. Services should extend beyond the "norm" to cater to a broader spectrum of personality, emotional, and physical needs. Ensuring comprehensive support for the most vulnerable within these already marginalized groups is essential to prevent unnecessary strain and ensure their well-being.

Mental health challenges continue to weigh heavily on a growing number of the district's residents, remaining heightened in the post-Covid-19 recovery period with no signs of declining. Among the predominantly immigrant and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities, a lack of mental health education often discourages treatment or open discussion with family, friends, and healthcare providers. Educational programs, coupled with mindfulness practices like meditation, gardening, and holistic healing methods, could greatly benefit the community when combined with access to preventive services and support. Community resources, such as green spaces, stable employment, quality housing, public safety, and a sense of belonging, are crucial for fostering mental well-being.

We are optimistic that the following narratives and budget requests will guide officials in identifying effective strategies to bridge service gaps and provide needed support to the residents of Brooklyn Community Board 8 for FY 2025 and beyond.

4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

Brooklyn Community Board 8

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

Affordable Housing

NYC Open Data shows that from July 1, 2023, to October 1, 2024, there were 369 marshal-executed evictions in District 8 alone. While this number might not initially seem high, it underscores the severe housing affordability crisis affecting many residents. This issue is worsened by inefficiencies in the City's housing assistance programs, staffing shortages, landlords' refusal to accept vouchers, and instances of landlord greed. Although data clearly shows that a majority of city residents are rent-burdened, pundits often ignore this and instead point to an alleged overall housing shortage, sidestepping the real issue: affordability. Additionally, warehoused units remain unaddressed in discussions about affordable housing, further straining the City's renter population, which makes up two-thirds of its residents. The common call to "build more" to tackle this crisis, as data has shown, only decreases affordability, raises cost burdens, and accelerates displacement. Adding complexity to the affordable housing discussion is the issue of rent-controlled and rent-stabilized units in disrepair, where tenants face harassment intended to drive them out. Unscrupulous landlords, aiming to maximize profits, employ tactics that circumvent provisions in the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019, which limits the financial incentive for landlords to vacate long-term tenants. These tactics include subdividing or merging apartments to remove them from protected status, installing undesirable tenants as agents of harassment, neglecting essential repairs until units become unlivable, and ignoring tenant complaints about vermin or disruptive neighbors. While these actions may not be explicitly illegal, they are certainly unethical and disproportionately impact the most economically vulnerable tenants. The conversion of small, private homes into multi-dwelling luxury condominiums—priced well beyond the reach of most residents—alongside the rise of illegal short-term rentals like private hotels, bed and breakfasts, and hostels, is intensifying the affordable housing crisis in District 8 and New York City. Current land-use policies favoring luxury developments, up-zoning, and minimal Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) options (typically Option 2 and Option 4, at 80% and 115% AMI, respectively) have proved inadequate for addressing the City's housing affordability issues. Despite clear signs of failure, these trends are still touted as solutions while rents continue to climb and resident displacement rates escalate. For example, the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP), initiated by CD35 and supported by the Mayor, falls short of the community-focused goals set in CB8's earlier M-CROWN proposal. The Department of City Planning's (DCP) draft AAMUP zoning framework neglects a key aspect of M-CROWN: cross-subsidizing light manufacturing spaces to foster accessible, career-path local jobs. While DCP has implemented similar zoning tools in Gowanus, they have yet to adopt this approach for AAMUP. Furthermore, the residential density in AAMUP's draft framework surpasses what CB8's M-CROWN resolutions outlined, and DCP's preference for MIH Option 2 omits deeply affordable housing options altogether. Consequently, the current draft of AAMUP falls short of CB8's affordable housing needs and does not address the job creation goals integral to the M-CROWN vision.

Other - Write In (Required)

Transportation emerged as a top priority for District 8 residents, with three key areas highlighted for improvement. Firstly, seniors expressed concern about how bike and pedestrian prioritization has disrupted their travel. Bus routes are frequently rerouted to support Open Streets initiatives, particularly on Vanderbilt Avenue, causing extended wait times that hinder access to appointments and errands. NYC Transit's proposed Brooklyn Bus Network changes further exacerbate these issues by increasing walking distances between bus stops—many of which already lack shelter and seating. Seniors and residents with mobility challenges feel sidelined, as these changes disproportionately favor those who can travel by bike, train, or on foot. Rail travel is not a viable alternative for many seniors, as insufficient ADA accessibility in District 8's train stations limits options for those needing elevators or escalators. Secondly, cyclists identified the lack of north-south bike lanes in District 8 as a significant issue. While the western portion of the district, particularly Prospect Heights, benefits from ample bike infrastructure, residents across the district

need safe biking routes. They advocated for bike lanes and traffic calming measures on corridors like Albany, Troy, and Schenectady Avenues, proposing converting these one-way roads to a single travel lane with designated bike lanes and dual parking lanes. They expressed concern that the limited infrastructure not only increases safety risks but also deepens disparities between the more affluent western neighborhoods and under-resourced eastern areas. Additionally, cyclists questioned some recent Department of Transportation (DOT) changes, citing the Buffalo Avenue protected bike lane as an example where design choices have raised safety concerns for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers. Specific issues included the absence of a mid-block crossing light for park access, the narrowing of driving and parking lanes to create dual bike lanes instead of a single protected lane, and a "floating parking lane" that requires drivers to exit into oncoming traffic. These and similar concerns about the Underhill Avenue Bike Boulevard reflect broader doubts about whether current designs are effectively enhancing safety. Thirdly, residents voiced frustration over "hostile vehicle infrastructure" that complicates car travel. Examples of such changes included road diets for bike lanes and select bus service, removal of parking spaces for planters or bike shares, and parking spaces repurposed for car share programs like Zip Car. While residents acknowledge the need to reduce car reliance for climate action, many feel unfairly targeted by these measures, especially given the lack of improvements to public transportation that could naturally reduce vehicle dependence. They argue that infrastructure changes aimed at climate action feel more like repression of personal transportation options rather than meaningful progress, suggesting that corporate accountability should be prioritized over punitive measures on individual residents. Lastly, illegal moped use, rising e-bike numbers, and frequent traffic law violations by these users have sparked concerns about street safety. While these alternative modes could be beneficial if regulated, their unlicensed and unmonitored use currently creates significant hazards on streets and sidewalks. Residents urge relevant agencies to explore legislation that would enforce oversight, licensing, and responsible use, ultimately making streets safer for everyone, including those unable to safeguard themselves adequately.

Parks and open space

The State of New York has set a goal of providing 2.5 acres of open space for every 1,000 people, while the New York City average is only 1.5 acres per 1,000. Unfortunately, in District 8, increasing development has left residents falling short of open space mandates. For example, Pacific Park's proposed 8 acres of open space would only provide 0.36 acres per 1,000 people. Furthermore, the additional population from new developments, including the Atlantic Yard Development Project/Pacific Park, will continue to reduce the already limited open space ratio for District 8 residents. The proportion of active to passive open space also falls well below the ideal range recommended by the City Environmental Quality Review guidelines. This shortfall highlights a significant need for open space beyond just the desires of residents. A trend has emerged where new developments designate rooftop "open spaces" and small individual terraces as open space. Unfortunately, these private spaces do not meet the recreational needs that contribute to mental well-being. Decades of research underscore the mental health benefits of open space and recreational activities, which promote happier, healthier communities. With mental health concerns on the rise, we advocate for utilizing vacant lots as community gardens and green spaces for public enjoyment. Access to nature is essential, and New York City needs as much open space as possible. We also encourage the City to provide incentives for property owners to develop green roofs and participate in small-scale urban gardening on rooftops and in private yards. This would not only create open space but also provide dietary benefits, reduce street runoff, and lower energy costs. Gardening has been shown to reduce stress, foster social connections, and aid in certain health conditions. Additionally, locally grown food supports healthier diets, while rooftop gardens can lower cooling costs by absorbing sunlight and heat. What the city invests in tax incentives for these projects would be recovered in other societal benefits. Children would learn to appreciate nature, local wildlife would find shared habitats in the city, and the community atmosphere would improve overall. Additionally, surveys from 2019 to the present reveal significant dissatisfaction among residents regarding the Parks Department's tree maintenance. Many residents are frustrated with the pruning schedule and the lack of cooperation between agencies on simple issues, such as the Department of Transportation raising a street sign to avoid trimming a healthy tree or adding an additional arm to a streetlight to bypass tree foliage. Budget constraints have exacerbated these issues, extending maintenance timelines for tree pruning and general

upkeep. In December 2023, Community Board 8 unanimously supported the Parks 1% initiative, which calls for allocating 1% of the city's total budget (about \$1.2 billion) to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). This funding is essential not only to cover operational needs but also to invest in capital projects. Unfortunately, despite campaign promises to support Parks 1%, Mayor Eric Adams' administration has deprioritized Parks funding, leading to budget cuts that hinder services, cleanliness, and community partnerships. The FY 2025 budget cut DPR's funding by 5% from FY24, which itself had been reduced by 5% in the previous year. These cuts have resulted in fewer park staff, overgrown landscapes, unsanitary facilities, overflowing trash, and reduced community partnerships, which ultimately harms both the community and the city. Recently, private investments in neighborhood parks and playgrounds, such as the Skate Park Project renovating Brower Park Skate Park and establishing a new Skate Garden in Mount Prospect Park, have caused division within the community. Poor communication around these projects fueled misinformation and tension among park users. It's essential to remember that NYC parks and open spaces should cater to all residents' interests and needs. To prevent further division, we advocate for increased capital funding for future park projects.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Healthcare and Human Services

Mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs

As New York City residents continue to navigate a post-COVID-19 world, the city still grapples with supporting those facing mental health challenges and substance abuse. Daily headlines highlight the struggles residents face as mental health issues go unattended and untreated. It's clear that the lack of understanding surrounding mental health can no longer be overlooked. Chronic mental health conditions like depression, anxiety, anger (mis)management issues, borderline personality disorder, mood swings, withdrawal, detachment, and others are increasingly prevalent. As social and environmental conditions worsen, these conditions can often lead individuals to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol.

External pressures such as global conflict, rising hostilities at home, financial strain, and shame associated with mental illness can deeply impact mental well-being, contributing to the use of illicit substances and alcohol, and fueling a destructive cycle of worsening mental health.

In many cases, unhealed trauma and limited coping skills are factors that increase susceptibility to substance misuse. Turning to substances as a means to avoid facing unresolved issues only compounds the mental burdens individuals carry. Addressing the complexities of mental health and reducing stigma around it should be a top priority, especially in a city where the growing population of unhoused individuals often struggle with these challenges. Our district has seen a rise in reports of unhoused persons exhibiting erratic behavior on local commercial corridors. While police response is often swift, we advocate for expanded resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment in response to rising rates of drug and alcohol use.

Community District Needs Related to Healthcare and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

We encourage the development of "one-stop-shop" clinics and healthcare centers that provide many, if not all, of the essential services offered by hospitals. Facilities like these, which can handle outpatient minor surgeries, health screenings, dialysis, asthma treatments, MRIs and CT scans, walk-in services, and more, are valuable assets to the community—particularly as our District currently lacks a hospital. While we are not suggesting that these smaller centers should replace hospital care, they offer a convenient, accessible, and often more affordable option for residents who might otherwise forgo medical attention, especially those without health insurance. Additionally, we hope these centers will expand to offer more comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment and preventative services.

Needs for Older NYs

Our senior population, a growing yet often overlooked community, deserves dedicated services and support as a recognition of their contributions and lifetime of hard work. We must ensure that seniors have the fundamental means to live comfortably above the federal poverty line. Unfortunately, many seniors in New York City struggle with housing insecurity due to skyrocketing rents, rising healthcare costs, increasing property tax and rental burdens, and inflation driving up food prices. As advocates for elderly care in District 8, we urge a course of action to improve quality of life for seniors.

City-operated and neighborhood-based agencies should expand services focused on residential opportunities, home care, and healthcare, especially for seniors who do not qualify for Medicaid or programs like SCRIE, DRIE, and senior property tax exemptions. These underserved seniors should

not have to compete with working residents for "affordable" housing that threatens their financial security. Let's prioritize solutions that respect and support our senior citizens' well-being.

Needs for Homeless

Affordable housing and measures to curb excessive rent increases by landlords can play a crucial role in reducing homelessness. True affordability should be based on tenants' net income—the amount they actually have available for rent—rather than gross income. Additionally, addressing homelessness requires meeting individuals' social and mental health needs by fostering healthy, safe communities. By building strong social networks and community support systems, we can help residents long before government intervention becomes necessary.

Needs for Low Income NYs

Living in poverty or being low-income can significantly impact a person's quality of life and family dynamics. According to the family stress model, poverty often creates stress within families, which can lead to interparental conflict that affects family relationships and may contribute to negative outcomes for children. Economic pressures can also strain parent-child relationships, as children may feel resentment over the lack of parental presence or resources for small luxuries.

Furthermore, poverty-related conditions like overcrowded housing and housing instability can have a destabilizing effect on all family members.

Poverty also makes it challenging for parents to maintain a healthy work-life balance, limiting the time they can spend caring for their children and participating in school, extracurricular, and community activities. Low-income parents are more likely to work long hours in unstable jobs that lack basic supports like parental leave and sick pay. They often have less flexibility and fewer options, such as reliance on public transportation and lack of access to work-from-home arrangements, which can add further strain on family life.

Research has shown that increases in family income can positively impact children's educational achievements and improve their emotional and physical well-being. However, poverty also affects adults' health, leading to higher rates of chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and mortality. Low-income communities face additional challenges, as financial limitations and inadequate access to healthcare make it difficult to address health needs, compounding stress and complicating parenting.

Supportive programs in social services should include addiction treatment and counseling to help individuals understand that their perceived setbacks are not worth compromising their health, well-being, and relationships. Collaborations between agencies, such as HRA/DSS and DOHMH, are essential in creating these programs.

Finally, it is vital to provide adequate care for our elderly, ensuring they are safeguarded from abuse and predatory behaviors. Programs are needed to educate seniors, their neighbors, and friends on recognizing the signs of elder abuse and on scam prevention.

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
7 / 36	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment
8 / 36	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations
9 / 36	DHS	Expand street outreach
15 / 36	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims
16 / 36	DFTA	Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors
24 / 36	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning
27 / 36	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests
30 / 36	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services
33 / 36	DFTA	Enhance home care services
34 / 36	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

After school programs

In October 2024, within a span of less than a week, five teenagers were tragically killed in violent shootings across the city. In District 8 alone, three youth homicides have been recorded in 2024, with the youngest victim just 13 years old. This disturbing rise in youth violence demands urgent attention and action. Our young people need constructive outlets that engage their interests, foster their educational growth, and support their development as productive members of society—not just as workers.

The lack of supervised, engaging after-school programs has left many young people with few recreational options, leading some to act out from boredom. We advocate for the establishment of a wide range of free or highly affordable activities that include not only traditional options like basketball, baseball, and football but also other activities—such as STEM programs, tennis, dance, hockey, ice skating, chess, gaming, and martial arts. In addition, non-sport or non-STEM activities such as reading rooms, art spaces for self-expression, theater, drama, choir, and band should also be available to foster creativity and community.

These programs will not only support the social and educational development of our youth but will also introduce them to interests beyond their home environment.

Furthermore, as we begin to understand the effects of over two years of disrupted learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by curriculum shifts over the last two mayoral administrations, after-school programs can play a critical role in helping children who struggled most during this time. Designed to integrate learning with fun, these programs can help students catch up academically without the pressure of a traditional school setting, allowing them to enjoy their activities while subtly gaining skills to reach state-mandated achievement levels.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

We urge the Department of Education to prioritize educational equity for all students. The COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath have highlighted numerous disparities in our education system, including a lack of technology in schools, varied levels of teacher preparation, and inconsistent parental involvement. Sadly, more than a year after the pandemic, progress toward equitable education remains limited. While it may be unrealistic to expect the DOE to eliminate every systemic bias students face, the department can and should ensure that all students have access to essential tools for new learning platforms.

One crucial step is for the DOE to engage with teachers directly to understand their specific needs in educating students effectively. Standardized training often overlooks the diverse experiences of classroom teachers, who know their students' unique needs and understand the support necessary to help them learn. This is not to undervalue the importance of broad-based professional training, especially in response to the NYS Board of Regents' new educational protocols and approaches. We are deeply grateful for teachers' dedication and their efforts beyond the classroom, and we applaud their resilience.

To better support teachers and students, we encourage the DOE to incorporate intersectional strategies that reflect students' varied experiences and backgrounds. These approaches can help ensure that all students—including those from underserved communities who lack basic resources—receive quality educational support. Solutions must go beyond smaller class sizes and improved parent-teacher cooperation (though these are critical) to include diverse learning methods that accommodate different learning styles. Training must be adaptable and rooted in the needs of teachers, who are essential to crafting an inclusive learning environment.

