

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

Fiscal Year  
2023



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## **Brooklyn Community District**

# **7**

## INTRODUCTION

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

## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This report represents the Statement of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board, collected through an online form available to community boards from July to November, 2021.

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

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

[CDNEEDS\\_DL@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:CDNEEDS_DL@planning.nyc.gov)

This report is broadly structured as follows:

### 1. Overarching Community District Needs

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

### 2. Policy Area-Specific District Needs

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

### 3. Community Board Budget Requests

The final section includes the two types of budget requests submitted to the City for the FY23 budget cycle; one list for capital and another for expense budget requests. For each budget request, community boards were able to provide a priority number, explanation, location, and supporters. OMB remains the definitive source on budget requests submitted to city agencies.

## Disclaimer

This report represents the Statements of Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests of this Community District for Fiscal Year 2023. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board.

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

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

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

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# 1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Brooklyn Community Board 7

Address: 4201 4th Avenue

Phone: (718) 854-0003

Email:

Website: [www.nyc.gov/brooklyncb7](http://www.nyc.gov/brooklyncb7)

Chair: Cesar Zuñiga

District Manager: Jeremy Laufer

## 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
<b>AGE</b>							
Total population	8,175,133	100.00	8,804,190	100.00	629,057	7.7	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	1,768,111	21.6	1,740,142	19.8	-27,969	-1.6	-1.8
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
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
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
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
<b>AGE</b>							
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
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
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
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
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 7

	2010		2020		Change, 2010-2020		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percentage Point
<b>AGE</b>							
Total population	126,230	100.00	133,230	100.00	7,000	5.5	0.0
Total persons under 18 years	28,316	22.4	30,146	22.6	1,830	6.5	0.2
<b>MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE RACE / HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>							
Total population	126,230	100.0	133,230	100.0	7,000	5.5	0.0
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	57,375	45.5	52,310	39.3	-5,065	-8.8	-6.2
White non-Hispanic	29,464	23.3	31,915	24.0	2,451	8.3	0.7
Black non-Hispanic	3,688	2.9	4,209	3.2	521	14.1	0.3
Asian non-Hispanic	33,288	26.4	40,415	30.3	7,127	21.4	3.9
Some other race, non-Hispanic	645	0.5	1,120	0.8	475	73.6	0.3
Non-Hispanic of two or more races	1,770	1.4	3,261	2.4	1,491	84.2	1.0
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>							
Total housing units	42,506	100.0	45,683	100.0	3,177	7.5	0.0
Occupied housing units	40,043	94.2	43,079	94.3	3,036	7.6	0.1
Vacant housing units	2,463	5.8	2,604	5.7	141	5.7	-0.1

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

### Statement on Data Accuracy

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

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



### 3. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT

History leaves scars and long memories. Many of our residents recall the construction and expansion of the Gowanus and Prospect Expressways in our communities and the disruption, traffic, and pollution to which they led, as well as the loss of hundreds of homes and businesses. Such "progress" has repeatedly had negative consequences on Community District 7 and our people and have left us skeptical of the promises made by government and developers, as positive impacts rarely seem to materialize while consequences are rarely mitigated.

For example, our community famously fought for four decades to get a high school. Twice in those forty years a school was budgeted, but the plans were canceled. Within five years of the school's opening, zoned high schools were obsolete, making the need for one in our community district less urgent. Perhaps the investment could have been made in other areas to serve our students, such as providing internet accessibility. During the pandemic there were many stories in the media about children needing to access the internet at fast food restaurants because of poor or non-existent service at home. Many of these stories were from our Sunset Park community. These were a testament to the endemic failure of government at all levels to appropriately invest in our community and our people, leaving generations of our residents behind.

Even when investments are made, they seem to have decades of delays, budgets cut, projects slashed, little communication or investments made for the region's benefit and unfulfilled promises for our local population.

Consider the scars left by this history:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 34<sup>th</sup> and 64<sup>th</sup> Street has been listed in the 10-year capital plan for four decades, while neighboring portions of the avenue were completed decades ago. Could the failure to replace the outdated water and sewer pipes be the reason we have so many floods and watermain breaks occur on or adjacent to this corridor, including a 100-foot sinkhole at 63<sup>rd</sup> Street?
- Bush Terminal Park, partially opened in 2014 after a decade of construction and delay, has never been completed and still does not have working lights. The park has fallen into disrepair for years without fulfilling promises made to the community, even for a children's playground.
- Third Avenue and 60<sup>th</sup> Street, the most dangerous intersection in the district and now home to four schools, has never had the pedestrian safety study our board has requested for almost two decades. DOT, the agency charged with pedestrian safety, has deferred to EDC, an agency interested in moving freight.
- Former City Councilman Bill DeBlasio stood in front of our board and promised to close the zoning loophole that allowed hotels to open as-of-right in manufacturing districts for fear they would become homeless shelters. Fifteen years later these hotel shelters are the legacy of the DeBlasio Mayoral administration's homeless policy.
- The Seeley Street Bridge was in such bad shape in 2002 that it needed to be replaced immediately. Twenty years later we are still waiting on this project
- The replacement of the sewer pipes in 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue was removed from the 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Rail project in 2005, leaving hundred-year-old, low-capacity infrastructure. Could this be why we still have five combined sewer overflows into our part of the harbor, including through the middle of Bush Terminal Park, while neighboring communities' CSOs are eliminated?
- The "temporary" entrance to the Prospect Expressway on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, built in the 1940s, remains. Does the inadequate highway access lead to more trucks on our local streets and asthma and pulmonary disease for our people?

There are dozens of additional examples, but even when projects eventually come to the community, they are often quite late and are inadequate. We were the last community to receive an MTA elevator at a train station. We received a total of 7 LinkNYC kiosks of the dozens promised to the community, which may have been helpful for the community's internet access problems. The cement on the new 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians was cracked, discolored, and pockmarked before the project was even completed. The up-zoning of 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues in 2009 led to few affordable apartments. The 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue bike lanes were never fully installed and signage never placed making illegal parking unenforceable.

Our community has fought hard for resources for decades and time and time again solutions to our problem are either ignored, withdrawn or inadequate. We have learned from our experience and have developed a cynicism toward the promises of government and private developers.

The following pages will give further detail to these failures of government as well as our vision for investments in our community that will enhance the lives of those who live in a community that has been left behind for so long.

