

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

Fiscal Year
2025

**Brooklyn
Community District**

November 2023

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) 2025. 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, 2023.

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 2025. This report contains the formatted but otherwise unedited content provided by the community board.

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

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

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

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1. COMMUNITY BOARD INFORMATION

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Address: 1291 St. Marks Avenue

Phone: (718) 467-5574

Email:

Website: www.brooklyncb8.org

Chair: Irsa Weatherspoon

District Manager: 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, Ralph Avenue on the east, Eastern Parkway on the south and Flatbush Avenue on the west. Our growing Districts' resident demographics and socio-economic statuses are evolving for many reasons, and some of the changing statuses have caused tensions between residents that do not share the same intersections. The aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to illustrate multiple disparities and intersections of New York City residents across several high priority areas in District 8, including in housing (security, access and affordability), healthcare, food resources, open space options, and transportation.

Hyper development in some of the remaining undeveloped parcels of land in our District—mainly those parcels in the M-1 or manufacturing zone of Atlantic Avenue to Bergen Street between Grand and Franklin Avenues that formulate the once-called MCROWN zone, now re-named the “Atlantic Avenue Mixed-Use Corridor” or AAMUP—as well as increasing the bulk and scale of existing structures, has served to exacerbate gentrification and displacement, resulted in residual rental increases in an expanded area, and fueled tensions between long time and newer, more affluent residents. A new, more insidious consequence has emerged, which is directly related to the disconnect between local elected officials and residents that believe the electeds do not share their concerns for housing access. There is a growing preponderance of residents that believe our electeds' reliance on building new luxury housing as the only methodology for ending the housing affordability crisis, is a disservice to the working class individuals and families that built this city. They have called upon our elected body to cease ignoring the resultant displacement, higher rents, and landlord harassment of long-terms residents resulting from luxury units that sit vacant while the homeless population increases due to an inability to afford rental prices.

Two of the District's population groups—the elderly and youth—have been identified as being alarmingly underserved and under-resourced. There is increasing demand for senior programming and transportation options as well as youth-based programming across several milieu. The “norm” should not be the only milieu catered to, and programs and services should be considered that will reach a broader array of personality, emotional, and physical needs. Ensuring that the most vulnerable within already marginalized categories are properly cared for and served helps to prevent unnecessary strain from arising.

Mental health issues continue to be burdensome for a growing number of the district's residents. These issues and concerns remain heightened during the post-Covid-19 recovery era and show no sign of reducing or trending downward. Especially amongst the majority of immigrant and BIPOC (black, indigenous, persons of color) residents, the lack of education around mental illness is pervasive and deters treatment or even serious discussion with family, friends, and healthcare professionals. Educational programs, when combined with mindfulness activities like meditation, gardening, and other holistic health healing approaches, would be beneficial when combined with access to preventative services and care provided by community capital such as green open space, financial security in terms of quality employment and quality housing, public safety, and a general sense of belonging.

We are hopeful that the ensuing narratives and budget requests will help officials determine the best ways to bridge service gaps and offer assistance to the residents of Brooklyn Community Board 8 during 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

Since the eviction moratorium came to a close in January 2022, there have been approximately 206 marshal executed evictions in District 8 alone. While for many that number might not seem very high, it is indicative of the lack of affordability in housing for a large number of our District's residents. Compounding matters are the inefficacies within the City's housing assistance programs, agency staffing shortages, resistance from landlords to accept vouchers, and greed to name a few. Data indicating that the majority of the city's residents are rent-burdened is readily available and consistently ignored by pundits that would rather cite a non-existent overall housing shortage instead of the actual issue at hand: affordability. Also ignored in the affordable housing argument are the number of warehoused units that unnecessarily further burden the City's renter population that consists of two-thirds of the residents of this great city. The standard argument and go-to of pundits to "develop and build" to address the issue merely serves, data has proven, to reduce affordability, increase cost burdens, and contribute further to displacement. Further complicating matters in the affordable housing conversation are rent-controlled and rent-stabilized units in need of repair whose occupants are being harassed into leaving. Unscrupulous landlords seeking to maximize profits on these units utilize measures designed to skirt provisions from the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 that reduce the financial benefit of long term tenants vacating a unit. Such measures used to skirt the tenant protection provisions include dividing or merging apartment units and altering them so much that they no longer fall under the protected status and can be rented for higher market rates, moving in undesirable tenants that serve as harassing agents on behalf of landlords, neglecting repairs to allow the property to decay and become uninhabitable, and several other actions that on the surface are not technically illegal but are certainly unethical, including ignoring vermin complaints and disallowing tenant protections from other tenants' behaviors. Overall, the new methodologies employed disparately affect the most economically vulnerable tenants. Moreover, the conversion of small, private homes to multiple dwellings containing luxury condominiums with sales prices that far exceed the economic feasibility for all but the top percentile of residents, coupled with the growing market of illegal short-term rentals, such as private hotels, bed and breakfasts, and hostels, contributes to the spiraling affordable housing crisis in District 8 and New York City as a whole. Current land use trends promoting luxury development featuring up-zoning and focused only on providing the minimum baseline Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) options (primarily Option 2 and Option 4 at 80% AMI and 115% AMI), have proven vastly insufficient at making a dent in the City's affordable housing crisis. Unfortunately, these trends are still being viewed as the savior of affordable housing in the city as rents continue to drive upward with large scale developments and despite alarming rates of resident displacement ringing alarm bells to inform officials of the failure of up-zoning to solve the affordability crisis. As a case-in-point, the current Council District 35 initiated and mayoral supported Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP) framework falls short of the goals presented in the Board's M-CROWN proposal that we had advocated for in previous years. The AAMUP proposal presented by the Dept. of City Planning should be amended and tweaked as DCP's draft AAMUP zoning framework fails to address a core goal of M-CROWN, namely, the cross-subsidy of light manufacturing space in order to encourage creation of accessible local jobs with career paths. DCP apparently still wants to fight about that, even though they created a zoning tool for Gowanus that would do much of what CB8 wants. Residential density in the draft AAMUP framework is also greater than that described in CB8's M-CROWN resolutions, and DCP proposes mapping MIH Option 2, which does not provide for any deeply affordable apartments. As such, we recognize that the draft AAMUP zoning framework fails to address CB8's affordable housing needs, and doesn't address the jobs goals of M-CROWN. Finally, existing large-scale development projects such as Pacific Park/Atlantic Yards Development, pose an ongoing nuisance condition in our community. Unfortunately, as these large-scale projects are usually overseen by the state, city agencies are often unable to assist with resident complaints and amelioration of issues. We urge the Mayor's office to allow for additional oversight into these projects, specifically Pacific Park/Atlantic Yards, as there is little community benefit while ongoing issues increase damaging effects on the quality of life for residents in the immediate surrounding area.