Additionally, the decision to eliminate snow days for New York City students has underscored the urgent need for technological enhancements. The DOE should guarantee that students have access to reliable devices and broadband at home to participate in remote learning effectively. Equipping classrooms with audiovisual tools for videoconferencing would also allow sick students to attend school virtually without exposing classmates to illness. Investing in technology not only makes learning more accessible and engaging but also prevents underprivileged students from being left behind.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

The COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing transition to an endemic phase have increased risks for children, as heightened anxiety and tension continue to impact families. While the long-term effects of this period on children, family dynamics, and mental health remain uncertain, we strongly advocate for additional resources and support for parents and their children.

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
7 / 31	SCA	PS138 School Library
8 / 31	SCA	PS 138 Hydroponics Lab
9 / 31	SCA	PS 138 Cooling System

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
4 / 36	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care
20 / 36	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services
21 / 36	DYCD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs
22 / 36	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out
31 / 36	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Other - Write In (Required)

In District 8, crime has risen dramatically over the past two years, with a particular surge in violent crime and shootings. Although this trend mirrors the broader increase in gun violence across the city, it has brought back memories of a time when such incidents were all too common in our community. Residents are now experiencing heightened fear and a deep sense of insecurity. An unsafe community quickly becomes an unhealthy one, as seen in rising preventable medical conditions, increased anxiety, declining student test scores, and even heightened tensions between neighbors.

While it's impractical to place police officers or high-resolution cameras on every street corner, we can fund engaging educational and recreational programs for residents of all ages. Fully supported social service programs can offer the mental health and social services essential for community integration. Anti-recidivism and anti-gang initiatives could help reduce prison populations, while increased access to rental and housing vouchers could relieve the financial strain of high rents. Non-policing strategies—like community support initiatives, food and housing security programs, accessible healthcare, open spaces, and other community resources—should be central to our public safety approach. District 8's recent history demonstrates the need for more innovative solutions to reduce crime and gun violence beyond simply increasing police presence.

Moreover, feedback from several CB8 surveys in 2024 highlighted residents' concerns over NYPD training, particularly in interactions with vulnerable populations and mental health incidents. Recent high-profile incidents have shown the risks associated with using force when social service intervention might be more appropriate. It is critical that the NYPD enhances training in diversity, inclusion, and equity to help officers respond to situations with sensitivity and care, rather than force. This kind of training is essential for equipping officers to de-escalate situations in ways that promote community trust and safety.

Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Needs for Public Safety

The last two+ years has led to a marked increase in nuisance crime complaints often overlooked by the Precinct commands. For instance, dangerous and illegal scooters, e-bikes, and mopeds on sidewalks, complaints of late-night stoop gatherings, gatherings in front of parks/playgrounds or vacant lots, gatherings on corners in front of shuttered stores, open and unbridled illicit drug activity, open container and public drunkenness, lewd and lascivious behavior, nudity and genitalia exposure, and so many more—skyrocketed in our district.

Furthermore, the more heavily populated eastern side of Community Board 8 has a strong need for additional patrol. In particular, the area bounded by Albany Avenue and Ralph Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway, especially the blocks of Park, Sterling, and St. Johns Places, is especially problematic in terms of violent crime and gun violence. In 2024 alone, this catchment area has been multiple gun homicides, multiple shootings, multiple stabbings, and an increase in gang activity. Police raids in this area have led to the confiscation of ghost guns, crack cocaine, Chinese fentanyl, and other hard drugs. Sadly, this area possesses a dearth of quality experiential activities and services proven to dispel crime outside of the overcrowded and heavily utilized St. John's Recreation Center. Consequently, in addition to additional police officers for the 77th and 78th Precincts and PSA #2 to effectively monitor the community and NYCHA developments and surrounding problem areas like the eastern end of the District, we advocate for additional social service programs, after school programs, early intervention programs, and mental health provisions.

Needs for Emergency Services

In District 8, rising rates of preventable medical illnesses and an increasing number of residents suffering from respiratory conditions have created a heightened demand for emergency medical services (EMS). Unfortunately, this need is closely linked to the percentage of residents lacking health insurance or those with limited coverage, as well as individuals facing substance abuse issues, all of which exacerbate their medical conditions. Additionally, residents struggling with addiction often rely on emergency medical intervention to prevent overdose deaths, further underscoring the need for enhanced emergency services.

To address these challenges, we advocate for the expansion of public health vending machines that can help reduce medical emergencies by providing access to essential health supplies and resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
10 / 36	NYPD	Hire additional crossing guards
25 / 36	FDNY	Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives
29 / 36	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Water supply

In a surprising turn, survey respondents have identified the water supply system as the most pressing issue within our core infrastructure services. While several water main and sewer reconstruction projects are currently underway in District 8, most of these efforts are concentrated in the Prospect Heights community. Many residents have expressed valid concerns about lead poisoning and commend the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) free lead testing program.

Furthermore, the increasing incidence of flash flooding, coupled with the city's reservoir systems reaching their lowest levels in decades and declining rain and snowfall totals over consecutive years, exacerbates concerns about water supply.

We urge the DEP to revitalize and expand the water-saving kits distributed during the last drought in the early 2000s. Additionally, while there is significant emphasis on reducing carbon emissions, it is crucial for our city to prioritize water-saving technologies and initiatives.

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

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Long before flash floods became a pressing concern for New York City residents, complaints about basement flooding and ponding at certain intersections and uneven roadways had significantly increased in District 8. The Right of Way Bioswale (raingarden) installation projects ongoing throughout the city are intended to alleviate runoff and flooding for sewers that are not equipped to handle the volume of water and sewage flowing through the system. Unfortunately, these bioswales are often poorly maintained and insufficient to cope with the mounting pressure on our aging sewer infrastructure.

While there has been a rise in the installation of infiltration basins and stormwater greenstreets across the city, these greenstreets frequently suffer from the same lack of care and maintenance as raingardens. We urge the city to allocate funds for the improvement of these methods and explore additional strategies to manage runoff and reduce water waste. These strategies could include providing incentives for homeowners and developers to implement living roofs, vertical gardens, and rain barrels to collect water rather than relying solely on gutters, which allow it to drain off flat surfaces.

A concerning trend in District 8 is the growing preference among residents to pave over their front and backyards to prevent vegetation that might attract rodents. However, this approach creates an impermeable surface that increases runoff into the sewer system while failing to deter rodent activity, as it provides hidden areas for them to thrive. Incentives for creating green spaces offer numerous environmental benefits beyond merely reducing runoff and easing the burden on our infrastructure.

While this form does not allow us to request specific funding for the maintenance of bioswales or for homeowners to create green roofs or gardens, we want to emphasize our advocacy for such incentives. We encourage homeowners to cultivate as much vegetation on their properties as possible to help absorb rainwater. Additionally, we advocate for expanding the size of tree pits to facilitate root growth and increase the amount of permeable surfaces in our city's concrete landscape.

Needs for Sanitation Services

Educating residents about organic waste and the significance of composting in combating climate change is essential. By fostering this understanding, we can enhance participation in the city's curbside organics collection program and assist in meeting its sustainability targets. It is equally crucial for each neighborhood to have the capacity to process its own food scraps. Community-scale compost sites not only create sustainable green jobs for local residents but also provide valuable compost to enrich our neighborhood soils. Food Scrap Drop-Offs (FSDOs) enable residents to divert food scraps from landfills and compost them effectively. Therefore, we advocate for funding to reinstate FSDOs that were eliminated by the agency due to budget shortfalls.

We also request support for sustainability programs in every school, along with outreach initiatives focused on organics and composting for local residents and business owners. Additionally, we advocate for expanding organics drop-off sites beyond standard community gardens to include local subway stations and sanitation garages.

Furthermore, we emphasize our support for community biodigesters, which can create employment and training opportunities while providing additional locations for organics drop-offs. This initiative will not only generate well-paying jobs but also promote renewable energy solutions.

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
5 / 36	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws
17 / 36	DSNY	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers
18 / 36	DEP	Clean catch basins
19 / 36	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs
23 / 36	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Other - Write In (Required)

In recent CB8 surveys, 85% of respondents identified housing—particularly affordable housing—as the community's primary concern. Rising rents and a severe shortage of affordable housing options place tremendous strain on both households and individual health. Many of CB8's Black and Brown residents feel they are being priced out of neighborhoods they love, grew up in, and want to raise their children in. Demographic studies reveal that while the area's Black and Brown residents are being displaced at an alarming rate, the population of white residents has nearly tripled in the past 10 years.