## 4. TOP THREE PRESSING ISSUES OVERALL

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

The three most pressing issues facing this Community Board are:

#### **Affordable housing**

**Affordable Housing** With increasing income inequality and a tightening market for affordable housing, long-time residents of Community Board 7 Brooklyn are being displaced and or forced to live in severely overcrowded conditions. Few units of affordable housing are being built and existing affordable housing is being lost through landlords opting-out, speculative development and tenant harassment. There are a range of new insights into the relationship between affordable housing and life outcomes for children and families. Development and Job Creation With recent development and proposed development projects along the district's waterfront many opportunities and challenges present themselves. Some of the opportunities include community-led SMART growth strategies; in the other words the planning of community development that is sustainable, compact, transit-oriented, walkable, bicycle-friendly land use, including neighborhood schools, complete streets, and mixed-use development with a range of housing choices. Billions of dollars in public and private development is being invested in the Sunset Park waterfront, potential creating thousands of new jobs with good wages. CB 7 has long sought to protect its industrial community because of the economic benefits that can come. However, there are negatives associated with proximity to industry, including heavy truck traffic and emissions. We believe the residents who must endure these hardships should be prioritized when it comes to reaping the benefits of these investments.

#### **Schools**

**Education and Early Childhood Development** Despite the construction of new schools since 2009 and new construction on six new sites, CB 7 still lacks an adequate number of seats and facilities, particularly for pre-k students, students with developmental disabilities and students whose native language is not English. The district lacks space of appropriate size for additional school development and we must think creatively to find new spaces. Sunset Park has a birthrate that is nearly double that of New York City's. The high birthrate of our community creates the need for vital support services; initiatives to support parents, promote child health and safety, and improve access to high-quality childcare can help the district in five key ways: Positive experiences between birth and school entry boost a child's healthy development and future prospects. Research clearly demonstrates that the "hard wiring" of a child's brain occurs during these early years. Children who get off to a good start are less likely to be held back or to get into trouble in school. Studies have even shown that early childhood success can lead to higher college graduation rates, lower crime rates, and reduced need for emergency services many years later. Families are more stable when the needs of their young children are met. When children are healthy and in reliable care, their parents are more likely to maintain steady employment and are typically more productive workers. When children enter school ready to learn, schools are better able to meet high standards and student needs. Successful schools benefit all students, improve a city's livability, and help develop a strong future workforce. Strong early childhood programs are a valuable asset for local economic development. In the short term, these programs can help attract better workers and support working parents. In the longer term, a city that has made the necessary investments to maintain a quality workforce over time is likely to be more appealing to businesses looking for a stable location. Early childhood initiatives that expand access to quality services help "level the playing field." Economic, racial, and ethnic disparities are too often perpetuated from one generation to the next unless children from disadvantaged households have the kinds of early childhood opportunities that are commonplace among their more advantaged peers. Far too many cases have been reported in Sunset Park about children bused to school facilities far away from the district, in one extreme case a set of autistic twin kindergarteners commute over an hour to get to a school with the facilities to that can attend to their needs. Nowhere is the challenge for fulfilling the promise of academic achievement greater than in the work with diverse learners (aka students with learning disabilities). All students deserve an education that prepares them for postsecondary success and a lifetime of unlimited opportunity. Related services include Occupational Therapy (fine motor skill focus), Physical Therapy (gross motor skill focus, Speech Therapy, Language Therapy. In addition to the services, school buildings should be equipped with relevant facilities like sensory gyms and other technologies such as assistive technologies. Full

Funding of the IDEA is necessary to provide early identification and early intervention services. Increased and enhanced early childhood programs. Reduced class size and caseloads. Incentives to attract and retain qualified personnel, including teachers, related services personnel, special education administrators, and paraprofessionals. Parent training. Alternative placements for children with behavior disorders and school-wide positive behavioral support programs. After-school, extended-day, and extended-year programs. School- and community-based life skills and vocational training. Technology, both computer-aided instruction and assistive technology devices. School repair, renovation, and construction.

### **Traffic**

The wide boulevards of Community District 7 have long attracted a heavy volume of traffic, often including commuters who shun the constant construction on the Gowanus Expressway to pick their way through local traffic and heavy truck traffic due to the large industrial community. Often frustrated drivers try to get around the local traffic by moving through narrower more residential blocks to get to another avenue, which is often just as crowded. The wide boulevards are home to much of our important community infrastructure, including schools, transportation hubs, businesses and libraries. Pedestrians need to traverse these wide streets that are often clogged with large, highway travelling trucks. These "conflicts" have too often led to tragic outcomes in our community. The modern economy heavily relies on trucks for delivery and our industrial area is often the starting and ending point for these trucks and they move through the local community, which has poor highway connections and the aforementioned driver-angering traffic. DOT, to its credit, has installed many speed humps and bicycle lanes in the community, but these solutions feel like one-size-fits-all solutions to larger issues. They do not necessarily address the specific conditions and needs of the local community. For example, Community Board 7 has been waiting for nearly two decades for DOT to conduct a pedestrian safety study for the intersection of 3rd Avenue and 60th Street, the most dangerous intersection in the community with more than 150 accidents a year and now home to four schools. DOT sent a non-sequitor response in 2019 to the Board's request to conduct a traffic study for 3rd Avenue, making the request after three bicyclists were killed in the avenue in the previous six months and referencing the increased truck traffic. CB 7 has been waiting ten years for the completion of the 20th Street truck route study. Even the 4th Avenue bike lane, announced at a press conference by the commissioner to be expedited and completed by the end of 2019, still awaits completion. CB 7 believes DOT should listen to the needs and lived experiences of the local community to determine what should be prioritized for study and improvement, not inform the community what our priorities should be.

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## 5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

### HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

#### Brooklyn Community Board 7

##### Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

##### **Services to reduce or prevent homelessness**

DHS's past failure to communicate with the local residents or even elected officials and government agencies about new and existing shelters makes the local community believe the City is hiding something, such as placing pedophiles in the community. Even after DHS has corrected these missteps, giving us six months notice in one of the most recent placements, the lack of trust is a terrible disservice to the clients the agency serves. The lack of information prior to opening coronavirus-related shelters locally led to rumors and distrust in multiple city agencies. Ours is a welcoming community and embraces people of all backgrounds and economic status, but the City's past failure to disclose builds distrust for the City and the vulnerable population they are trying to serve. Efforts must be made to improve DHS's negative image. That starts with communication. As new hotel-based shelters open with little or no community notice, we find the city's pledge to be out of the hotels by 2023 to be another likely empty promise. Back in 2008 we foresaw the potential of speculative as-of-right hotel development in our manufacturing areas fearing housing intrusion of manufacturing areas, driving up industrial property values, potentially making industrial businesses unviable. We worried that these hotels could also become homeless shelters. Our City Councilman at the time pledged to submit legislation to prevent as-of-right hotels. That Councilman's name was Bill deBlasio. This is why we do not trust the city's policies and promises on this issue.

##### Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

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

No comments

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

Under the FY23 Capital Priorities for the Board, our members call for an increase in programmatic funding for existing senior centers in the district. Our members are concerned about the proliferation of for-profit adult day services around the city and believe the city's senior centers provide a much higher level of service and more opportunities for seniors. Unfortunately, the city centers are not eligible for the Medicaid funding and therefore are not playing on an even field. CB 7 believes the city should provide additional funds to allow for the centers to increase the number of seniors they serve.

##### **Needs for Homeless**

Community Board 7 looks forward to the new Mayoral Administration and hope it will be more engaged with the community and Community Board.