Crime and public safety

Despite official crime statistics presented by NYPD and other city officials trending downward, residents of District 8 report feeling a level of unsafety not seen since the 1980s and early 1990s. While this is partly due to the number of brazen violent incidents occurring in broad daylight, much of the lack of safety stems from the abundance of individuals with substance abuse issues and untreated mental health conditions in unhoused states on our streets as well as an abundance of unhoused and/or under-housed individuals, depleted socio-economic statuses, poor quality open spaces, and a dearth of social programs to name a few. Solutions to the fear and the violence are not reducible to solutions of simply adding more police officers and cameras on street furniture and infrastructure. However, something must be done to ameliorate crime and criminal activity, and this can be completed more holistically than a simple reliance on “law and order.” Criminalization of the unhoused, of addicts, and of the mentally ill is not the answer, and there must be investment in areas that allow for distinguishment of nefarious criminal acts from those that can benefit from treatment of substances abuse and mental health episodes and crises. A safe community is one in which all residents have access to a quality education, safe and healthy homes, adequate employment, transportation, physical activity, and nutrition, in addition to quality medical care. The health and safety of a community is co-dependent on these and several other factors, and unfortunately in New York City, the factors that lie outside of the purview of the NYPD are considerably underfunded or quite frankly not funded at all. Holistic concepts of public safety recognize the influence of social, economic, psychological and environmental well-being of the community on people’s perception of safety and their psyches. Community investments in the form of open space, education, programming, arts and cultural input, and so much more go much further than the placement of bodies with weapons to police the activities of a population. Sadly, the dearth of social programming across all age groups further deteriorates the sense of safety as does insecure housing options and subpar educational standards in District 8. Fully funded and adequate social service, diversion, and alternative to prison programs are integral to increasing safety in the district and to actually reducing crime and treating the behavior of those committing crime. The age old adage is that “people that know better, do better” and it has been proven in communities outside of New York City for decades. Calls to defund the police should be viewed as calls to increase services in areas where services are lacking to prevent the necessity of over-policing. The NYPD, due to its inflated budget, is called upon to treat all social ills as criminal acts and this simply should not be the case. The police are here to protect and officers are not social workers or trained interveners in mental health crises, nor should they be called upon to act as such. And yet, sadly, they are, and this increases the lack of safety in communities where fear of police violence will prohibit residents from calling for assistance. We encourage the funding of programs outside of NYPD that will increase community and social capital and make it easier for residents to find the help they need and call upon the entities that are fully trained to handle these crises.

Other

Transportation matters was recognized as a top priority for District 8 residents, and three different areas were identified as requiring improvement. Firstly, seniors noticed that ableist perspectives on bike and pedestrian prioritization hampers their ability to travel as buses are rerouted to accommodate Open Streets (primarily along Vanderbilt Avenue). They noted that lengthy wait times between buses creates unnecessary obstacles to getting to appointments and running errands. Compounding matters are NYC Transit’s proposed changes to the Brooklyn Bus Network that would increase walking distances between bus stops, many of which already lack shelter and seating. Those living with mobility issues are expressly concerned that they are being abused at the whim of those that are more able to travel via alternative methods such as bicycles, on train, and by foot. Rail travel is not an option for many seniors they stated, because not enough of the train stations in District 8 are ADA accessible with elevators or escalators. Secondly, bicyclists identified a dearth of north/south bike infrastructure in District 8. While all recognized the more economically affluent western end of the District as “blessed with bike infrastructure,” all noted that their travel is not solely confined to Prospect Heights, and encouraged additional bike lanes and traffic calming in the central and eastern portion of the Board. Specifically cited corridors of interest were Albany, Troy, and Schenectady Avenues, with desires to see the one-way roads converted to one travel lane with a designated bike lane and two parking lanes. The concern raised is that the limited bike infrastructure increases risk as well as heightens disparities between more affluent communities and those still within distressed census tracts. Several individuals that commented indicated that there is no less bike activity in Crown Heights and Weeksville, and as such, the prioritization should not be just in Prospect Heights. Moreover, several cyclists called into question certain components of the Dept. of Transportation’s streetscape changes designed to increase biker and pedestrian safety

as actually deteriorating it. Quite a few mentioned the design of the Buffalo Avenue protected bike lane as a prime example of design changes that limit safety not only of cyclists, but also pedestrians and drivers, providing as examples of design flaws the following: 1) the lack of a mid-block crossing light for pedestrians to access both sides of Lincoln Terrace Park when using the comfort station; 2) the narrowed width of the driving and parking lanes on Buffalo Avenue to accommodate two protected bike lanes rather than a north/south protected bike lane on one side of the street; and 3) the “floating parking lane” that forces drivers to exit their vehicles into oncoming traffic. Street users of all kinds questioned whether the design changes as currently implemented actually accommodate the intended protective measures. Additionally, the recently enhanced Underhill Avenue Bike Boulevard called into question several of the same concerns, especially the fact that the street’s travel lane(s) were narrowed so significantly that bikers do not feel safe riding outside of the protected area that only spans a third of the corridor. Thirdly, residents cited “hostile vehicle infrastructure” as a primary concern in terms of transportation matters. Several residents classified the following as hostile changes to make it more difficult to travel and maneuver by car in the city: 1) road diets inclusive of bike lanes and select bus service; 2) wanton removal of parking spaces for planters and other street furniture that they do not understand the purpose of; 3) removal of parking spaces to accommodate bike shares rather than bike parking for those that own their bikes; and 4) removal of parking spaces for car share programs such as Zip Car. While all complainants recognize climate change as a key driver behind the mantra that city residents need to drive less, most do not understand why city officials are increasing hostile infrastructure changes prior to focusing on changes and improvements to public transportation that would automatically decrease vehicular reliance amongst residents, and believe they are being unfairly burdened by electeds’ desires to fix climate issues by repression rather than holding big business accountable. Finally, the fourth area of concern in transportation related matters brought to the Board’s attention is the increase in illegal moped use, the rise in electronic bicycles, and the wanton and brazen flouting of traffic laws by users of these modes of transport. With oversight and licensing, these modes of transportation could serve as a valuable tool for transportation options aside from personal carbon emitting vehicles. Unfortunately, such oversight and licensing is lacking, and irresponsible use wreaks havoc on our streets and sidewalks. We encourage requisite agencies to please look into legislation that will make our streets safer for all that use them, including those that currently lack the faculties to increase their own safety by utilizing common sense.

5. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS AND BUDGET REQUESTS

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Health Care and Human Services

Mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs

The aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic brought to light many glaring issues and unattended conditions for our residents. Consequently, the dearth of understanding surrounding mental health issues can no longer be ignored. Chronically endured mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, anger (mis)management issues, borderline personality disorder, extreme mood changes, withdrawal and detachments, and so many more are more and more prevalent with social and environmental conditions deteriorating as they are currently. War abroad, mounting hostilities on the home front, declining finances, rising self-medicating tactics, shame around individualized perceptions of mental illness can have profound effects on the human psyche as well as lead to increased self-medicating with illicit substances and alcohol, thus creating a vicious cycle of increased debilitating mental health conditions. Additionally, susceptibility and lack of coping mechanisms can be traced back to unhealed trauma experienced at some point in a person's life. The reliance on things to sway the mind from things a person does not want to deal with merely increases the mental burdens and mental load carried. Understanding the intricacies of what mental health is and reducing the stigma around it should be a top priority, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic where more and more people are in need of, and seeking treatment.

Community District Needs Related to Health Care and Human Services

Needs for Health Care and Facilities

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

Needs for Older NYs

A growing and often neglected population, our senior population requires special services and care that should come automatically to a class of well-deserving citizens. We need to recognize and reward the life lived and hard work of our senior population by providing them with fundamental means of existing above the Federal poverty line. Sadly, an easy lifestyle, even with modest furnishings, is not afforded to many seniors living in New York City due to astronomically high rents (resulting in housing insecurity), rising medical and health costs, increasing property tax burdens, and inflation causing rising food costs. As proponents of elderly care and in recognition of the special needs of the elderly in District 8, we appeal to a course of action that will make this goal possible. More services focused on improving the quality of life, residential opportunities, home-care and health-care need to be provided by City-operated and neighborhood based agencies. Services should especially focus on the ignored and forgotten portion of seniors that earn too much to be eligible for Medicaid and other cost savings programs like SCRIE, DRIE, senior property tax exemptions, and others. No senior should be grouped with working residents to compete for so-called affordable housing opportunities that will further eliminate financial security.