Speculative behavior by developers adds to these concerns and drives an urgent need for services that protect the local housing stock from further displacement. Citywide zoning and land use proposals, such as the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity (CHO), pose additional challenges. CHO's initiatives largely sideline community oversight, granting developers more freedom to construct denser, bulkier buildings. The plan's ambitious target of increasing housing by 20% over the next decade is undermined by flaws that will likely worsen, not alleviate, the affordability crisis. Without strong oversight, these proposals risk creating a denser city with fewer affordable units, less light, less air, and diminished open space.

In District 8, the impact is particularly visible. Homes considered to be "underbuilt" according to zoning has led to the vertical expansion and gutting of traditional two-family homes to create multiple micro-units. The majority of new buildings in the district now comprise at least 50% studio and one-bedroom apartments, intensifying competition for family-sized units and pushing out longtime residents.

In summary, affordable housing is imperative, but current efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing, especially rent-stabilized units, fall well short. The focus remains on developing units rather than addressing affordability—leading to vacancies as rents remain out of reach for most residents. Unless leaders shift from simply adding units to ensuring affordability, this crisis will persist.

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

Needs for Housing

See budget requests.

Needs for Land Use

Land use remains a sensitive issue in District 8, with competing visions shaping the debate. Some advocate for extensive development, viewing open spaces as less critical and embracing "trickle-down housing," believing a saturated real estate market will eventually drive down prices. On the other side, preservationists prioritize maintaining the neighborhood's character and open spaces, valuing what makes District 8 distinct. As development interest rises—particularly in the district's manufacturing zones—the area has seen a surge in ULURP applications and zoning change projects, sparking friction over the district's future. Many fear it could follow the path of Downtown Brooklyn, losing its unique identity to unchecked growth.

The NYC Department of City Planning's (DCP) recent choice to replace CB8's MCROWN proposal with the Atlantic Avenue Mixed-Use Plan has added to this tension. Many residents feel the new plan falls short of the housing and job opportunities MCROWN could have delivered. Additionally, the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity (CHO) proposal, which eases zoning restrictions, will likely reduce community oversight on larger projects, allowing for more as-of-right developments. This approach risks making the district denser, pricier, and potentially unrecognizable.

Needs for Housing

We urge the City to prioritize utilizing derelict structures for affordable housing rather than sacrificing community gardens and green spaces for development. Property owners should be held accountable for neglected buildings, with the potential risk of forfeiture if they fail to maintain their property, allowing these structures to address affordable housing needs. A thorough audit of vacant NYCHA units, especially those awaiting repair, is essential; thousands of units could serve as stable, affordable housing if made habitable. It is distressing to see families in temporary shelters while NYCHA units remain empty.

We also urge lawmakers to tackle the issue of arbitrary, unaffordable market rents. The current standard, based on federal Area Median Income guidelines, does not reflect the realities of New York City's cost of living. Developers should not be permitted to impose inflated rents, especially in vulnerable neighborhoods. Policy changes to cap rents in underprivileged areas would help prevent displacement and ease financial strain. While the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity intends to expand housing, it falls short of addressing affordability and displacement risks. Local government must ensure residents are protected and empowered to stay in their communities, free from the threat of displacement.

Needs for Economic Development

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the challenges of sustaining high commercial rents, especially for businesses on key commercial strips. With permanent closures of many hospitality establishments and an increasing number of vacant storefronts, it's evident that the traditional overhead of brick-and-mortar spaces is no longer feasible for many small businesses. While property owners have the right to set their rates, we encourage the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to collaborate with business owners on sustainable solutions. This could include expanding incubator spaces, establishing more facilities like Industry City and the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and introducing shared spaces for restaurants and bars to lower costs. A creative, flexible approach is essential to support small businesses and keep our commercial corridors vibrant and thriving.

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
2 / 31	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings
4 / 31	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless
30 / 31	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
2 / 36	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations
11 / 36	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

Other - Write In (Required)

District 8 has seen changes in street use that have unintentionally hindered the effectiveness of public transit, particularly bus services. NYC Transit's recent proposals to alter the Brooklyn bus map—by eliminating certain lines, reducing services, and shortening routes—have led to significant concerns, especially among seniors and mobility-limited residents who rely on these buses. For instance, during Vanderbilt Avenue Open Streets, the B69 bus route is diverted every weekend from April to October, leaving residents to walk a considerable distance to the temporary bus stops. Weekend services on this line are already sparse, and buses frequently face delays due to route disruptions, inconveniencing residents who depend on them for reliable transportation.

With city efforts urging residents to move away from personal vehicles, decreasing accessibility to public transit is counterproductive. We advocate for increased transit options, improvements in subway infrastructure to maintain 24-hour service, and more amenities at bus stops, including shelters and seating. Seniors have voiced the need for expanded local services, particularly on the B44 and B46, and shorter wait times for buses such as the B45, B65, B49, and B69. To genuinely reduce traffic and make public transit a viable alternative, the city must prioritize safe, accessible, and frequent public transportation options for all residents.

Survey results indicate that 50% of respondents feel unsafe on public transportation, reflecting broader concerns over rising violence on buses and subways. Addressing transit safety isn't solely about increasing police presence; instead, it requires a holistic approach that tackles the underlying issues contributing to these safety concerns. We need to support social service programs that provide mental health resources, addiction treatment, and support for those struggling, which can help reduce incidents on public transportation.

Transit violence is a symptom of larger, systemic challenges affecting our city's wellbeing. By prioritizing and investing in comprehensive social services and community-based interventions, we can build a safer, healthier environment for all New Yorkers.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

See budget requests.

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

We acknowledge that streets are shared spaces among pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and others. In light of this, we advocate for more equitable street designs that prioritize safety and accessibility for all users. We encourage collaboration with the agency to better implement traffic initiatives that maximize benefits and mitigate any long-term negative impacts on our community. Thoughtful design and community input can ensure that streets serve the diverse needs of District 8 while promoting safer, more sustainable travel options.

Needs for Transit Services

Many seniors, people with disabilities, and those with mobility issues depend on reliable bus service and Access-A-Ride as alternatives to subway stations with stairs. It is disheartening that some residents feel isolated at home due to inconsistent bus service or accessibility challenges created by changes to street access. We request enhanced bus service along District 8 lines, especially during non-peak hours and weekends, and recommend a thorough evaluation of the Open Streets initiative on Vanderbilt Avenue, which significantly impacts the B69 route, as well as other traffic calming measures that reduce street access.

As District 8 continues to grow—especially with recent studies highlighting that 1 in every 10 new housing units in New York City is in Prospect Heights or Crown Heights—it is crucial to increase both subway and bus services to meet our expanding community's transportation needs. Proactive planning is essential to ensure accessible, dependable transit for all residents and to support equitable mobility across the district.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
3 / 31	NYCTA	Other transit infrastructure requests
25 / 31	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming
29 / 31	DOT	Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share
31 / 31	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
3 / 36	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming
6 / 36	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation
13 / 36	DOT	Provide new bike lanes
35 / 36	DOT	Central Brooklyn Street Mobility and Parks Access
36 / 36	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service

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

Several parks and playgrounds across District 8 are in dire need of repairs and upgrades, yet persistent underfunding of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has stalled necessary maintenance efforts. Each year, DPR capital requests are met with the refrain, "DPR supports this request but lacks the funds to accommodate," redirecting constituents to appeal to local elected officials for funding. This approach is insufficient. Parks and playgrounds serve as vital, free social spaces for all residents and are essential for supporting the fragile urban and environmental ecosystem.

Adequate funding for DPR is critical to maintain parks and recreational spaces without relying on private funding sources that may ultimately divide communities. For instance, while the Skatepark Project intends to develop skateparks in Brooklyn and the Bronx, the plan to pave over portions of Mt. Prospect Park has generated substantial opposition, with many residents attributing the proposal to private lobbying efforts rather than community demand. This reliance on outside funding risks prioritizing projects that may not reflect community needs. The stark contrast between DPR's entire budget and the NYPD's overtime allocation is unacceptable; it underscores an imbalance that disregards the foundational role of parks in public health, community cohesion, and ecological stability.

A healthy community is one with accessible, well-maintained parks, clean and safe recreational facilities, and diverse free programming to meet the needs of all residents. It is essential that DPR receive sustainable funding to ensure these spaces thrive as community resources, not as selective programs seemingly shaped by private interest solely because DPR is improperly funded.