##### **Needs for Low Income NYs**

CD 7 has a high rate of poverty (28%), a very large foreign-born population (47.2%) and well below average for English proficiency and educational attainment so it could be argued that all services provided are for low-income and vulnerable New Yorkers

## Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

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

## Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
13/25	HRA	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults</b>	<i>Increase funding for adult ESOL, adult literacy and adult education programs in CD 7.</i>	
24/25	DFTA	<b>Enhance educational and recreational programs</b>	<i>CB 7 believes city senior centers are now in competition with for-profit facilities that have access to federal reimbursement. Programs at city facilities should be enhanced to compete.</i>	

## YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

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

##### **Support services for special needs youth (disabled, immigrant, non-English proficient, etc.)**

The coronavirus emergency has closed our schools twice and reduced us to a hybrid model during the beginning of the school year. Admittedly, DOE has had to scramble to provide resources for students and families due to the unprecedented emergency, but the needs of our largely immigrant and poor community, with its infrastructure deficiencies were already greater than most of the city and now the chasm is even wider. Poor wi-fi service in many areas of the community lead students to rely on mobile connections, which cannot properly update their technology. Much of our community still relies on outdated copper wire and lacks fiber optic cable. A lack of technology services for teachers, administrators and especially families and students who may may not be technologically and English-proficient, has left our students further behind likely increasing a disparity of income, often due to a lack of appropriate infrastructure investment over decades. At the very least the city should commit to ensuring that all households have the ability to access wifi. Students should not be forced to go to fast food restaurants or sit outside closed libraries and schools to gain their education. To reduce these disparities and help correct the inequities of the past, New York City should commit to providing free wifi services for our entire community. Community Board 7 recently signed on to a petition calling for comprehensive services and programming, including afterschool programming, for all students in our community. Space requirements often preclude important programming for development and advancement and support services for those with needs. However, as additional school seats are slated to open up, reducing the overcrowding burden on our local schools, we must reimagine our facilities and programs, especially their accessibility to all.

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

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

CB 7 has worked recently collecting sites for future school construction. Recent school construction belies the fact that our schools are overcrowded for lack of appropriate planning in the past as our community's population has grown 50% in 20 years. However, the recent opening of schools, with more on the way, as well as a student population drop after schools reopened from covid closures, has eased some of the burden on our facilities allowing us to rethink our needs and to call for accessible, equitable and culturally sensitive programming and services at all of our schools, with afterschool programs to enhance scholarship and ease burdens on families and support services for those who need additional assistance. Additional space can allow us to reduce class sizes and bring back art programs, science labs, gyms, lunch rooms and libraries that have been repurposed in the past for classroom space.

We recognize the importance of early childhood education and this deficit of seats has left a generations of our children, who are mostly poor and/or from immigrant families, at a terrible disadvantage. With the diverse populations within our community, there is an immediate need for augmented bilingual/ESL education for our Latino, Asian, Middles Eastern and Eastern European populations. Additionally, English proficiency programs, perhaps through our schools using the very students who are mastering language skills, for older residents would serve a great need for our community. Work skills and experience programs, such as SYEP and internships, must be expanded to prepare our students for the job market. We are very pleased that our high school's curriculum embraces such learning outside the classroom and that two AmeriCorps programs serve our community through the Red Hook Community Justice Center and NYU Family Health Care.

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

The population of the District has a large percentage of young people (30% under age 19) and programs for youth are greatly needed. Since our District has a minimum of public recreation space our children must rely on afterschool and other community-based programs for arts, entertainment, sports and academic help. Many of our



residents fall beneath the poverty line and parents often have to work more than one job to support their families. These programs are vitally important to the life, learning and social skills of our youngest residents. The City must do more to support our children and our community-based organizations by providing additional funds. We must consider the need for afterschool and vacation care for children whose parents work. Additional funds must be available to support organizations that provide these services to create more day care slots for the local community and facilities. This could have an added benefit of creating jobs. Our local SYEP program is run through a program located at our high school and the school has an aggressive internship program for upperclassmen, but these options are not enough for a community with such a large youth population. The approximately 1600 SYEP slots are the same amount we had a decade ago, when our population was smaller. When the economy turned bad, there was increased competition from older workers for precious few jobs, increasing youth unemployment. These programs provide some of the few opportunities our young people have to gain work experience. CB7 held two gang awareness forums for youth and parents to make people aware of the local gangs in the community and alternatives. NYPD and former gang members provided dozens of people with stark information. Awareness, avoidance and alternatives are keys to combating this problem in our community.

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## Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/40	SCA	<b>Renovate interior building component</b>	<i>Rehabilitate all non-ADA compliant schools and facilities within schools to ensure they are 100% accessible to all student populations.</i>	
17/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction of a new Early Childhood Learning Center to serve the students of the Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace communities.</i>	
26/40	DOE	<b>Other capital budget request for DOE</b>	<i>Replace playground equipment at PS 971 with age-appropriate equipment. The school was built as an early childhood center but has a population up to grade 5. As such, the play equipment is inadequate for older children.</i>	
35/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing high school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction of a new high school in CD 7. Sunset Park High School opened in 2009, the only HS in the district, and is beyond capacity, as are the school in neighboring communities. It took 40 years of effort to get Sunset Park HS. The CB feels it is necessary to start the process again, given the time scale.</i>	
36/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction for a new elementary school in the Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace community.</i>	

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance primary prevention services to strengthen families</b>	<i>Increase day care slots in CD 7. The community's need has increased significantly, but we have lost seats due to competition for space. Head Start had to move for a new public school and lost half its slots in the process. The popular BAT Kids contract was not renewed and the space was used for Pre-K.</i>	

5/25	DOE	<b>Other educational programs requests</b>	<i>Fully fund all programs for all children who are eligible for specialized and related programs (including but not limited to students with special needs and multilingual learners) in the district</i>
6/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance child welfare preventive services</b>	<i>Increase funding for preventive protective services for children.</i>
7/25	DOE	<b>Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services</b>	<i>Allocate funds for additional training of school safety officers for all schools, especially serving schools with District 75 students. Safety officers should not be from the NYPD.</i>
14/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth</b>	<i>Increase programmatic funding for youth-oriented diversion programs concerning drugs, crime, alcohol and gangs in CD 7.</i>
16/25	DYCD	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for elementary school students (grades K-5)</b>	<i>Allocate funding for after school music and arts programs, comprehensive ASP, ELA, STEAM, sports, math COMPASS and SONYC programs to all schools in the district</i>

## PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

#### Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

##### **Police-community relations**

CB 7 is a relatively low crime community, with a serious crime rate of 8.7/1000 residents. However, high profile events in the past, including some that have taken place outside of our community and even city, have reopened a rift between some parts of the community and the 72nd Precinct. We acknowledge that the precinct and Brooklyn South has worked diligently to overcome this divergence. We believe community relations have been enhanced with the implementation of the Neighborhood Coordination Officers. We are strong believers that positive relations between our precinct and our residents will lead to even better results in reducing crimes and particularly quality-of-life complaints. Much of the credit for improved relations belongs to former Deputy Inspector Gonzalez who demonstrated that communication and respect for the community leads to communication and respect from the community. However, better communication between individual officers and some members of the community does not make up for failures to respond appropriately to some quality of life concerns as well as failure to enforce safety regulations, such as speeding and off-route trucks. Community relations can only further improve with better service from the local precinct, addressing the sometimes years-long quality of life issues.