We acknowledge the City's efforts to increase eligibility for certain services such as the Senior Citizen- or Disabled-

Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE and DRIE) and property tax breaks by raising the maximum yearly income. However, more needs to be done, for to be eligible for these programs, seniors must still bear a large cost burden. SCRIE and DRIE should be available to every senior, not just those that are paying more than 30% of their gross income in rent. Factors such as taxes on income, healthcare insurance costs, medical and prescription copays, basic necessities, and the like need to be factored in as well, since it is net income that is the livable income.

Additionally, an emphasis on home-care will help reduce costly institutional care and the burdens placed upon family members that serve as caregivers, and will also provide additional freedom to relatively self-sufficient individuals. Finally, the movement toward virtual and digital during the Covid-19 Pandemic and the aftermath we are currently in, has illustrated that many seniors are very capable of using technology if they have the tools and education available to them. We must consider ensuring that every senior has a device that will allow them to stay connected to their loved ones and social networks, especially in situations where we have to isolate and distance for safety.

Needs for Homeless

Affordable housing and limiting landlord greed will assist with dispelling homelessness. Ensuring that housing is affordable begins by looking at the net pay that tenants have available to spend on rent, not gross. Additionally, other practices that assist homeless individuals is ensuring that other social and mental needs are met. This occurs by creating a healthy and safe community where social and community capital are grown and utilized to assist residents long before they need the intervention of the government.

Needs for Low Income NYs

There are many conditions that affect a person's life as a result of being "low-income" or impoverished. Poverty can create considerable stress for families. As per the family stress model, poverty can contribute to interparental conflict, which plays a key role in family dynamics and can be a precursor to negative child outcomes. Conflict can also arise between children and parents because of economic pressures. For example, children may resent parents for having to work late or not being able to provide small luxuries. Furthermore, the living conditions associated with poverty - notably overcrowded housing and housing instability - can negatively affect all family relationships.

Furthermore, poverty can make it difficult for parents to maintain a work-life balance that allows them to spend time at home caring for their children and to be active and involved with school, extracurricular activities, and community life. Parents on a low income are more likely to work long hours in precarious jobs that do not provide basic supports like parental leave and sick pay. Low-income workers typically also have less flexibility and choice than other parents (for example, they must rely on public transportation and do not have access to work-from-home options). This increases impact on family dynamics.

Studies have proven that increases in family income can boost children's educational achievements, and emotional and physical wellbeing. Low-income or poverty stricken individuals also often have additional preventable health maladies as a result. As with children, adults who live in poverty experience worse health outcomes, including higher mortality rates and increased risk of mental health conditions (e.g. depression, substance use disorders). The stress of poverty, coupled with inadequate health care access and limited financial resources for treatment in low-income communities, further exacerbates health conditions and makes parenting even more challenging.

Support via programs in the areas of social services must include addiction treatment options and counseling to help people understand that their perceived failures are not worth the risk of their health, well-being, and relationships. HRA/DSS must work with DOHMH to create these programs. Finally, our elderly must be properly

cared for to ensure their safety from abuse and predatory behavior. Services to help educate them, their neighbors, and friends of the signs and symptoms of elder abuse and education to prevent falling victim to scams are very much needed.

Capital Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

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

Expense Requests Related to Health Care and Human Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
8/39	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color. 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.</i>	
9/39	DHS	Expand street outreach	<i>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.</i>	

12/39	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>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.</i>
15/39	DFTA	Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors	<i>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).</i>
21/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>Rising prices and inflation exemplifies the need for better financial planning, especially amongst cash strapped households. Education, skills training, and financial planning activities are direly needed in less economically advantaged households to assist them in trying to improve their financial situations. Several of CB8's committees have identified job training to increase the chances of obtaining better employment options in higher paying job fields. The key to getting individuals into these trainings is exposure. Sadly, HRA's educational website is lacking on many fronts, difficult to navigate, contains outdated information and dead ends, and is over abundant with low-paying unskilled employment options. These issues combined lead to a lack of desire to use HRA as a resource.</i>

22/39	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>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.</i>
27/39	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>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.</i>
28/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>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.</i>

34/39	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>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.</i>
36/39	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>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.</i>
38/39	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>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 can easily be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as it seems the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.</i>

YOUTH, EDUCATION AND CHILD WELFARE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

After school programs

The lack of afterschool programs leading the City's youth to have few recreational activities with observation or even instruction has led to an increase in the number of kids engaging in mischievous activities out of boredom. We encourage the creation of myriad recreational options for kids inclusive of STEM programs, sports activities beyond the traditional basketball and football (i.e., tennis, dance, hockey, ice skating, chess, gaming, etc.), non-sports or STEM centered recreational activities (i.e., reading rooms, art spaces to learn about self expression, talk sessions for those with social anxiety, theater/drama, gaming, etc. to enjoy after school. Not only will these programs assist them with their social and educational development, but they will also garner interests outside of their normal home experiences. Furthermore, as the impact of over two years of inconsistent educational delivery comes into better focus, after school programs can be utilized to help those children that suffered most educationally during the extended Covid-19 Pandemic and its aftermath to begin to catch up without the burden of feeling like they are drowning in school and school work. The programs can be implemented surreptitiously in such a way that kids are learning without feeling like they are in an educational setting. This allows them to keep their focus on having fun, all the while receiving beneficial education services to help them catch up to state-mandated levels of achievement.

Community District Needs Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Needs for Youth Education

We urge the Dept. of Education to do more to ensure educational equity for all students. The Covid-19 Pandemic and its aftermath continues to shine light on numerous disparities in our education system ranging from lack of technology in schools, teacher preparation and skill, parental involvement, etc. Sadly, more than a year post the pandemic, there does not seem to be much movement toward equitable education. While it would be foolish to expect the DOE to be able to remedy everything a student faces that enables systemic biases, there are indeed things the department can do to ensure at the very least that all students have the necessary basics for new learning platforms. This includes working with teachers to discover exactly what they (the teacher) need to better educate students. Sometimes, training alone on a broad scale without taking into consideration the myriad experiences of classroom teachers is not the most necessary thing. The teacher inside the classroom has the baseline knowledge of their students' needs and can tell you how they as teachers could be more successful in their craft in helping students learn.

Please note that the above is not stated to shift attention from professional training for teachers, especially recognizing the importance of training in learning new protocols and modalities of education created by the NYS Board of Regents. We applaud the efforts and strides of our teachers and the work they embrace outside of their standard title of classroom teacher, and have much gratitude for them and the work they do. To better assist our teachers, we encourage the DOE to consider implementing intersectional tactics and methodologies to increase understanding of students' experiences for quality educational services. This in turn will guarantee that as many students as possible, including the most underserved that lack basic resources in their home and extended community, are able to achieve academic success. The solution is beyond just smaller class sizes (which are indeed a necessity) and working to increase parent/teacher cooperation (another necessity). Part of the solution can also be recognizing that children ought to be introduced to different learning styles and modalities to accommodate those that are incapable of learning in the standard educational way and are made to feel like a failure. Diversity on preparing training and listening to teacher need is a must.

Finally, the elimination of snow days for New York City students created a swift need for technological

enhancements in our students' education. The DOE must ensure that students possess the requisite electronic device in the home and also the broadband tools necessary to operate them to learn effectively from home. Classrooms equipped with audio visual equipment for videoconferencing will also allow sick students to participate in their school day without exposing their classmates to illness. We must invest heavily in the technological advances that make learning fun and easy to prevent underprivileged students from being left behind.

Needs for Youth and Child Welfare

The Covid-19 Pandemic and its waning endemic phase has put more children in harm's way as tensions and anxiety levels remains heightened. We do not know the long-term effects of the Pause on children, family dynamics, and mental health, but we advocate for, and encourage additional resources for parents with children.