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

Needs for Parks

See budget requests.

Needs for Parks

The last few years have underscored the critical need for safe and well-maintained parks and playgrounds in our community. We strongly urge proper funding of the Department of Parks and Recreation so that the agency can secure the necessary funds for regular maintenance programs and adequate staffing, which are essential for ensuring these spaces remain welcoming and secure. There is an urgent need to increase maintenance staff for all our parks, playgrounds, malls along Eastern Parkway, and the St. John's Recreation Center.

To enhance safety and the overall park experience, additional Playground Associates, Park Enforcement Officers, and other personnel are required to deter harassment and address dangerous elements in unguarded areas. Studies have shown that increased personnel in parks leads to better adherence to park rules, such as leashing dogs, cleaning up after pets, and minimizing public nuisance activities like drinking and smoking.

Moreover, the rise in pet ownership during the extended COVID-19 pandemic has created a significant demand for dog runs within the district. Yearly surveys since 2022 have consistently indicated strong support for a designated dog run in District 8. Therefore, we strongly urge the Parks Department to allocate resources for creating a dog run in one or more locations within the district to meet this growing community need.

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, having a strong local and national impact while attendance continues to grow. Funding is required to complete necessary repairs and upgrades, as well as to maintain operating hours for the museum and ensure staff levels are compensated at a livable wage.

Similarly, the Weeksville Heritage Center (WHC) is another cultural jewel in District 8. This 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. Supporting these institutions is vital not only for preserving our cultural heritage but also for enriching the educational and cultural landscape of our community.

Needs for Library Services

In recent years, the three public library systems serving New York City have faced annual threats of drastic cuts. Libraries offer a wide range of essential services, including job seeker assistance, adult literacy programs, English as a Second Language classes, computer training, tax preparation, and U.S. passport processing. They also host fine arts exhibits and provide access to the internet, serving as repositories for historic materials. While access to books remains a vital component of their services, libraries do so much more for the community.

To ensure that these invaluable resources continue to serve residents of all ages, backgrounds, and needs, it is imperative that the library system receives adequate funding. Investing in our libraries is investing in the educational, cultural, and social well-being of our community, helping to bridge gaps and provide essential support to those who need it most.

Needs for Community Boards

Community Boards serve as the primary advocates for residents facing issues with various city agencies, yet they have not seen a budget increase in decades. It is our charter-mandated duty to interface with community residents and city municipalities to ensure timely and effective service delivery. Unfortunately, the 311 system has proven to be an inadequate substitute for the direct interaction that community boards provide.

Residents frequently express frustration with the 311 hotline, citing difficulties in obtaining useful and accurate information regarding the resolution of complaints and other inquiries. As a result, there has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution, undermining the effectiveness of city services.

We urge the Mayor and City Council to recognize the essential role of community boards in facilitating communication and service delivery within our neighborhoods. Increasing the budget for community boards is critical to enabling us to fulfill our charter-mandated duties and better serve the needs of our communities. By investing in community boards, the city can enhance its responsiveness and accountability to residents.

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
1 / 31	DCAS	Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment
5 / 31	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
6 / 31	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
10 / 31	DPR	Woods Playground renovation
11 / 31	DPR	New equipment for maintenance
12 / 31	DPR	Brower Park Pathways
13 / 31	DPR	Woods Playground Comfort Station
14 / 31	DCLA	VRF system for Weeksville
15 / 31	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
16 / 31	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)
17 / 31	DCLA	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility
18 / 31	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR
19 / 31	DPR	Brower Park Playground
20 / 31	DPR	Underhill Playground
21 / 31	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR
22 / 31	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park
23 / 31	DPR	Underhill Playground comfort station
24 / 31	DPR	Brower Park Restroom
26 / 31	DPR	Brower Park Futsal
27 / 31	DPR	Woods Playground Basketball Courts
28 / 31	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

Priority	Agency	Title
1 / 36	BPL	Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs
12 / 36	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)
14 / 36	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness
26 / 36	DPR	Other park maintenance and safety requests
28 / 36	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations
32 / 36	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Note: Please see Section 7 for the full content of each request

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

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

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

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

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS

1 of 31 **Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment**

DCAS

Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment

Acquire land for Community Board 8 offices and general meeting location. A space of our own that is large enough to accommodate our membership and the public during general meetings and public hearings is crucial to our success in generating public interest in civic engagement. The old Rescue 2 firehouse building at 1472 Bergen Street is an ideal location as the building is city-owned as is the land around it. Due to its use as a firehouse, it is equipped with office space for staff and the ground floor level could be repurposed into meeting space for the Board. This would allow us the opportunity to hold hybrid meetings to meet the demand of our volunteer membership.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. DCAS does not have a conceptually approved Space Request for this. The community board should submit a Space Request to DCAS/OMB for OMB conceptual approval. The CB should contact DCAS Real Estate Services, Hannah Marcus at hmarcus@dcas.nyc.gov

2 of 31 **Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings**

HPD

Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings

Many small scale landlords desire to maintain and upgrade their apartments and charge affordable rates but cannot make necessary repairs and upgrades without raising rents. 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. Furthermore, they allow landlords to keep units below market rate, and this must be a priority for the City. Current resource allocations by the agency have proven to be too scarce at this time, and we encourage additional resources.

Agency Response: This request has already been completed. HPD's HomeFix Program, in partnership with the Center for NYC Neighborhoods (CNYCN) and their partners, Restored Homes Housing Development Fund Corporation, AAFE Community Development Fund (CDF), Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City (NHSNYC), and the Parodneck Foundation, provides a comprehensive place-based approach to addressing homeowner repair needs and other assistance. The program provides access to affordable low- or no-interest and potentially forgivable loans for home repairs to eligible owners of one- to four-family homes in New York City. HomeFix will offer loans up to \$60,000 per home, with an additional \$30,000 per additional rental unit, with an anticipated maximum loan amount of \$150,000 for a four-family home. Furthermore, HPD will soon release rules for multifamilies to take part in a renewed J51 program.

3 of 31 **Other transit infrastructure requests**

NYCTA

Other transit infrastructure requests

Every bus stop in District 8 should be equipped with shelters and seats as well as countdown timer clocks to alert riders when the next bus is coming.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

4 of 31 Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless**HPD**

Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless

Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles not in need of supportive services are often left out of housing conversations and forced to compete for scant quantities of units. Existing affordable units need to be preserved and there is a greater need for 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 the majority of the city's residents, and vacant newly created units leads to unnecessary increased competition for less expensive rent-stabilized units.

Agency Response: This request has already been completed. HPD continues to advance housing opportunities for all populations--the formerly homeless, seniors, single adults, the disabled, and many more. HPD has had record breaking years in developing and preserving affordable housing for all New Yorkers. We will continue to strive to advance new housing projects to ensure all New Yorkers have a safe and comfortable place to live.

5 of 31 Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)**DPR**

Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Create a dog park/run in District 8. As more and more people become pet owners, they need a place to take their pets for socializing and activity. We encourage the creation of a dog park/run in one or more locations in District 8 to accommodate this growing need.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

6 of 31 Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)**DPR**

Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)

Completely reconstruct playground at St. Marks Playground, including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, interactive spray shower, landscaping, bollards on sidewalk, path, fencing, lockable gates.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. Capital improvements to St. Mark's Playground have been funded and the design for the site is scheduled to be completed in spring 2025.

7 of 31 PS138 School Library**SCA**

Renovate or upgrade an elementary school

Refurbish school library at PS 138. The updates will include new furniture, modern technology, expanded book collections, and improved spaces for both study and collaboration. This project aims to transform the library into a state-of-the-art learning center that inspires students and supports their academic journey..