#### Community District Needs Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

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

The implementation of the Neighborhood Coordination Officer program (NCO) has helped to foster improved community relations and dialogue. Residents now have direct access to their local officers, who are essentially community specialists. The diverse NCO officers reflect the diversity of our community, improving understanding, trust and communication. However quality-of-life concerns are the most frequent constituent complaints addressed through the Community Board. The top QOL complaints we recent include: \* Double-parking. Changes to and construction on 4th Avenue have highlighted the need for vigorous double-parking enforcement; \* Noise. Noise complaints, which are most prevalent in the summer, include residential, but usually concern noise and illegal behavior at businesses (particularly one's with liquor licenses); \* Prostitution. We have seen recent spike in our prostitution complaints, particularly on 39th Street, at or near newly built hotels in the manufacturing district; \* Vagrancy/public intoxication: We have also seen an uptick in complaints about vagrancy/public intoxication, particularly in or near parks. The recent introduction of a homeless population to the district through hotels in the manufacturing zones may have led to this increase; \* Nightlife. Our community has become popular for weekend raves and party boats have come to the 58th Street Pier (without community approval). This has stretch NYPD resources thin during weekends. Pedestrian safety is also a top concern and we are trying to address this issue through DOT, however, it is vital that appropriate NYPD resources be made available, including an increase in the number of school crossing guards allocated to our community. We have new schools, annexes, pre-K facilities and charters in the past 20 years, as well as a burgeoning population, but have not seen an increase to crossing guards in decades. Several children have been injured or even killed in our district in the past years making this an essential need.

##### **Needs for Emergency Services**

No comments

## Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

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

## Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/25	NYPD	<b>Hire additional crossing guards</b>	<i>Increase school crossing guard personnel in CD 7 and increase hours to reflect afterschool programs. Our population has grown by 50% in two decades and we have many more schools, charters and pre-K programs, but our crossing guard personnel has remained at 40 throughout. Several children have been hit at unguarded crossing in the past few years in this community, with at least four deaths. The allocation formula has never been explained.</i>	
3/25	NYPD	<b>Other NYPD programs requests</b>	<i>Increase and sustained truck enforcement. CD 7 has an inordinate number of trucks due to a large industrial area and poor highway access. Truck traveling off-route in a dangerous manner (such as speeding) have been an increasing concern for residents.</i>	

## CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

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

##### **Cleanliness/trash collection**

All of the above choices are of great concern, however street cleanliness has always been a big issue for our community. Recent efforts made by the DSNY, including enhanced cleaning and additional basket pick up along with resources provided by the Councilman and Borough President have helped improve our ratings to where we are above average for Brooklyn, but still below City average. Cleanliness concerns remain on the cleanliness of our commercial strips, near transit hubs, our industrial area, beneath the Gowanus Expressway and alongside the MTA properties. These concerns have been exacerbated by the reduction of mechanical street sweeping and the backlog of rat abatement complaints by DOHMH during the coronavirus emergency.

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

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

The sewers, watermains and catch basins in this community are among the oldest in Brooklyn. There are a number of sewer collapses and undermined roadways reported to the Board each year. Several street reconstruction projects have been on our roster of Capital Budget requests for more than twenty years. The heavy volume of traffic, particularly on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th and Caton Avenues, major thoroughfares and truck routes, causes severe wear and erosion on these streets and off-route trucks put an additional heavy burden on our side streets, which were not meant to accommodate such heavy vehicles. Our old streets and infrastructure are crumbling and additional contracts and resources must be made available for trenching activities. While the City occasionally paves streets, we are fearful that the underlying causes of the street degradation are not being addressed and repaving merely covers over the problems. We believe that DOT and DEP must address these concerns much sooner and more comprehensively, otherwise it may simply be a waste of funds as streets keep sinking despite new asphalt. Three years ago, a pipe thirty feet below 43rd Street broke leaving residents and businesses on the block without water, sewer and other city services, months of construction and a lack of access, as well as other hardships, on the block. Two years ago, a street collapse on 64th Street prevented travel on the heavily-used Fifth Avenue, including the rerouting of the bus for several days, causing hardships and loss of revenue for residents and businesses alike. It took over a year to repair. We believe that if the sewer and water pipes were replaced in 1988, as they were scheduled to be, this expensive, year-long plus infrastructure problem would not have occurred. We still are waiting on this work, nearly thirty years later.

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

Community District 7 continues to host more than its fair share of sanitation facilities. In addition to numerous private carters and recyclers, we are also home to the SIMS Municipal Recycling Facility, which will take most of NYC's metal and plastic recyclables; the garage for BK-7 and BK-10 (which serves CB10); the Hamilton Avenue Marine Transfer Station. A private company that takes 1000 tons of city residential trash every day on 50th Street. All these facilities require additional trucks in our community and, unfortunately, sometimes we are taken advantage of. Many of the private municipal waste truck drivers take liberties by parking beneath the Gowanus Expressway, along 3rd Avenue or next to Green-Wood Cemetery.

For many years CB7 has advocated for moving our sanitation garage to a location off the harbor, as it doesn't need to be water adjacent. We have been denied for two decades. However, 2040 zero emissions standards for the fleet will require a larger facility (for equipment, charging, etc.) than the current garage and so we are asking, given our overburden of DSNY facilities, that ours becomes the first DSNY garage to comply with zero emissions and requiring us to find space and build a modern facility, preferable not directly on the waterfront.