Capital Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

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

Expense Requests Related to Youth, Education and Child Welfare

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
20/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care	<i>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.</i>	
29/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care	<i>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.</i>	

30/39	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services	<i>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.</i>
35/39	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Fire Safety

There have been several deadly fires in Community Board 8, one of the most recent a fire that cost three generations of lives in one family. Several fires that caused entire buildings to be vacated and declared uninhabitable have also occurred. District 8 residents cannot afford to relive the era of New York City where fires and being burned out were tools and measures employed by unscrupulous landlords. Nor can they afford to not know simple things to keep themselves and their neighbors safe. If the FDNY has noticed an uptick in fires related to unsafe batteries on electronic bikes or faulty electronics and appliances imported from foreign countries, it is imperative that residents be properly trained and notified of how dangerous their purchasing choices can be. The fire at 242 Albany Avenue that caused three generations from one family to perish was found to have been caused by a lithium ion battery. These batteries are common and popular for electronic devices and e-bikes and other personal modes of transportation. People across the city need to know precisely how dangerous unsupported battery charging can be and also informed on precisely what to look for in terms of electrical classifications to make the right choice for themselves and their families. Education is paramount to help constituents understand what UL ratings mean and why they are important, and also ensuring that rechargeable batteries are certified safe.

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, drug activity (both increased open marijuana use and other more illicit drugs), open container and public drunkenness, lewd and lascivious behavior, nudity and genitalia exposure, and so many more—skyrocketed in our district. The general locations of many of these complaints remained the same despite different residents seeking assistance. Furthermore, the more heavily populated eastern side of Community Board 8 has a strong need for additional patrol. In particular, the area bounded by Troy Avenue and Ralph Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eastern Parkway, especially the blocks of Sterling and Park Places, is especially problematic in terms of violent crime and gun violence. This area possesses a dearth of quality experiential activities and services proven to dispel crime. 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 and mental health provisions.

Needs for Emergency Services

Due to rising preventable medical illnesses among residents in District 8 and a continuously upward movement of those suffering from respiratory illnesses, an increased need for EMS vehicles has presented itself to our residents. Unfortunately, the percentage of residents that require emergency medical services directly correspond to those without health insurance or with minimal health insurance, thus exacerbating the issue of their medical conditions. Moreover, addicted residents have relied on medical intervention to prevent death by overdose and thus need additional services.

Capital Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
22/24	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue to dispel the negative impact their actions have on the community.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Public Safety and Emergency Services

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/39	NYPD	Hire additional crossing guards	<i>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, most recently 7-year old Kamari Hughes, by a NYPD tow-truck on Myrtle Avenue. Every intersection by a school needs to be manned by a crossing guard to keep students safe.</i>	
5/39	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	<i>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.</i>	

16/39	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>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.</i>
19/39	FDNY	Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives	<i>District 8 has had several fatal residential fires in calendar year 2023. 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.</i>

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE, CITY SERVICES AND RESILIENCY

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Organic waste collection and composting programs

Organic matter in the waste stream produces the most greenhouse gases. Diverting organics from landfills and incinerators is key to the City's 2050 emission and greenhouse gas reduction goals. According to a 2017 DSNY Waste Characterization Study, 34% of waste in the DSNY waste stream is composed of organics suitable for composting. Furthermore, this same study asserts that schools have the potential to divert as much as 86% of their waste for recycling or composting thru DSNY curbside collections. Sadly however, despite this information being repeated from the 2013 study and actually increasing, the city still currently diverts less than 1% of organic waste away from landfills. We applaud the expansion of curbside compost collection and mandatory leaf and yard waste separation in the borough of Brooklyn, and believe this will go a long way in assisting the city in reducing its carbon emissions and becoming more sustainable. However, we recognize additional measures that can be taken to assist the city with its lofty goals as outlined in the City of Yes Initiatives. Of primacy is resident education about what organic waste is and why composting is an integral component of reducing climate change. This will increase voluntary participation and help the city achieve its target numbers. Moreover, each neighborhood must have the capacity to process its own food scraps. Community scale compost sites create sustainable green jobs for local residents and provide valuable compost for our neighborhood soils. Food Scrap Drop Offs (FSDOs) allow residents to divert and instead, compost their food scraps. We request support for sustainability programs at each school and organics/compost outreach programs and education resources for local residents and business owners. We encourage organics drop-off sites be increased beyond the standard community garden to include local subway stations and sanitation garages. Furthermore, we reiterate our desire for community biodigesters to not only create employment and training opportunities, but also to have other locations for organics drop-offs, while creating sustainable and well-paying jobs and renewable energy.

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

Needs for Water, Sewers, and Environmental Protection

Well before flash floods became a scary reality for residents of New York City, complaints of basement flooding and ponding around certain intersections and uneven roadways had dramatically increased in District 8. The Right of Way Bioswale (raingarden) installation projects continuing throughout the city are designed to assist with runoff and flooding for sewers not equipped to handle the quantity of water and sewage running through the system. Unfortunately, these bioswales are neither well maintained nor adequate to handle the growing strain on our aging sewer system.

There has been an increase in installation of infiltration basins and stormwater greenstreets across the city. However, the stormwater greenstreets often receive the same lack of care and maintenance as raingardens. We hope that the city allocates funds to improve these methods and employ others to assist with runoff and water waste. Such methods include the provision of incentives for homeowners and developers to use living roofs and property walls, or utilizing rain barrels to collect water rather than gutters to allow it to drain off flat surfaces. A concerning trend in District 8 is the fact that many residents prefer to concrete over their front and back yards in an effort to reduce the possibility of any vegetation attracting rodents rather than having plantings that allow for permeability and water absorption. What is not understood is that all of this concrete is impermeable and increases the runoff to the sewer, and also fails to deter rodent activity but instead provides them with undisturbed hidden places to rapidly propagate. Incentives for green space serves several valuable environmental purposes not only limited to reducing runoff and overburdening the system.

Unfortunately, this form does not allow us to specifically request funding for the maintenance of bioswales or funding for homeowners to create green roofs or gardens. However, to reiterate: **we advocate for incentives for homeowners to create green roofs and as much vegetation on their property as possible to absorb rain water.** We also advocate for increasing the size of tree pits to not only allow for root growth, but also to increase the amount of permeable surfaces in the city's concrete jungle.

Needs for Sanitation Services

CB 8 is cognizant of the fact that budget cuts have hampered DSNY operations and will continue to do so for at the least this fiscal year and possibly the next. However, a recent spike in DSNY related complaints such as missed collections, late collections, the sweeper not coming through the block, and overflowing corner baskets disallow us from being able to remain silent on the issue. Garbage feeds rats, and District 8 considers itself a community at the forefront of the rodent debacle. We implore DSNY to improve services, utilize new systems for cleaning such as employing Billy Goat curbside litter cleaners, mandating containerized waste storage, employing front loading garbage trucks for large garbage containers, and to work with the community, business owners, and property owners on solutions to the mounting trash issue.