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

8 of 31 PS 138 Hydroponics Lab**SCA**

Renovate or upgrade an elementary school

Build a hydroponics lab on the campus of PS 138. This facility will offer hands-on experience in modern agricultural techniques, empowering students with knowledge about environmental sustainability, plant biology, and innovative food production methods. It will also serve as a source of fresh produce for their cafeteria, aligning with their broader goal of teaching students about healthy and eco-friendly living.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

9 of 31 PS 138 Cooling System	SCA
Renovate or upgrade an elementary school	
<p>Install a cooling system in the auditorium and cafeteria of PS 138. During the warmer months, these areas become uncomfortable due to inadequate cooling systems. Installing modern air conditioning units will significantly improve the comfort and usability of these spaces for students, staff, and parents enhancing the overall experience in their school environment.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.</i></p>
10 of 31 Woods Playground renovation	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
<p>Completely reconstruct and expand playground including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, spray shower, landscaping in Woods Playground. Estimated cost: \$5Million</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available for improvements to Woods Playground; the cost estimate here is incorrect, please contact us for further information.</i></p>
11 of 31 New equipment for maintenance	DPR
New equipment for maintenance	
<p>Purchase an additional front loader for Parks employees to clean garbage cans in Brooklyn 8 parks and playgrounds.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: The agency does not understand the request as written and requires more clarification. Please contact us to discuss.</i></p>
12 of 31 Brower Park Pathways	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
<p>Reconstruct paths, landscape, benches, lighting, perimeter fence and accessibility throughout Brower Park</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Capital improvements at Brower Park were partially completed two years ago, the balance of these capital needs at the park are not funded.</i></p>
13 of 31 Woods Playground Comfort Station	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	
<p>Completely renovate operable comfort station in Woods Playground</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available for improvements to the restroom at Woods Playground.</i></p>
14 of 31 VRF system for Weeksville	DCLA
Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	
<p>Purchase and install a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) HVAC system in the Hunterfly Row Houses within the Weeksville Heritage Center. This will ensure the long-term preservation of the Hunterfly Houses and thus advancing their sustainability goals in the face of climate changes.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.</i></p>

15 of 31 Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field) Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
<p>The skate park at Brower park is in dire need of refurbishment. Users cite an uneven and pitted ground that makes it impossible to skate safely, thus creating an immediate hazardous condition. Additionally, users cite awkward features/obstacles leaving no room to skate comfortably. The following suggestions have been provided to improve the skate park: 1. Repave the ground to be exactly like that of the basketball court. 2. Open the center and leave free of features/obstacles for acceleration/deceleration and free skating on flat ground. 3. Line the perimeter of the skate park with the same height and style ledges as the basketball courts. 4. Use a strong cement or granite for all features, obstacles, and ledges to withstand skating and BMX pegs.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. Capital improvements to Brower Park have been funded.</i></p>
16 of 31 Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field) Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
<p>Completely reconstruct playground at Dean Street Playground, including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping and spray shower</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available for improvements to Dean Playground.</i></p>
17 of 31 Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	DCLA
<p>Provide funding for maintenance, restoration, and beautification of homes on the Weeksville Heritage Center's yards. Several of the homes are falling into disrepair including collapsing eaves, gutters, and roof shingles.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.</i></p>
18 of 31 Other capital budget request for DPR Other capital budget request for DPR	DPR
<p>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.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to install new lamp posts at Dean Playground.</i></p>
19 of 31 Brower Park Playground Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
<p>Complete consolidate and expand playground and spray shower at Brower Park. Estimated cost: \$6 million</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to improve the playground and spray shower at Brower Park.</i></p>
20 of 31 Underhill Playground Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
<p>At James Forten Playground, aka Underhill Playground, completely reconstruct and expand playground including play equipment for all ages, safety surface, pavement, drainage, spray shower, landscaping, paths. Estimated cost: \$6.5 million.</p>	<p><i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available for improvements to James Forten Playground.</i></p>

21 of 31 Other capital budget request for DPR Other capital budget request for DPR	DPR
Install lights around playground and basketball courts at Brower Park.	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to install new lighting at Brower Park.</i>
22 of 31 Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	DPR
Renovation of existing public restroom building adjacent to playground inside Lincoln Terrace Park	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to improve this restroom at Lincoln Terrace Park.</i>
23 of 31 Underhill Playground comfort station Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	DPR
Renovate existing operable comfort station at Underhill Playground	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to improve the public restroom at James Forten Playground.</i>
24 of 31 Brower Park Restroom Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	DPR
Renovate operable restroom and HQ in Brower Park.	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to improve the public restroom at Brower Park.</i>
25 of 31 Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	DOT
Implement DOT's Safety Improvements and Service Road Signalization Plan for the north side of Eastern Parkway. This plan was presented to and approved by the Board in 2017 and has yet to be implemented despite continued dangers and loss of life and property along the Parkway.	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. The work at the intersections of Brooklyn, Troy, and Schenectady Aves has been completed. The remaining intersection, Kingston, is part of a DEP capital project so it would be best to follow up with DDC/DEP on that location.</i>
26 of 31 Brower Park Futsal Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
Create oval synthetic turf futsal rea in Brower Park. Estimated cost: \$4 million	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to install a new synthetic turf field at Brower Park.</i>

27 of 31 Woods Playground Basketball Courts	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
At Woods Playground, reconstruct 2 full court basketball courts including drainage, pavement, color seal coat, fencing, lexan backboards, hoops with nets, 3 tier bleachers and seating, bottle filler, install adult fitness equipment, reconstruct handball wall, construct small synthetic turf play area	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available to reconstruct basketball or handball courts or install new adult fitness equipment at Woods Playground.</i>
28 of 31 Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	DPR
Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	
In Lincoln Terrace Park, reconstruct natural turf ballfield including drainage, new sod, new clay, shaded dugouts, new fencing, remove brick bleachers and replace with bleachers that allow safe site lines, flagpole, bottle filler accessible fountains, clay storage and grooming equipment storage. New pavement, drainage and benches in Carroll street alley and make accessible.	<i>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have capital funding available for improvements to the ballfields at Lincoln Terrace Park.</i>
29 of 31 Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share	DOT
Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share	
As more people become interested in bike share programs like Citi Bike in the city, and as the Citi Bike fleet continues to grow and expand, it is crucial that helmet sharing options match the fleet. Each station should be equipped with a helmet rental locker to keep riders safe.	<i>Agency Response: The agency does not understand the request as written and requires more clarification. Citi Bike riders are encouraged to wear helmets, but are not required to do so. NYC has provided over 300,000 free bicycle helmets to New Yorkers. NYC DOT partners with organizations and council members to host free helmet fitting events across the city. Please reach out to BBCO to discuss further.</i>
30 of 31 Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	NYCHA
Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	
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>Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. NYCHA is committed to sustainability across the portfolio. To review NYCHA's Sustainability agenda, please visit: www.nyc.gov/site/nycha/about/sustainability.page. NYCHA is happy to work with elected partners and other stakeholders to increase opportunities and identify additional funding.</i>
31 of 31 Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	NYCTA
Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	
The Franklin Avenue Shuttle line is in dire need of repainting. The four stops along the line, specifically the Park Place station in District 8, is in terrible repair with peeling paint and graffiti both interior of the station and exterior. Each year we are advised to contact Mr. Andy Inglesby at NYC Transit for implementation of this request, but we need the agency to understand that this is of utmost importance. We are requesting that this request be expedited as the shuttle is an integral connection for Brooklyn residents, and must be prioritized and maintained as other stations in the network.	<i>Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.</i>

EXPENSE BUDGET REQUESTS

1 of 36 Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs**BPL**

Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs

In addition to restoration of funds to the Brooklyn Public Library system, we urge and encourage an increased budget for library operations, hours, and services.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Brooklyn Public Library supports this request for additional funding for libraries. New York City's public libraries are trusted and safe community spaces that meet the diverse needs of New Yorkers, regardless of background, income, birthplace, or beliefs. From storytimes to senior services—and everything in between—libraries truly are for everyone. Additional funding would allow BPL to expand our program offerings and better maintain our buildings.

2 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations**HPD**

Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations

The growing affordability crisis in the New York City housing stock has led to a growing number of residents living in unkept units with habitability violations. Unfortunately, many residents do not have access to quality housing due to financial constraints and outstanding repair requests. Because so few have the luxury of means to move to better housing options, HPD needs to ensure that consequences and repercussions for allowing units to fall into disrepair are great enough and harsh enough to encourage speedy and proper repair to units. Inspections are crucial for tenants in landlord/tenant court and the lack of timely inspections hampers tenants' cases and leads to eviction.

Agency Response: This request has already been completed. HPD has expanded its inspector headcount in recent years. The agency has also recently increased the civil penalties as of December 2023.

3 of 36 Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming**DOT**

Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming

We advocate for the installation of a mid-block signalized crosswalk on Buffalo Avenue between Eastern Parkway and East New York Avenue. This extremely long block is a crucial crossing point for the bisected Lincoln Terrace Park, and a mid-block crossing would facilitate safe passage between the areas of the park that are heaviest used, including the tennis courts and the comfort station on the other side.

Agency Response: The agency does not understand the request as written and requires more clarification. This is not a budget request. Please submit a request via ARTS.