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Replace sewer pipes in 1st Avenue from 39th to 58th Streets which was cut out of the 2005 street rehabilitation. Green infrastructure should be included wherever feasible.</i>	1st Avenue 39th Street 39th Street
13/40	DSNY	<b>Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure</b>	<i>Acquire site for a new BK-7 garage off the waterfront in order to build the first zero emissions DSNY garage and fueling facility. The current facility is too small to house the technology and ancillary equipment necessary to meet the City's 2040 goal.</i>	
27/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Establish a design an reconstruction contract for 5th Avenue between 34th and 65th Streets, including sewers, mains, pedestrian plazas, historic lighting and other public amenities and include an incentive clause for early completion. This project was supposed to start in 1988. It has been repeatedly delayed to (now) 2022. DOT blames DEP's lack of a budget.</i>	5 Avenue 34 Street 34 Street
28/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Rehabilitate the sewer pipe and add green infrastructure on 33rd and 34th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.</i>	34th and 35th Streets 4th Avenue 4th Avenue

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
9/25	DSNY	<b>Provide more frequent litter basket collection</b>	<i>Increase funding for corner basket pick up. Corner baskets in CD 7 are overflowing and BK - 7 has responded, in part, by reducing the number of baskets. CB 7 believe more frequent pick ups can alleviate the problem.</i>	
15/25	DEP	<b>Clean catch basins</b>	<i>Increase funding for sewer and catch basin maintenance in CD 7.</i>	

18/25	DEP	<b>Inspect storm sewer on specific street segment and service, repair or replace as needed</b>	<i>Study water and sewer problems in area bounded by Kermit Place, East 7th Street, East 17th Street and Caton Avenue</i>	Kermit Place East 7th Street East 7th Street
22/25	DSNY	<b>Provide more frequent garbage or recycling pick-up for schools and institutions</b>	<i>Restore 5-day-a-week pick up at all schools districtwide. Many schools do not have capacity for storing garbage multiple days. Most of our schools are overcrowded and have more garbage than capacity.</i>	
23/25	DSNY	<b>Other cleaning requests</b>	<i>Allocate additional personnel for manual street sweeping in CD 7 and/or implementation of the Clean Curbs program for schools</i>	



## HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

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

##### **Affordable housing creation**

There is a rising concern that new housing development is not affordable for local residents, as the median income in CB 7 is approximately \$43,000/year, while the standard for affordability includes the median income from more affluent communities. Additionally, affordable units that are mandatory within a project that includes developer incentives need to include family-sized units and not just studio and one-bedroom units. Many in the community find the city's current MIH program insufficient for creating the number of affordable units our community needs and the levels of affordability still out of reach for most of our community. We often are asked whom these units are meant for as it is noted that Area Median Income is calculated using more affluent communities and counties, meaning units that are affordable in general to NYC residents remain outside of the price range of many of our local residents. Many look to the Fifth Avenue Committee's projects at the Sunset Park Library and at 4th Avenue and 63rd Streets as a model for not-for-profit based housing development that is affordable to local residents.

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

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

CB7 is greatly concerned that hotels are allowed as-of-right in manufacturing districts, as we believe this is a back door way to promote housing expansion. We have spent almost two decades promoting and trying to safeguard our industrial waterfront, through our 197-a study and plan, and wish DCP would close this loophole, which could have devastating consequences for businesses and local employment if additional hotels are allowed to open in our manufacturing area. Many of the most recent hotels built in our community are either being used for homeless shelters. We are concerned these uses may one day make our manufacturing zones unaffordable, opening the door for housing, and throwing thousands of local residents out of their jobs. This as-of-right loophole for hotels in manufacturing zones must be closed. When he was Councilman for this community, Mr. deBlasio promised legislation to close the loophole to allow hotels in manufacturing zones as of right. A decade later we are still waiting for that legislation. In the meantime, those hotels have now become the City's homeless plan.

##### **Needs for Housing**

No comments

##### **Needs for Economic Development**

Our Board welcomes economic development along our waterfront, but insists that any development immediately adjacent to the water be limited to water-dependant and community uses. Our waterfront is our greatest physical asset with spectacular views and large areas ripe for development. We strongly believe that any development in our community must be sensitive to our current residents and businesses. Should businesses be required to move as part of a major development, priority should be given to relocating the businesses within the community. Our priority is to bring additional jobs to the community, not to force some businesses to leave. Our community has seen much of its potential wasted in the past from the placement of negative-impact facilities, such as the Metropolitan Detention Center, power plants and waste transfer stations. The community has received a disproportionate number of these facilities while many of the other neighborhoods in the City receive money to lessen the impact of such facilities or relocated them altogether. Our community has received millions, and promised additional billions, in public and private investments in recent years and there is a concern that such developments and changes will not reach the local residents and may even have negative consequences, such as making housing unaffordable.

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Full funding for construction of Bush Terminal Park through Phase 2, including playground, environmental center and pier 5. Although the park is open, EDC has not provided all the amenities promised to this community.</i>	
8/40	EDC	<b>Other capital budget request for EDC</b>	<i>EDC should provide free wifi access to all of CD 7</i>	
19/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Allocate funds for a bathroom on the BAT campus adjacent to the 58th Street Pier and available to the pier's patrons</i>	
23/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Build a ramp to replace stairson the 63rd Street walkway to the BAT buildings. The stairs are not accessible.</i>	

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
8/25	SBS	<b>Provide or expand occupational skills training programs</b>	<i>Provide vocational training, day habilitation and placement services for adults with disabilities.</i>	
19/25	SBS	<b>Support non-profit organizational development and capacity building</b>	<i>Fund adult vocational and apprenticeship programs in CD 7</i>	
21/25	SBS	<b>Support non-profit organizational development and capacity building</b>	<i>Restore community-based employment training programs for all schools districtwide.</i>	

### Brooklyn Community Board 7

#### Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

##### **Roadway and traffic design**

DOT should immediately committee to study and make changes to the intersection of 3rd Avenue and 60th Street as well as a truck route efficiency and safety study for the community in the interest of public safety for the safety of all users and to move goods as efficiently as possible with as little conflict with pedestrians and bicyclists as possible. We do not understand why these are not a priority of DOT. The intersection at 3rd Avenue and 60th Street is the most dangerous in the community with more than 150 traffic accidents a year. This year we opened two new schools at the intersection, which along with PS 503 and PS 506 across the street will bring hundreds of small stature pedestrians to this intersection every school day. We have been waiting for what was called a "Safe Routes to School" study for this intersection since at least 2003. DOT's intransigence is baffling. A truck route study is also a necessity for our community. We previously discussed the danger these trucks present to other users of the streets, but the need is increasing as more trucks are necessary to deliver goods both locally and in other communities and our community is often the starting point for these trucks as delivery services and depots are expanding at an unsustainable pace in our community and nearby. Instead of these studies, DOT has pushed through half thought out plans for 20th Street, Park Circle and 7th and 8th Avenues with little community input or notification. It appears DOT is rushing to fulfill the administration's political promises rather than carefully study problems and create solutions tailored for the local needs. But DOT does not communicate. In fact, it took an Article 78 lawsuit from Assemblyman Abbate to even get DOT to agree to follow the law. There are many other corridors and intersections that deserve DOT's attention and study. The prioritization should come from the community who most navigate these streets every day and know which are in immediate need. This agency, more than any other, would benefit from new leadership in the next administration.

#### Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

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

Transportation issues are amongst our most pressing. This is because we are home to two major highways, a large industrial area that requires trucks and because transportation issues have a strong impact on public safety and the quality-of-life in our community. State DOT also plays a crucial role in how trucks access our community as most come via the Gowanus and Prospect Expressways. Unfortunately, constant repair of the Gowanus and terrible traffic on both highways encourages drivers to get off the highways and travel local streets. In addition, a lack of appropriate highway entrances and exits, coupled with our large industrial area, mean that we constantly have problems with off-route trucks looking for ways to get around traffic. These additional trucks on our streets, with more coming due to welcomed economic development along our waterfront, mean additional conflicts with and dangers for pedestrians. City DOT, however, has recognized these conflicts and has worked with the Community Board and others to develop a traffic and pedestrian safety plan for 4th Avenue that has reduced the number of traffic lanes from three to two (north and south), widened the pedestrian medians and vehicle turning lanes, added high visibility paint and plastic bollards. Additional improvements are expected, including sheltered bike lanes and planted medians. However, because the City failed to keep up with these infrastructure needs for decades, many of the projects are happening at the same time, as the City rushes to support our economic growth in the industrial area, including simultaneous lane closures on 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues, daily work on the Gowanus Expressway structure, and side street closures in the 40s and 50s. This leads us to worry that agencies are not properly communicating and coordinating on projects, producing extra burdens on our residents and businesses.

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

While we are happy that MTA has added an elevator to the 59th Street station, it is not nearly enough. All station rehabilitations should include elevator and/or ramps. We are very happy the 53rd Street and Prospect Avenue stations have recently been rehabilitated, we feel accessibility is much more important than cell phone charging.

More frequent bus service is necessary on Eighth and particularly on 5th Avenue, especially when school is in session. MTA failed to provide traffic agents along 4th Avenue, as promised creating a safety hazard for all traverse the boulevard.

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## Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Allocate funds for the design and reconstruction of 3rd Avenue from 65th to 17th Street, to include all service roads, with safer pedestrian crossings and improved lighting at every intersection</i>	3rd Avenue 17th Street 17th Street
4/40	NYCTA	<b>Other capital budget request for NYCTA</b>	<i>Deck over the MTA property between 36th and 39th Streets, from 6th to 8th Avenues, to provide space to build housing for those with low incomes and essential workers</i>	
5/40	NYCTA	<b>Other capital budget request for NYCTA</b>	<i>Deck over the MTA property on 38th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues to provide space to build housing for those with low incomes and essential workers.</i>	
7/40	NYCTA	<b>Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</b>	<i>Add shelters for every bus stop on the B63 route in CD 7</i>	
9/40	DOT	<b>Repair or provide new street lights</b>	<i>Rehabilitate lights beneath the Gowanus Expressway and add shorter street lights to 3rd Avenue</i>	3 Avenue 15 Street 15 Street
14/40	NYCTA	<b>Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</b>	<i>Create secondary entrances/exits at all subway stations in CD 7. This is necessary for mobility and public safety reasons</i>	
15/40	NYCTA	<b>Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</b>	<i>Add 3 elevators and rehabilitate the 15th Street/Prospect Park station on the F line to improve station and ensure it is handicap accessible</i>	
24/40	NYCTA	<b>Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</b>	<i>Add elevators and make 36th Street station on the N/R line handicap accessible</i>	

29/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Rehabilitate 2nd Avenue between 29th and 42nd Streets and remove unused rail. EDC was supposed to have done this in a 2005 project but removed it without community notice.</i>	2 Avenue 29 Street 29 Street
30/40	DOT	<b>Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)</b>	<i>Increase funds for pothole repair in CD 7</i>	
31/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Fund the reconstruction of 39th Street from 2nd Avenue to the Western Terminus</i>	39th Street 2nd Avenue 2nd Avenue
34/40	DOT	<b>Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps</b>	<i>Replace sidewalks on Ft. Hamilton Parkway between East 5th Street and the bridge over the Prospect Expressway. The adjacent property owner is NYC.</i>	Ft Hamilton Parkway East 5th Street East 5th Street
37/40	DOT	<b>Other transportation infrastructure requests</b>	<i>Add shelters and benches to all bus stops on 3rd Avenue in CD 7</i>	3rd Avenue 15th Street 15th Street

### Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Increase service on the B63 bus and ensure much more frequent service, particularly during school rush hours. The B63 serves several school inside and outside the district and service levels have not been frequent enough to handle the volume of children. We have received numerous complaints about children being late due to overcrowded buses bypassing stops.</i>	
11/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Restore full funding for the B-37 bus to 3rd Avenue in CD 7, with 24 hour service</i>	
12/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Provide additional buses to increase frequency of the B70 bus.</i>	

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17/25

DOT

**Improve traffic and  
pedestrian safety,  
including traffic  
calming**

*Provide comprehensive bicycle safety training  
for all who wish to receive such in CD 7*

## **PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **Brooklyn Community Board 7**

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

##### **Park care and maintenance**

While some of our parks have undergone rehabilitation recently, many remain in need of upgrades, including: • Martin Luther Playground • John Allen Payne Park (half rehabilitated) • D’Emic Park • Pena-Herrera Park Bush Terminal Park opened in 2014, but we still only have half the park the community was promised. Its been 6 years and the park still doesn't even have lighting or other promised amenities, such as a picnic area, playground, environmental center or even a plan for Pier 5 as part of the park. In a community that has less than half of the city’s standard for parkland per capita and where nearly 25% of our population is more than ¼ mile from a park, it should stand to reason that the few facilities we have should be kept in top condition.

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

##### **Needs for Parks**

Our parks are oases within the concrete City where people of all generations, socio-economic statuses and ethnic and national backgrounds can gather, relax, play or simply enjoy a more pastoral setting within the City. They are for mental rejuvenation, physical fitness and stress relief. However, during difficult economic times our parks see an increase in use because of limited personal recreation funds, but often experience a decrease in programming and upkeep. Together these facts spell trouble for our parks as overused equipment falls into disrepair or natural settings are overtaxed. Unfortunately for local parks, the City’s main parks seem to get all the attention while our facilities become eyesores. Facility upgrades are left to our Councilmembers’ discretion and ability to negotiate and while our elected officials have done a great job bring these funds to the community, we believe it is unfair to them to have to concentrate funds in parks that should be funded directly by the agency. As such, we call upon the City to establish a capital program for local parks that does not rely on limited discretionary funds from elected officials.

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

No comments

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

No comments

##### **Needs for Community Boards**

No comments



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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
3/40	DCAS	<b>Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment</b>	<i>Purchase fixed and portable equipment to allow Community Board 7/Brooklyn to hold blended meetings in the board and in locations around the district</i>	
11/40	DCAS	<b>Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Community Board 7 rest rooms (to ensure ADA compliance), lobby, plumbing, electrical and hvac systems and security. CB 7, despite being in a city-owned building, is not ADA-compliant. DCAS has had the money for almost a decade. This is an embarrassment to NYC.</i>	4201 4 Avenue
12/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Martin Luther Playground.</i>	
16/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate D'Emic Playground.</i>	
18/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Reconstruct Rainbow Playground.</i>	5523 6 Avenue
20/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Pena-Herrera Park.</i>	4601 3 Avenue
21/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Plascencia Park, including higher fences to prevent damage to surrounding homes</i>	