Capital Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
4/24	DSNY	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	<i>Purchase and provide four (4) new mechanical brooms to BK North 8 Sanitation Garage. The four new brooms will allow more brooms on the street at one time for greater cleanliness as well as a back-up broom in case of mechanical failure.</i>	
24/24	DSNY	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	<i>Create capacity and local community scale compost sites and food scrap drop offs. We are requesting the following: 1. That a community composting and education site be created in our community 2. That five new FSDO sites be created, 3. That community composting and FSDO sites are equitably distributed and fully accessible in our community</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Core Infrastructure, City Services and Resiliency

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
10/39	DSNY	Other garbage collection and recycling requests	<i>A "Cleaning Supervisor" located at the BK8 Sanitation garage is needed to perform necessary duties to ensure proper cleaning of District 8's streets.</i>	
13/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>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.</i>	

14/39	DEP	Clean catch basins	<i>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.</i>
18/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules	<i>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.</i>
24/39	DSNY	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers	<i>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.</i>
25/39	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs	<i>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.</i>

HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Neighborhood preservation

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

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

Needs for Land Use

Land Use is a touchy subject for many in our district. There are many competing ideologies on how land should be used with some individuals believing that open air and open spaces are overrated, thus disregarding concerns of hyper density and large development projects. Some of these individuals further believe that over-development is the only way to assure that each New Yorker is housed, using the "trickle down housing" premise that a glutted real estate market will drive prices down. On the other side of the land use debate are those that believe in neighborhood preservation, keeping intact the fabric of what makes a neighborhood great and utilize the "neighborhood" moniker. It is undeniable that District 8, especially the manufacturing portion of the community, is a very desirable location for development. ULURP applications have increased manyfold in the last year, with private development and zoning change projects causing much friction between residents. There is valid concern that District 8 will go the same way as Downtown Brooklyn and become unrecognizable. We still believe, however, that if the Board's MCROWN proposal, last approved and re-ratified in 2019 and submitted to the Dept. of City Planning, would prove beneficial for our district in terms of not only development, but commercial revitalization as well. Consequently, we urge DCP's adoption of the MCROWN proposal to assist us in designing for the future while preserving our community.

Needs for Housing

We urge the City to consider using derelict, fallow structures for affordable housing opportunities rather than selling community gardens and taking away green space for small scale development projects. Property owners should be held accountable for their property and should know that if they refuse to take care of it, there is the possibility that they can lose it to address a grave need at truly affordable rates, not inflated rates that are grossly unaffordable. We believe that a proper accounting of vacant NYCHA units should be done, especially considering the dire need for affordable units. A number of years ago, Comptroller Scott Stringer released an audit report stating that over 4,000 NYCHA units sit empty because they have been deemed uninhabitable while awaiting various repairs. These units must be repaired immediately and made available for occupation as soon as possible as they are truly affordable

housing for families. It is saddening that we have thousands of families living in temporary shelters when there are over 4,000 vacant NYCHA units that could be used for permanent housing if only they were habitable. Demolition by neglect is inhumane and immoral and should be deterred by any means necessary. Furthermore, we call upon our local lawmakers to seriously consider the issue of arbitrary market rate rents that developers force on a community. The city needs to take a hard-line stance on the amount of rent that can be charged to prevent displacement of residents and financial strain from rent burdens. Following the federal guidelines for the Area Median Income based on gross income is not feasible in a city with a high standard of living such as New York City. Competition is great for the few so-called affordable units that are available, and the families most in need are ineligible usually because of poor credit. Our elected officials need to step in and institute policy changes that address the glaring and blatant greed of developers that are decimating the housing market in New York City. We believe that the Mayor and City Council have the ability to enact legislation that can help reduce this financial burden by capping rent rates that developers can charge, especially when they enter certain underdeveloped or underprivileged communities. No one should be at risk of displacement, and consequently, our local government needs to do a better job of ensuring that no one faces this danger.

Needs for Economic Development

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

Capital Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/24	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>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.</i>	
7/24	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations 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.</i>	
21/24	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Housing, Economic Development and Land Use

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
6/39	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning and that is now the area under consideration within the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP). We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into the AAMUP discussions.</i>	
7/39	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>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.</i>	
11/39	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary, 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.</i>	

Brooklyn Community Board 8

Most Important Issue Related to Transportation and Mobility

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

During the last 12 months, complaints about illegal scooters, e-bikes, unlicensed and unregistered mopeds, electric skateboards, double parked vehicles, vehicles not moving during alternate side cleaning hours, bikers disobeying traffic laws and riding on sidewalks and against traffic, and the like have skyrocketed in District 8. These complaints are serious enough to warrant additional enforcement by all agencies with oversight capabilities, especially as the City moves further toward increasing personal mobility options in a movement away from the personal vehicle. While the emphasis on enforcement has been on vehicle drivers, we encourage shifting the emphasis to alternative mobility users to help users recognize their agency in sharing the road and keeping everyone safe. We encourage the NYC Dept. of Transportation to apply corresponding safety measures in locations where calming has occurred. For instance, pedestrians have stated that they feel unsafe on roadways crossing many streets because of unsurety of crossing signals, with many citing their confusion around Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI) not indicating how much time they have left to cross when crossing a street. Several residents have stated that they have been nearly hit by vehicles because they had “grown weary of looking silly” waiting to cross when they have 7 seconds or longer to make their way across the street, then wind up getting almost hit by vehicles when they are midway through the street. Drivers have complained of the length of time they sit at delayed red lights for the duration of LPIs, which then decrease the number of vehicles that can move through the light during each change, which consequently causes traffic backups. This is on top of almost hitting pedestrians that do not realize how much or how little time they still have to cross the street and start crossing just as the light turns green for cars to drive. We urge the Dept. of Transportation to remediate this problem, and one of the simplest ways the department can do this is to install countdown clocks at every LPI intersection and let pedestrians crossing in either direction know exactly how much time is left before the light changes. We advocate for equitable road use and enforcement of personal vehicles. Any operators of a motor vehicle whether with two wheels or with three, four, or more, must be held accountable for their actions, not just car owners. A total disregard for road rules or pedestrian safety by bikers and riders of e-scooters/bikes/mopeds can cause just as many dangerous collisions and as much damage to human life as can a car or truck. We urge increased enforcement of ALL scofflaw road users.

Community District Needs Related to Transportation and Mobility

Needs for Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure

While we recognize that streets are a shared space between pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and others, our community feels that there needs to be more equitable streetscape changes. Street designs and redesigns need to be completed in such a way as to make sense for everyone, not just a select few. For instance, the recently redesigned Underhill Avenue Bike Boulevard disallows for adequate municipal service delivery to residents as the narrowed streetscape prevents snowplows from properly clearing the street, and also disallows DSNY trucks to properly service the containerized trash for PS 9. The result has been that PS 9 has reverted to simply piling waste bags curbside rather than a container to reduce rodents, and that municipal trash collectors have to drag bags and bins down a street to a corner on a side street where the truck awaits. This is unacceptable, and as such, we implore the agency do a better job in streetscape designs to ensure accommodation of municipal service machinery.

Needs for Transit Services

Many seniors, and people with disabilities and/or mobility issues rely on bus service and Access-A-Ride to travel to avoid the stairs of train stations. It becomes disheartening knowing that some people prefer to remain home rather than attempt to rely upon unreliable bus service in District 8 or are unable to leave due to their ride share company not being able to access their street. We request better service along our bus lines, especially during non-peak hours and weekends, as well as a recalculation of Open Street/Restaurants and other traffic calming initiatives that

reduce vehicular access to streets. Furthermore, as more housing is built in District 8 (a recent study found that 1 in every 10 new units of housing created in New York City is in either Prospect Heights or Crown Heights), it is imperative that additional subway and bus service be provided to accommodate our growing community.

Capital Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
2/24	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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>	
3/24	NYCTA	Other transit infrastructure requests	<i>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.</i>	
19/24	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>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>	
20/24	DOT	Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share	<i>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>	
23/24	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>We advocate for an increase in the number of traffic cameras including speed and red light cameras at high profile intersections in district 8. Specific locations cited as needing cameras include the entirety of Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Bergen Street, Washington Avenue, Nostrand Avenue, Kingston Avenue, Troy Avenue, and Albany Avenue.</i>	

Expense Requests Related to Transportation and Mobility

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/39	DOT	Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals	<i>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>	
2/39	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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.</i>	
3/39	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>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.</i>	
33/39	DOT	Provide new bike lanes	<i>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.</i>	
39/39	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>	

PARKS, CULTURAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Brooklyn Community Board 8

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

Community board resources (offices, staff and equipment)

Community Boards are the first advocates for community residents facing issues with other city agencies, but have not had an increase in the budget in decades. It is our charter mandated duty to interface with community residents and city municipalities to ensure service delivery in a timely manner. 311 is not an adequate substitution for the interaction of community boards and community residents. Residents increasingly complain about the difficulty of obtaining useful and accurate information from the 311 system concerning resolution of complaints submitted via the central hotline and other general questions. The net result of the 311 hotline has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution. We hope the Mayor and City Council see fit to increase the budget for community boards so that we can fulfill our Charter mandated duties.