4 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care**ACS**

Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care

Young adults aging out of the foster care system are not provided the tools they need to make it on their own. Too many of them wind up on the streets or in adult shelters and endangered as a result of an over-crowded shelter system not equipped to handle their sensitive needs. We need to do better by our youth and give them the opportunity to thrive, including access to housing, continuing education (college and skills training), and other necessary support systems.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. ACS has expanded resources and services for youth aging out/transitioning out of foster care. ACS does not discharge youth to homelessness and will let young adults remain in foster care until they have secured housing. ACS assists youth obtain housing vouchers such as City FHEPS and FUP, NYCHA housing and supportive housing. ACS has a new partnership with Anthos Home, who is helping expedite obtaining housing for youth leaving foster care. In addition, ACS has expanded Fair Futures coaching to all youth leaving foster care—up to age 26. Coaches can help youth with these transitions. ACS has also doubled the number of youth participating in College Choice to 400 youth—who receive college tuition, room and board, tutoring and a \$60 a day stipend. ACS has also expanded workforce development and vocational training programs.

5 of 36 Increase enforcement of canine waste laws**DSNY**

Increase enforcement of canine waste laws

We understand that DSNY has eliminated its signage unit several years ago. However, it is imperative that Pooper Scooper law be enforced. Additional Sanitation Police Officers are needed to issue summonses to dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs. District 8 streets have become waste minefields that are difficult to navigate as the number of dog owners increases--as well as the number of careless dog owners. Canine waste has the potential to create health hazards for humans and other dogs. Dog owners must be held responsible for, and incentivized to properly care for their pets.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.

6 of 36 Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation**NYCTA**

Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation

A recent survey by CB8 indicates that while some residents are satisfied with subway service, all that ride buses with the District 8 corridor are disappointed with service. With issues ranging from bunching, long wait times, too many express/limited buses and not enough locals, and also the general slowness of buses along their route due to double parked cars and delivery trucks blocking the roadway, it is imperative that additional frequency be added to the B46 and B44 local buses, as well as general additional frequency for the B45, B49, B47, B65, and B69, as these buses service numerous neighborhoods and transfer points.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

7 of 36 Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment **DOHMH**

Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment

The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color. This stigma prevents those suffering symptoms from seeking help and prevents family members from understanding the many ways they can help. Moreover, the last few years have 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. Programs are needed to address the stigma because many more are willing to acknowledge their issues courtesy of the recent pandemic.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. DOHMH looks forward to discussing further ways we can partner with communities to address mental health concerns .

8 of 36 Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations**DOHMH**

Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations

Community Board 8 residents have expressed dissatisfaction with DOHMH's response to the rodent epidemic in the neighborhood and citywide. The large number of development, renovation, and enlargement projects in the district and citywide have disrupted rodent burrows to the point where rodents are visible during daylight hours. Residents and CB8 staff and members 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.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. DOHMH looks forward to discussing partnership opportunities on rodent mitigation. As a reminder, every property in NYC, whether vacant or occupied has a designated owner or legally responsible party that must maintain the general upkeep and conditions of that property.

9 of 36 Expand street outreach**DHS**

Expand street outreach

District office staff has experienced a deluge of complaints related to homeless encampments in hallways and stairwells of buildings as well as under scaffolding of moribund construction sites or private buildings that have not removed their years old scaffolding, and along certain isolated blocks within the manufacturing district of the western portion of the district. The sole provider of homeless street outreach for the borough of Brooklyn--Breaking Ground--is stretched too thin to successfully manage the growing load of homeless outreach requests. We advocate for an increase in the organization's budget to continue providing and also to expand, their valuable and much needed service.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. The Agency has a contract with Breaking Ground to provide outreach services. Further investigation is required, contact the agency directly.

10 of 36 Hire additional crossing guards**NYPD**

Hire additional crossing guards

Members of CB8 were disheartened to learn that budget cuts resulted in the loss of crucial school crossing guards. Furthering members' dissatisfaction are the high profile deaths of youths on their way to school hit by vehicles at intersections that did not have crossing guards. Every intersection by a school needs to be manned by a crossing guard to keep students safe.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

11 of 36 Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness**NYCHA**

Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness

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, and contributes to the growing vermin (rats and roaches) epidemic in the District. Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. NYCHA continues to focus on containerization efforts and 96% of developments are containerized. NYCHA works in close coordination and collaboration with the Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

12 of 36 Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)**DPR**

Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)

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. Our outdoor spaces are integral to our health and wellbeing. As such, 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 in an effort to make our parks and playgrounds safe and enjoyable for all.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have expense funding available to hire additional PEP officers.

13 of 36 Provide new bike lanes**DOT**

Provide new bike lanes

North/south bike lanes are needed on the eastern end of the District. We advocate for installation of bike lanes on southbound Albany Avenue, northbound Troy Avenue, and/or southbound Schenectady Avenue. While the western end of the district, especially Prospect Heights, has amazing bike infrastructure, the eastern end, though no less heavily traveled, is not as fortunate.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. We generally support this request and look forward to continuing to work with the CB and larger community on implementing where appropriate.

14 of 36 Improve trash removal and cleanliness**DPR**

Improve trash removal and cleanliness

Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds. 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.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. We do not have expense funding available to hire additional maintenance or PEP staff.

15 of 36 Enhance programs for elder abuse victims**DFTA**

Enhance programs for elder abuse victims

The 7 most common types of elderly abuse include physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse, self-neglect, and abandonment. Any of these elder abuse types can be devastating to older people and their families. Too often, our elders are too prideful, 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.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. NYC Aging currently does outreach through its older adult centers and partnership with NYPD.

16 of 36 Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors**DFTA**

Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors

Seniors are targeted at an accelerated pace by scammers, and they are the group of people least likely to be able to weather financial losses. We need to ensure that seniors and the elderly as well as those lacking mental acuity are protected from scammers and receive necessary services to help them recover in the instances when they are victims of scam operations. Additionally, greater efforts need to be made to ensure that seniors have educational resources available to them in modalities that are wide ranging to accommodate their needs (inclusive of print, radio, television, and other types of campaigns).

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. NYC Aging will seek additional funding for this request.

17 of 36 Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers**DSNY**

Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers

Smart bins usage in Prospect Heights is very high and needless to say, additional bins for organics are necessary. Usage rates are so high that bins are often full before late morning has reached on days when the bins are dumped. Additional bins will allow greater access for organics collections and participation. Furthermore, we encourage increased collection of smart bins district-wide as they are a popular choice for residents in buildings that have yet to opt into curbside organics collections.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Curbside composting is now available to all buildings in Brooklyn. Building residents should reach out to building management to ensure a point of collection is made available to residents and put out on the proper collection day. Funding for additional organics smart bins is not available.

18 of 36 Clean catch basins**DEP**

Clean catch basins

Climate change has brought much heavier storms, flooding, and even flash flooding to NYC. Recent storms have illustrated the dangers of clogged catch basins. Catch basin cleaning should be increased to eliminate and prevent debris build-up to maximize water drainage from streets during downpours and other rain sessions.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

19 of 36 Provide or expand community composting programs**DSNY**

Provide or expand community composting programs

Our community lacks robust education and outreach for organics collection and composting, which is critical for the success of municipal composting. Residents on the eastern end of District 8 especially lack an understanding of organics collection and composting. We advocate for sustainability programs via additional community composting sites, food scraps drop off locations, more frequent collection as smart bins, and greater education/outreach about smart bins and composting.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Although the Department of Sanitation supports this request, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.

20 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services**DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services

The invisible crisis facing NYC is that nearly two out of three children affected by systemic poverty cannot read at grade level. Children who can't transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" by third grade are 13 times more likely not to graduate on time from high school if they graduate at all. Sadly, the crisis does not end there as 64% of NYC middle school students read below their grade's reading level. These students face much worse outcomes in life like incarceration, gang activity, under employment, continued poverty, mental depression, and several other disorders that have the potential to lower their quality of life. Additional literacy programs and services to bring them up to level are necessary to allow them to thrive.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Presently, there are a variety of agency-funded programs in the district for this target population. Additional programs are contingent upon available funding and will be distributed through an RFP process. Organizations are encouraged to apply.

21 of 36 Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs**DYCD**

Provide, expand, or enhance Cornerstone and Beacon programs (all ages, including young adults)

There is certainty that kids without productive and stimulating activities 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. We urge funding for sports programs like this and similar, as well as STEM programs and other activities (gaming, cooking, gardening, etc) that youth may be interested in engaging with, to promote their social well-being. Every community district needs to have a PAL (police athletic league) building and programming available for youth.