22/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate basketball and handball courts at Greenwood Park.</i>	
25/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park</b>	<i>Replace all windows in the Sunset Park Recreation Center.</i>	4200 7 Avenue
32/40	DPR	<b>Improve access to a building in a park</b>	<i>Replace sidewalks and curbs on East 4th Street between Ft. Hamilton Parkway and Caton Avenue at the community garden. The adjacent property owner is NYC.</i>	East 4th Street Ft. Hamilton Parkway Ft. Hamilton Parkway
33/40	BPL	<b>Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (BPL)</b>	<i>Allocate for acquisition, design and construction of an additional library in Sunset Park adjacent to 7th or 8th Avenues</i>	
38/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate the portion of John Allen Payne Park that has not already been rehabilitated</i>	
39/40	DPR	<b>Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Add accessible swings and other accessible equipment to all playgrounds in CD 7</i>	
40/40	DPR	<b>Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Build a dog run in Sunset Park</i>	

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

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/25	DPR	<b>Other park maintenance and safety requests</b>	<i>Increase Parks personnel budget for additional maintenance workers and Recreation Center workers</i>	4200 7th Ave

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20/25

DPR

**Forestry services,  
including street tree  
maintenance**

*Increase funding for tree planting and pruning  
district-wide in order to expedite schedule*

## 6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

### Other Capital Requests

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

### Other Expense Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
25/25	DCWP	<b>Other expense budget request for DCA</b>	<i>Increase the number of permits to allow additional legal vending opportunities, increase enforcement against illegal vending activities and provide training for those who wish to apply to become legal vendors.</i>	

## 7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

### Capital Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Allocate funds for the design and reconstruction of 3rd Avenue from 65th to 17th Street, to include all service roads, with safer pedestrian crossings and improved lighting at every intersection</i>	3rd Avenue 17th Street 17th Street
2/40	SCA	<b>Renovate interior building component</b>	<i>Rehabilitate all non-ADA compliant schools and facilities within schools to ensure they are 100% accessible to all student populations.</i>	
3/40	DCAS	<b>Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment</b>	<i>Purchase fixed and portable equipment to allow Community Board 7/Brooklyn to hold blended meetings in the board and in locations around the district</i>	
4/40	NYCTA	<b>Other capital budget request for NYCTA</b>	<i>Deck over the MTA property between 36th and 39th Streets, from 6th to 8th Avenues, to provide space to build housing for those with low incomes and essential workers</i>	
5/40	NYCTA	<b>Other capital budget request for NYCTA</b>	<i>Deck over the MTA property on 38th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues to provide space to build housing for those with low incomes and essential workers.</i>	
6/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Full funding for construction of Bush Terminal Park through Phase 2, including playground, environmental center and pier 5. Although the park is open, EDC has not provided all the amenities promised to this community.</i>	
7/40	NYCTA	<b>Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</b>	<i>Add shelters for every bus stop on the B63 route in CD 7</i>	
8/40	EDC	<b>Other capital budget request for EDC</b>	<i>EDC should provide free wifi access to all of CD 7</i>	
9/40	DOT	<b>Repair or provide new street lights</b>	<i>Rehabilitate lights beneath the Gowanus Expressway and add shorter street lights to 3rd Avenue</i>	3 Avenue 15 Street 15 Street

10/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Replace sewer pipes in 1st Avenue from 39th to 58th Streets which was cut out of the 2005 street rehabilitation. Green infrastructure should be included wherever feasible.</i>	1st Avenue 39th Street 39th Street
11/40	DCAS	<b>Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Community Board 7 rest rooms (to ensure ADA compliance), lobby, plumbing, electrical and hvac systems and security. CB 7, despite being in a city-owned building, is not ADA-compliant. DCAS has had the money for almost a decade. This is an embarrassment to NYC.</i>	4201 4 Avenue
12/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Martin Luther Playground.</i>	
13/40	DSNY	<b>Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure</b>	<i>Acquire site for a new BK-7 garage off the waterfront in order to build the first zero emissions DSNY garage and fueling facility. The current facility is too small to house the technology and ancillary equipment necessary to meet the City's 2040 goal.</i>	
14/40	NYCTA	<b>Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure</b>	<i>Create secondary entrances/exits at all subway stations in CD 7. This is necessary for mobility and public safety reasons</i>	
15/40	NYCTA	<b>Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</b>	<i>Add 3 elevators and rehabilitate the 15th Street/Prospect Park station on the F line to improve station and ensure it is handicap accessible</i>	
16/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate D'Emic Playground.</i>	
17/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction of a new Early Childhood Learning Center to serve the students of the Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace communities.</i>	

18/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Reconstruct Rainbow Playground.</i>	5523 6 Avenue
19/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Allocate funds for a bathroom on the BAT campus adjacent to the 58th Street Pier and available to the pier's patrons</i>	
20/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Pena-Herrera Park.</i>	4601 3 Avenue
21/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate Plascencia Park, including higher fences to prevent damage to surrounding homes</i>	
22/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate basketball and handball courts at Greenwood Park.</i>	
23/40	EDC	<b>Invest in capital projects to improve access to waterfront</b>	<i>Build a ramp to replace stairson the 63rd Street walkway to the BAT buildings. The stairs are not accessible.</i>	
24/40	NYCTA	<b>Improve accessibility of transit infrastructure, by providing elevators, escalators, etc.</b>	<i>Add elevators and make 36th Street station on the N/R line handicap accessible</i>	
25/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park</b>	<i>Replace all windows in the Sunset Park Recreation Center.</i>	4200 7 Avenue
26/40	DOE	<b>Other capital budget request for DOE</b>	<i>Replace playground equipment at PS 971 with age-appropriate equipment. The school was built as an early childhood center but has a population up to grade 5. As such, the play equipment is inadequate for older children.</i>	

27/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Establish a design an reconstruction contract for 5th Avenue between 34th and 65th Streets, including sewers, mains, pedestrian plazas, historic lighting and other public amenities and include an incentive clause for early completion. This project was supposed to start in 1988. It has been repeatedly delayed to (now) 2022. DOT blames DEP's lack of a budget.</i>	5 Avenue 34 Street 34 Street
28/40	DEP	<b>Other capital budget request for DEP</b>	<i>Rehabilitate the sewer pipe and add green infrastructure on 33rd and 34th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues.</i>	34th and 35th Streets 4th Avenue 4th Avenue
29/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Rehabilitate 2nd Avenue between 29th and 42nd Streets and remove unused rail. EDC was supposed to have done this in a 2005 project but removed it without community notice.</i>	2 Avenue 29 Street 29 Street
30/40	DOT	<b>Roadway maintenance (i.e. pothole repair, resurfacing, trench restoration, etc.)</b>	<i>Increase funds for pothole repair in CD 7</i>	
31/40	DOT	<b>Reconstruct streets</b>	<i>Fund the reconstruction of 39th Street from 2nd Avenue to the Western Terminus</i>	39th Street 2nd Avenue 2nd Avenue
32/40	DPR	<b>Improve access to a building in a park</b>	<i>Replace sidewalks and curbs on East 4th Street between Ft. Hamilton Parkway and Caton Avenue at the community garden. The adjacent property owner is NYC.</i>	East 4th Street Ft. Hamilton Parkway Ft. Hamilton Parkway
33/40	BPL	<b>Create a new, or renovate or upgrade an existing public library (BPL)</b>	<i>Allocate for acquisition, design and construction of an additional library in Sunset Park adjacent to 7th or 8th Avenues</i>	
34/40	DOT	<b>Repair or construct new curbs or pedestrian ramps</b>	<i>Replace sidewalks on Ft. Hamilton Parkway between East 5th Street and the bridge over the Prospect Expressway. The adjacent property owner is NYC.</i>	Ft Hamilton Parkway East 5th Street East 5th Street