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

Needs for Parks

The last few years has shown us just how crucial the need is for safe and well-maintained parks and playgrounds. Regular maintenance programs and adequate manpower is essential. Currently, maintenance staff needs to be increased for all our Parks and Playgrounds, malls along Eastern Parkway, and the St. John's Recreation Center. Additional Playground Associates, Park Enforcement Officers, and other personnel are required to keep all park users free from harassment and dangerous elements that lurk in unguarded areas. It has been proven that with personnel in our parks, more people respect the rules of the park/playground and behave accordingly, such as leashing their dogs, cleaning up after themselves, and not engaging in public nuisance activities like drinking and smoking. As more people became pet owners during the extended Covid-19 Pandemic, the need for a dog run in the district has increased. In fact, a survey in August 2022 indicates that respondents are very much in favor of a dog run in the District, and as such, we urge the Parks Department to create a space for dogs in one or more locations of District 8.

Needs for Cultural Services

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

Needs for Library Services

In recent years, the three public library systems serving NYC have been threatened annually with drastic cuts. Libraries provide job seekers assistance, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, computer training, tax preparation, US Passport processing, fine arts exhibits, access to the internet, and serve as a repository for historic material. They do so much more than allow people to read books even though this component of services is much needed. The library system requires investment of funding to ensure proper service delivery and access to residents of all ages, backgrounds, and needs.

Needs for Community Boards

Community Boards are the first advocates for community residents facing issues with other city agencies, but have not had an increase in the budget in decades. It is our charter mandated duty to interface with community residents

and city municipalities to ensure service delivery in a timely manner. 311 is not an adequate substitution for the interaction of community boards and community residents. Residents increasingly complain about the difficulty of obtaining useful and accurate information from the 311 system concerning resolution of complaints submitted via the central hotline and other general questions. The net result of the 311 hotline has been stagnation in service delivery and complaint resolution. We hope the Mayor and City Council see fit to increase the budget for community boards so that we can fulfill our Charter mandated duties.

Capital Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/24	DCAS	Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment	<i>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.</i>	
5/24	DCLA	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	<i>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.</i>	
8/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>	
9/24	DPR	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	<i>Install a changing table in the Men's restroom/comfort station at both Brower Park and Lincoln Terrace Park. More and more men are active in child rearing, and require the same amenities as women for caring for their children. It would make it easier for them when in public to change their babies.</i>	
10/24	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors.</i>	

11/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at James Forten Playground (formerly Underhill Playground) including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping, spray showers.</i>
12/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Renovation of existing public restroom building adjacent to playground inside Lincoln Terrace Park</i>
13/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at Dean Street Playground, including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping.</i>
14/24	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights around playground and basketball courts at Brower Park.</i>
15/24	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>
16/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>

17/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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 allay and make accessible.</i>
18/24	DPR	New equipment for maintenance	<i>Purchase an additional front loader for Parks employees to clean garbage cans in Brooklyn 8 parks and playgrounds.</i>
CS	DCLA	Purchase equipment for cultural facility	<i>Allocate funds for, and initiate repairs to the HVAC system at BCM. Since 2019, BCM has been without any air conditioning, which deters families from visiting.</i>

Expense Requests Related to Parks, Cultural and Other Community Facilities

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
17/39	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. 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.</i>	
23/39	BPL	Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs (BPL)	<i>The re-opening of Brower Park Library branch within the city-owned Brooklyn Children's Museum filled a gap in services for District 8 residents. We encourage funding for the expansion of hours for the library and additional programs.</i>	
26/39	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>	

31/39	DPR	Other park maintenance and safety requests	<i>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.</i>
32/39	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>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.</i>
37/39	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>

6. OTHER BUDGET REQUESTS

Other Capital Requests

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

Other Expense Requests

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

7. SUMMARY OF PRIORITIZED BUDGET REQUESTS

Capital Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/24	DCAS	Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment	<i>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.</i>	
2/24	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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>	
3/24	NYCTA	Other transit infrastructure requests	<i>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.</i>	
4/24	DSNY	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	<i>Purchase and provide four (4) new mechanical brooms to BK North 8 Sanitation Garage. The four new brooms will allow more brooms on the street at one time for greater cleanliness as well as a back-up broom in case of mechanical failure.</i>	
5/24	DCLA	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	<i>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.</i>	

6/24	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>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.</i>
7/24	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations 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.</i>
8/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>
9/24	DPR	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	<i>Install a changing table in the Men's restroom/comfort station at both Brower Park and Lincoln Terrace Park. More and more men are active in child rearing, and require the same amenities as women for caring for their children. It would make it easier for them when in public to change their babies.</i>

10/24	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors.</i>
11/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at James Forten Playground (formerly Underhill Playground) including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping, spray showers.</i>
12/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Renovation of existing public restroom building adjacent to playground inside Lincoln Terrace Park</i>
13/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at Dean Street Playground, including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping.</i>
14/24	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights around playground and basketball courts at Brower Park.</i>
15/24	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>

16/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>
17/24	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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>
18/24	DPR	New equipment for maintenance	<i>Purchase an additional front loader for Parks employees to clean garbage cans in Brooklyn 8 parks and playgrounds.</i>
19/24	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>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>

20/24	DOT	Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share	<i>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>
21/24	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>
22/24	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue to dispel the negative impact their actions have on the community.</i>
23/24	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>We advocate for an increase in the number of traffic cameras including speed and red light cameras at high profile intersections in district 8. Specific locations cited as needing cameras include the entirety of Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Bergen Street, Washington Avenue, Nostrand Avenue, Kingston Avenue, Troy Avenue, and Albany Avenue.</i>

24/24	DSNY	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	<i>Create capacity and local community scale compost sites and food scrap drop offs. We are requesting the following: 1. That a community composting and education site be created in our community 2. That five new FSDO sites be created, 3. That community composting and FSDO sites are equitably distributed and fully accessible in our community</i>	
CS	SCA	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	37 Sixth Avenue
CS	DCLA	Purchase equipment for cultural facility	<i>Allocate funds for, and initiate repairs to the HVAC system at BCM. Since 2019, BCM has been without any air conditioning, which deters families from visiting.</i>	

Expense Budget Requests

Priority	Agency	Request	Explanation	Location
1/39	DOT	Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals	<i>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>	
2/39	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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.</i>	
3/39	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>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.</i>	
4/39	NYPD	Hire additional crossing guards	<i>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, most recently 7-year old Kamari Hughes, by a NYPD tow-truck on Myrtle Avenue. Every intersection by a school needs to be manned by a crossing guard to keep students safe.</i>	

5/39	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	<i>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.</i>
6/39	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning and that is now the area under consideration within the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP). We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into the AAMUP discussions.</i>
7/39	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>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.</i>

8/39	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color. 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.</i>
9/39	DHS	Expand street outreach	<i>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.</i>
10/39	DSNY	Other garbage collection and recycling requests	<i>A "Cleaning Supervisor" located at the BK8 Sanitation garage is needed to perform necessary duties to ensure proper cleaning of District 8's streets.</i>
11/39	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary, 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.</i>

12/39	DOHMH	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<i>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.</i>
13/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>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.</i>
14/39	DEP	Clean catch basins	<i>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.</i>

15/39	DFTA	Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors	<i>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).</i>
16/39	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>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.</i>
17/39	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. 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.</i>
18/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules	<i>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.</i>