Agency Response: This request has already been completed. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

22 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out

DYCD

Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out

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.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. DYCD funds the Summer Youth Employment Program; Work, Learn and Grow; Advance and Earn; and Learn and Earn workforce development programs for high school students. DYCD funds the Crisis Management System (CMS) in the district through the Office of Neighborhood Safety.

23 of 36 Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules

DSNY

Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules

The last 12 months has seen a dramatic increase in street cleanliness complaints in District 8. We advocate for strengthened enforcement and the return of section supervisors to ensure that vehicles that do not move for the street sweeper are ticketed.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Although the Department of Sanitation supports this request, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.

24 of 36 Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning

DOHMH

Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning

Recent years has seen a spike in sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes simplex 2, and chlamydia. These diseases that can cause severe irreversible life altering complications if left untreated, can be easily be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be reignited as it seems the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. Efforts are underway to address the recent growing trend of rising STD rates that is happening across the United States and tracking accordingly in NYC.

25 of 36 Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives

FDNY

Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives

District 8 has had several fatal residential fires in calendar year 2023 and 2024. Most of the fires were caused by preventable issues had the residents in the fire destroyed units and buildings been properly educated. While fears around uncertified lithium ion batteries from e-bikes remain high and at the forefront of educational initiatives, additional PSAs need to be issued around lesser feared causes of fire such as "dressed" or fancy candles with incendiary inclusions, keeping appliances such as air fryers and crock pots plugged in and on while unattended, not using grounded outlets for larger appliances, not maintaining smoke alarms, etc. Fire safety education needs to be improved to maximize reach.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

26 of 36 Other park maintenance and safety requests**DPR**

Other park maintenance and safety requests

Provide greater forestry services including root pruning and sidewalk leveling where street trees have caused displacement. Additionally, contractors that do sidewalk repair work should have guidelines on how to repair and level sidewalks without splicing roots and damaging trees.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. Our Trees & Sidewalks Program aims to preserve mature street trees while repairing sidewalk damage caused by tree root growth. Our contractors employ a number of repair techniques to avoid cutting or shaving of roots, including tree bed expansion, ramping, and curving. For property owners repairing their sidewalks independently, we also provide free design consultation services to private contractors if requested as part of the permitting process. More information is available on our website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/trees-sidewalks-program>. We agree that additional funding would increase the capacity of this program, but additional funding cannot be determined at this time.

27 of 36 Other programs to address public health issues requests**DOHMH**

Other programs to address public health issues requests

We urge the City to make all multiple dwelling housing units smoke-free, and also increase awareness of the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke inhalation. Current City Council proposed legislation to monitor air quality in multiple dwelling buildings fail to account for the impacts on air quality that cigarette smoke has, and thus, legislation to eliminate smoking indoors in multiple dwellings will protect residents with smoking neighbors from having to move and/or face dangerous health issues if they cannot afford to move.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. DOHMH agrees with the shared continued concerns around smoking/vaping and second-hand smoking and vaping. Further discussions would be needed to had with external parties on housing and the overall residential real estate industry.

28 of 36 Support nonprofit cultural organizations**DCLA**

Support nonprofit cultural organizations

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.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

29 of 36 Hire additional traffic enforcement agents**NYPD**

Hire additional traffic enforcement agents

A recent survey by CB8 received an overwhelming show of resident support for increased enforcement for traffic scofflaws that double park, block bike lanes, and/or park in fire hydrants as well as vehicle owners that do not move their vehicle during alternate side parking. Residents also requested increased traffic enforcement for speeding motorists, e-bike/e-scooter operators and manual bicycle operators that ride on the sidewalk. All complainants requested a more visible presence of traffic enforcement agents to help ticket these violators and increase compliance.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

30 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services**HRA**

Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services

We must keep in mind that our vulnerable populations are at risk for abuse from family members and home health aides seeking to take advantage of their frail emotional or physical states. 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.

Agency Response: This request has already been completed. HRA continues to maintain funding for Adult Protective Services (APS) which provides services to physically and/or mentally impaired adults who are at risk for abuse or neglect.

31 of 36 Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care**ACS**

Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care

Kids leaving foster care need assistance in order to be able to thrive and succeed in life. The current system disallows them from starting their adult lives without severe handicaps in terms of how they can live their lives. Kids aging out of foster care ought to have the same opportunities as their peers that were not raised within the system.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. ACS has expanded resources and services for youth aging out/transitioning out of foster care. ACS does not discharge youth to homelessness and will let young adults remain in foster care until they have secured housing. ACS assists youth obtain housing vouchers such as City FHEPS and FUP, NYCHA housing and supportive housing. ACS has a new partnership with Anthos Home, who is helping expedite obtaining housing for youth leaving foster care. In addition, ACS has expanded Fair Futures coaching to all youth leaving foster care- up to age 26. Coaches can help youth with these transitions. ACS has also doubled the number of youth participating in College Choice to 400 youth-- who receive college tuition, room and board, tutoring and a \$60 a day stipend. ACS has also expanded workforce development and vocational training programs.

32 of 36 Forestry services, including street tree maintenance**DPR**

Forestry services, including street tree maintenance

We encourage additional planting of new trees as well as better maintenance of existing trees. Contractors that plant new trees must be held accountable for tree care until the tree is able to thrive on its own. Furthermore, maintenance of existing trees includes more frequent pruning, de-weeding, enlarged tree pits, mulch, etc.

Agency Response: Agency supports and can accommodate. As part of our new Neighborhood Tree Planting approach, we will be planting trees in every viable location across the city on a predictable 9-year cycle. More details can be found on the Parks website: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting>. Parks and our contractors are responsible for all basic maintenance, including watering, weeding, and replacement, if necessary, for at least one year after the tree is planted. As they mature, city trees become eligible for a variety of other forestry services. Use the NYC Tree Map, call 311, or visit the Parks website to submit a service request. Our inspectors will visit the tree and determine the appropriate action in accordance with our Tree Risk Management program.

33 of 36 Enhance home care services**DFTA**

Enhance home care services

Home care is a health service provided in the patient's home to promote, maintain, or restore health or lessen the effects of illness and disability. Services may include nursing care, speech, physical and occupational therapies, home health aide services and personal care services. 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 as a form of holistic healing.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. NYC Aging will work with NYSOFA to seek additional funding for this program.

34 of 36 Increase transportation services capacity**DFTA**

Increase transportation services capacity

The CB8 Seniors Committee members identified increased transportation options as a top senior issue for the district. They specifically cited already miniscule safe travel options that often become even more difficult to navigate due to infrequent bus service, Open Streets rerouting certain bus lines, and rising crime on public transportation. An increase in senior transportation, whether via para transit or taxi vouchers, or volunteer services to ferry seniors to appointments or even grocery shopping, should be provided.

Agency Response: Agency supports but cannot accommodate. NYC Aging will seek additional funding for this request.

35 of 36 Central Brooklyn Street Mobility and Parks Access**DOT**

Other traffic improvement requests

Perform traffic calming around Prospect Park to increase street mobility for other than personal automobiles and increase park access. This is performed by: - Completing the protected bicycle lane perimeter wrapping around Prospect Park by adding two-way protected bike lanes along the park's perimeter on Prospect Park Southwest and Ocean Avenue -Adding signalized crossings, mid-block crossings and pedestrian safety treatments at 10th Avenue along Prospect Park Southwest -Adding pedestrian safety treatments at 11th Avenue along Prospect Park Southwest -Redesigning Bartel-Pritchard Square to calm traffic and allow for safe cycle connections around the traffic circle and accessible pedestrian crossings through the circle. -Upgrading key paint-only bicycle connections to Prospect Park to become much safer barrier-protected bicycle lanes -A north/south connection to the Brooklyn Greenway, potentially on Vanderbilt, Underhill, Washington, Classon, or Franklin Avenues -Adding protected bike lanes to Prospect Park at key connections that currently lack any bicycle infrastructure, including: Coney Island Avenue -Extending Parkside Ave east of the southeast corner of the park and continuing onto Linden Boulevard Prospect Park West from Bartel Pritchard Square to the 20th Street Bike Boulevard - Creating additional pedestrian space at the Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park, including to specifically relieve crowding created at the Saturday greenmarket -Adding loading zones near the Lincoln Road entrance to Prospect Park so vehicles do not create hazards when loading in and out for commitments in the park

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.

36 of 36 Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service**NYCTA**

Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service

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.

Agency Response: Agency does not support and cannot accommodate. Please contact the agency directly and promptly for more information.