35/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing high school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction of a new high school in CD 7. Sunset Park High School opened in 2009, the only HS in the district, and is beyond capacity, as are the school in neighboring communities. It took 40 years of effort to get Sunset Park HS. The CB feels it is necessary to start the process again, given the time scale.</i>	
36/40	SCA	<b>Provide a new or expand an existing elementary school</b>	<i>Allocate funds for site acquisition, design and construction for a new elementary school in the Sunset Park/Windsor Terrace community.</i>	
37/40	DOT	<b>Other transportation infrastructure requests</b>	<i>Add shelters and benches to all bus stops on 3rd Avenue in CD 7</i>	3rd Avenue 15th Street 15th Street
38/40	DPR	<b>Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Rehabilitate the portion of John Allen Payne Park that has not already been rehabilitated</i>	
39/40	DPR	<b>Improve access to a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Add accessible swings and other accessible equipment to all playgrounds in CD 7</i>	
40/40	DPR	<b>Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)</b>	<i>Build a dog run in Sunset Park</i>	

## Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/25	NYPD	<b>Hire additional crossing guards</b>	<i>Increase school crossing guard personnel in CD 7 and increase hours to reflect afterschool programs. Our population has grown by 50% in two decades and we have many more schools, charters and pre-K programs, but our crossing guard personnel has remained at 40 throughout. Several children have been hit at unguarded crossing in the past few years in this community, with at least four deaths. The allocation formula has never been explained.</i>	
2/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance primary prevention services to strengthen families</b>	<i>Increase day care slots in CD 7. The community's need has increased significantly, but we have lost seats due to competition for space. Head Start had to move for a new public school and lost half its slots in the process. The popular BAT Kids contract was not renewed and the space was used for Pre-K.</i>	
3/25	NYPD	<b>Other NYPD programs requests</b>	<i>Increase and sustained truck enforcement. CD 7 has an inordinate number of trucks due to a large industrial area and poor highway access. Truck traveling off-route in a dangerous manner (such as speeding) have been an increasing concern for residents.</i>	
4/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Increase service on the B63 bus and ensure much more frequent service, particularly during school rush hours. The B63 serves several school inside and outside the district and service levels have not been frequent enough to handle the volume of children. We have received numerous complaints about children being late due to overcrowded buses bypassing stops.</i>	
5/25	DOE	<b>Other educational programs requests</b>	<i>Fully fund all programs for all children who are eligible for specialized and related programs (including but not limited to students with special needs and multilingual learners) in the district</i>	
6/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance child welfare preventive services</b>	<i>Increase funding for preventive protective services for children.</i>	

7/25	DOE	<b>Assign more non-teaching staff, e.g., to provide social, health and other services</b>	<i>Allocate funds for additional training of school safety officers for all schools, especially serving schools with District 75 students. Safety officers should not be from the NYPD.</i>	
8/25	SBS	<b>Provide or expand occupational skills training programs</b>	<i>Provide vocational training, day habilitation and placement services for adults with disabilities.</i>	
9/25	DSNY	<b>Provide more frequent litter basket collection</b>	<i>Increase funding for corner basket pick up. Corner baskets in CD 7 are overflowing and BK - 7 has responded, in part, by reducing the number of baskets. CB 7 believe more frequent pick ups can alleviate the problem.</i>	
10/25	DPR	<b>Other park maintenance and safety requests</b>	<i>Increase Parks personnel budget for additional maintenance workers and Recreation Center workers</i>	4200 7th Ave
11/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Restore full funding for the B-37 bus to 3rd Avenue in CD 7, with 24 hour service</i>	
12/25	NYCTA	<b>Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation</b>	<i>Provide additional buses to increase frequency of the B70 bus.</i>	
13/25	HRA	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults</b>	<i>Increase funding for adult ESOL, adult literacy and adult education programs in CD 7.</i>	
14/25	ACS	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance preventive services and community based alternatives for youth</b>	<i>Increase programmatic funding for youth-oriented diversion programs concerning drugs, crime, alcohol and gangs in CD 7.</i>	
15/25	DEP	<b>Clean catch basins</b>	<i>Increase funding for sewer and catch basin maintenance in CD 7.</i>	
16/25	DYCD	<b>Provide, expand, or enhance after school programs for elementary school students (grades K-5)</b>	<i>Allocate funding for after school music and arts programs, comprehensive ASP, ELA, STEAM, sports, math COMPASS and SONYC programs to all schools in the district</i>	

17/25	DOT	<b>Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming</b>	<i>Provide comprehensive bicycle safety training for all who wish to receive such in CD 7</i>	
18/25	DEP	<b>Inspect storm sewer on specific street segment and service, repair or replace as needed</b>	<i>Study water and sewer problems in area bounded by Kermit Place, East 7th Street, East 17th Street and Caton Avenue</i>	Kermit Place East 7th Street East 7th Street
19/25	SBS	<b>Support non-profit organizational development and capacity building</b>	<i>Fund adult vocational and apprenticeship programs in CD 7</i>	
20/25	DPR	<b>Forestry services, including street tree maintenance</b>	<i>Increase funding for tree planting and pruning district-wide in order to expedite schedule</i>	
21/25	SBS	<b>Support non-profit organizational development and capacity building</b>	<i>Restore community-based employment training programs for all schools districtwide.</i>	
22/25	DSNY	<b>Provide more frequent garbage or recycling pick-up for schools and institutions</b>	<i>Restore 5-day-a-week pick up at all schools districtwide. Many schools do not have capacity for storing garbage multiple days. Most of our schools are overcrowded and have more garbage than capacity.</i>	
23/25	DSNY	<b>Other cleaning requests</b>	<i>Allocate additional personnel for manual street sweeping in CD 7 and/or implementation of the Clean Curbs program for schools</i>	
24/25	DFTA	<b>Enhance educational and recreational programs</b>	<i>CB 7 believes city senior centers are now in competition with for-profit facilities that have access to federal reimbursement. Programs at city facilities should be enhanced to compete.</i>	
25/25	DCWP	<b>Other expense budget request for DCA</b>	<i>Increase the number of permits to allow additional legal vending opportunities, increase enforcement against illegal vending activities and provide training for those who wish to apply to become legal vendors.</i>	