19/39	FDNY	Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives	<i>District 8 has had several fatal residential fires in calendar year 2023. 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.</i>
20/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care	<i>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.</i>
21/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>Rising prices and inflation exemplifies the need for better financial planning, especially amongst cash strapped households. Education, skills training, and financial planning activities are direly needed in less economically advantaged households to assist them in trying to improve their financial situations. Several of CB8's committees have identified job training to increase the chances of obtaining better employment options in higher paying job fields. The key to getting individuals into these trainings is exposure. Sadly, HRA's educational website is lacking on many fronts, difficult to navigate, contains outdated information and dead ends, and is over abundant with low-paying unskilled employment options. These issues combined lead to a lack of desire to use HRA as a resource.</i>

22/39	DOHMH	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>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.</i>
23/39	BPL	Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs (BPL)	<i>The re-opening of Brower Park Library branch within the city-owned Brooklyn Children's Museum filled a gap in services for District 8 residents. We encourage funding for the expansion of hours for the library and additional programs.</i>
24/39	DSNY	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers	<i>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.</i>
25/39	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs	<i>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.</i>
26/39	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>

27/39	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>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.</i>
28/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>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.</i>
29/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care	<i>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.</i>

30/39	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services	<i>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.</i>
31/39	DPR	Other park maintenance and safety requests	<i>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.</i>
32/39	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>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.</i>
33/39	DOT	Provide new bike lanes	<i>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.</i>

34/39	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>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.</i>
35/39	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>
36/39	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>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.</i>

37/39	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>
38/39	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>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 can easily be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as it seems the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.</i>
39/39	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>

FY25 Community Board Budget Requests with Agency Responses – Capital

PRIORITY	AGENCY	CB REQUEST	REASON	AGENCY RESPONSE
01/26	DCAS	Renovate, upgrade or provide new community board facilities and equipment	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
02/26	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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>	This request is for multiple locations. Please see a full response in the 'additional comments' field.
03/26	NYCTA	Other transit infrastructure requests	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
04/26	DSNY	Provide new or increase number of sanitation trucks and other equipment	<i>Purchase and provide four (4) new mechanical brooms to BK North 8 Sanitation Garage. The four new brooms will allow more brooms on the street at one time for greater cleanliness as well as a back-up broom in case of mechanical failure.</i>	Any request for an increase in Department of Sanitation fleet size is an issue of service delivery and/or agency policy.
05/26	DCLA	Renovate or upgrade an existing cultural facility	<i>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.</i>	This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the scope is now underway.
06/26	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance loan programs to rehabilitate multiple dwelling buildings	<i>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.</i>	The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources.

07/26	HPD	Provide more housing for special needs households, such as the formerly homeless	<i>Seniors, the disabled, and homeless singles are often left out of housing conversations 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.</i>	The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources.
08/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>	This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the scope is now underway.
09/26	DPR	Other requests for park, building, or access improvements	<i>Install a changing table in the Men's restroom/comfort station at both Brower Park and Lincoln Terrace Park. More and more men are active in child rearing, and require the same amenities as women for caring for their children. It would make it easier for them when in public to change their babies.</i>	The agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources.
10/26	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lamp posts around Dean Street Playground. Currently, there is a lighting issue in Dean Street playground. The playground does not have an operating system and in the past relied upon stadium lights to illuminate the area. Light posts placed strategically around the park will illuminate the playground without creating a nuisance situation for the park's residential neighbors.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
11/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at James Forten Playground (formerly Underhill Playground) including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping, spray showers.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
12/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a building in a park	<i>Renovation of existing public restroom building adjacent to playground inside Lincoln Terrace Park</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
13/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>Completely reconstruct playground at Dean Street Playground, including all new play equipment, new safety surface, sitting areas, landscaping.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
14/26	DPR	Other capital budget request for DPR	<i>Install lights around playground and basketball courts at Brower Park.</i>	More information is needed from the community board before making a funding decision. The community board should contact the agency.

15/26	DPR	Provide a new or expanded park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
16/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
17/26	DPR	Reconstruct or upgrade a park or amenity (i.e. playground, outdoor athletic field)	<i>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>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
18/26	DPR	New equipment for maintenance	<i>Purchase an additional front loader for Parks employees to clean garbage cans in Brooklyn 8 parks and playgrounds.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
19/26	NYCTA	Repair or upgrade subway stations or other transit infrastructure	<i>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>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.

20/26	DOT	Improve mobility options, including bike share and car share	<i>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>	More information is needed from the community board before making a funding decision. The community board should contact the agency.
21/26	NYCHA	Increase energy efficiency and environmental performance of NYCHA developments	<i>The Brownsville power grid is insufficient to support its service base. Con Ed has identified that NYCHA developments place most of the strain on the grid. An audit of energy efficiency and environmental performance should be conducted to ensure that NYCHA developments are running efficiently and using as little energy as possible to function effectively. The use of energy efficient bulbs in all units and common areas and the installation of solar panels on NYCHA buildings will aid tremendously in this effort and also reduce the electricity bill owed to Con Edison.</i>	This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the scope is now underway.
22/26	NYPD	Add NYPD parking facilities	<i>With the construction of Pacific Park around the 78th Precinct, there is a dearth of parking spaces available for officers of the precinct. The 77th Precinct also lacks adequate parking spaces and the result is officers angle parking on the sidewalk in front of private homes, double parking on residential streets, or disobeying alternate side parking rules. We urge the officers of the 78th Precinct to utilize the parking spaces that have been set aside for their use in the Pacific Park project at 535 Carlton Avenue to dispel the negative impact their actions have on the community.</i>	Specific environmental violations should be brought to the attention of the NYPD local precinct commander.
23/26	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>We advocate for an increase in the number of traffic cameras including speed and red light cameras at high profile intersections in district 8. Specific locations cited as needing cameras include the entirety of Flatbush Avenue from Grand Army Plaza to Bergen Street, Washington Avenue, Nostrand Avenue, Kingston Avenue, Troy Avenue, and Albany Avenue.</i>	This type of request should be entered into ARTS rather than the community budget process.
24/26	DSNY	Provide new or upgrade existing sanitation garages or other sanitation infrastructure	<i>Create capacity and local community scale compost sites and food scrap drop offs. We are requesting the following: 1. That a community composting and education site be created in our community 2. That five new FSDO sites be created, 3. That community composting and FSDO sites are equitably distributed and fully accessible in our community</i>	Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.
CS/26	DOE	Provide a new or expand an existing middle/intermediate school	<i>We thank the DOE and SCA to agree to create a designated District 13 middle school in the B15 building of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park Development. We look forward to the school's design and completion, and the great impact it will have on the parents of middle school students in Prospect Heights.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.

CS/26	DCLA	Purchase equipment for cultural facility	<i>Allocate funds for, and initiate repairs to the HVAC system at BCM. Since 2019, BCM has been without any air conditioning, which deters families from visiting.</i>	This project was funded in a prior fiscal year and the scope is now underway.
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FY25 Community Board Budget Requests with Agency Responses – Expense

PRIORITY	AGENCY	CB REQUEST	REASON	AGENCY RESPONSE
01/39	DOT	Provide new traffic or pedestrian signals	<i>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>	This request is for multiple locations. Please see a full response in the 'additional comments' field.
02/39	DOT	Improve traffic and pedestrian safety, including traffic calming	<i>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.</i>	This type of request should be entered into ARTS rather than the community budget process.
03/39	NYCTA	Expand bus service frequency or hours of operation	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
04/39	NYPD	Hire additional crossing guards	<i>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, most recently 7-year old Kamari Hughes, by a NYPD tow-truck on Myrtle Avenue. Every intersection by a school needs to be manned by a crossing guard to keep students safe.</i>	Based on the latest budget, the NYPD has a specific budgeted headcount. The agency is working on filling vacancies in order to get to that headcount.
05/39	NYPD	Hire additional traffic enforcement agents	<i>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.</i>	Based on the latest budget, the NYPD has a specific budgeted headcount. The agency is working on filling vacancies in order to get to that headcount.

06/39	DCP	Other zoning and land use requests	<i>We encourage DCP to examine public realm improvements (PRI) for projects within the manufacturing district bounded by Grand and Franklin Avenues between Atlantic Avenue and Bergen Street (blocks 1125, 1126, 1133, 1134, 1141, and 1142), as well as the south side of Atlantic Avenue between Grand and Vanderbilt Avenues (blocks 1122 and 1124). This area was identified by CB 8 for a zoning change allowing for mixed residential and manufacturing use according to Community Board 8's M-CROWN proposal as amended and submitted to the Department of City Planning and that is now the area under consideration within the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan (AAMUP). We urge the PRI study as soon as possible, so that they can be added into the AAMUP discussions.</i>	Work on this project/program has either been completed or will be finished in FY 2024.
07/39	HPD	Provide, expand, or enhance programs for housing inspections to correct code violations	<i>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.</i>	This is not a budget request.
08/39	DOHMH	Create or promote programs to de-stigmatize mental health needs and encourage treatment	<i>The stigma of admitting to having a mental illness is great, especially in immigrant and communities of color. 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.</i>	DOHMH contracts with and oversees a wide variety of mental health and substance abuse services throughout NYC. Feel free to contact the Department with specific questions about services.

09/39	DHS	Expand street outreach	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
10/39	DSNY	Other garbage collection and recycling requests	<i>A "Cleaning Supervisor" located at the BK8 Sanitation garage is needed to perform necessary duties to ensure proper cleaning of District 8's streets.</i>	Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.
11/39	NYCHA	Improve public housing maintenance and cleanliness	<p><i>All NYCHA developments should be equipped with containers for garbage storage since maintenance staff currently places garbage curbside multiple times per day. This leads to curbs of NYCHA developments always having garbage outside, which is unsightly and unsanitary, and contributes to the growing vermin (rats and roaches) epidemic in the District.</i></p> <p><i>Containerized collection will provide a place to house garbage until pickup day.</i></p>	This project is included in the ten-year plan.
12/39	DSNY	Animal and pest control requests including reducing rat and mosquito populations	<p><i>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.</i></p>	Rodents go to properties where they can find a food source. Construction debris on its own is not a cause of rat infestation. DOHMH responds to every complaint and follows up with properties that fail both for rodents and conditions conducive to rodents such as garbage and harborage.

13/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of canine waste laws	<i>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.</i>	Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.
14/39	DEP	Clean catch basins	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
15/39	DFTA	Continue Crime Prevention/Victim Assistance Program for Seniors	<i>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).</i>	Approval of this request depends on sufficient Federal/State funds.
16/39	NYPD	Increase resources for youth crime prevention programs	<i>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.</i>	The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources.

17/39	DPR	Enhance park safety through more security staff (police or parks enforcement)	<i>Existing resources are currently not sufficient to accommodate this request, and it is our understanding that funding constraints and budget cuts have further reduced funds available for this specific service. 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.</i>	The Parks Department would support this request for personnel.
18/39	DSNY	Increase enforcement of alternate street parking cleaning rules	<i>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.</i>	Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.
19/39	FDNY	Expand funding for fire prevention and life safety initiatives	<i>District 8 has had several fatal residential fires in calendar year 2023. 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.</i>	The FDNY Foundation provides funds to assist the Department in meeting these needs.
20/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance housing assistance for youth that are leaving foster care	<i>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 overcrowded 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.</i>	ACS currently offers services for youth and families. For additional information, please call 212-341-0900 and ask for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, or check our website at www.nyc.gov/acs .

21/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance educational programs for adults	<i>Rising prices and inflation exemplifies the need for better financial planning, especially amongst cash strapped households. Education, skills training, and financial planning activities are direly needed in less economically advantaged households to assist them in trying to improve their financial situations. Several of CB8's committees have identified job training to increase the chances of obtaining better employment options in higher paying job fields. The key to getting individuals into these trainings is exposure. Sadly, HRA's educational website is lacking on many fronts, difficult to navigate, contains outdated information and dead ends, and is over abundant with low-paying unskilled employment options. These issues combined lead to a lack of desire to use HRA as a resource.</i>	HRA's Career Services provides services to clients to assist them in developing job skills, obtaining employment, financial counseling and building sustainable careers that provide a path out of poverty.
22/39	OMB	Other programs to address public health issues requests	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.
23/39	BPL	Extend library hours or expand and enhance library programs (BPL)	<i>The re-opening of Brower Park Library branch within the city-owned Brooklyn Children's Museum filled a gap in services for District 8 residents. We encourage funding for the expansion of hours for the library and additional programs.</i>	BPL supports restored and/or increased library funding to allow for additional hours and days of service, the purchase of books and other library materials and improved maintenance of its facilities.
24/39	DSNY	Provide more on-street trash cans and recycling containers	<i>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.</i>	High-end litter baskets are sponsored by local elected officials, businesses, community groups, etc.
25/39	DSNY	Provide or expand community composting programs	<i>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.</i>	Although the Department of Sanitation supports this program, due to fiscal constraints the availability of funds is uncertain.

26/39	DCLA	Support nonprofit cultural organizations	<i>Cultural Affairs needs to assist our cultural institutions with advertisement opportunities across the city. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the arts, culture, and diaspora history.</i>	The Department of Cultural Affairs recommends this project be brought to the attention of your local elected official, i.e. Borough President or City Council member.
27/39	DFTA	Enhance programs for elder abuse victims	<i>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.</i>	Approval of this request depends on sufficient Federal/State funds.
28/39	HRA	Provide, expand, or enhance adult protective services	<i>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.</i>	HRA continues to maintain funding for Adult Protective Services which assists individuals who are in need of services.
29/39	ACS	Provide, expand, or enhance funding to support higher education and/or workforce development opportunities for youth who are leaving foster care	<i>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.</i>	ACS currently offers services for youth and families. For additional information, please call 212-341-0900 and ask for the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, or check our website at www.nyc.gov/acs .
30/39	DOE	Provide, expand, or enhance adolescent literacy programs and services	<i>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.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.

31/39	DPR	Other park maintenance and safety requests	<i>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.</i>	Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.
32/39	DPR	Forestry services, including street tree maintenance	<i>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.</i>	The agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources.
33/39	DOT	Provide new bike lanes	<i>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.</i>	Further study by the agency of this request is needed.
34/39	DFTA	Enhance home care services	<i>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.</i>	Approval of this request depends on sufficient Federal/State funds.
35/39	DYCD	Provide, expand, or enhance skills training and employment services for high school students at risk of dropping out	<i>Early intervention is the key to saving the future of our youth. It is well documented that inner-city children have a higher risk for crime, dropping out of school and other educational deficits, gang involvement, drug use, and incarceration. We urge funding for activities that target at-risk youth. Funding for youth development and delinquency and prevention programs is necessary to serve our youth and quell the growing trend toward life-ruining activities.</i>	DYCD funding is allocated through public solicitations including Requests for Proposals.

36/39	DFTA	Increase transportation services capacity	<i>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.</i>	Approval of this request depends on sufficient Federal/State funds.
37/39	DPR	Improve trash removal and cleanliness	<i>Existing resources to accommodate this request are currently not sufficient. Too often, we get complaints about trash in neighborhood parks and playgrounds. We urge the Parks Department to increase efforts to keep our parks and playgrounds litter free. While we understand that the Parks Department is suffering severe budget cuts, we encourage resources to be increased for this endeavor. Of course, this request does not absolve those that utilize our parks and playgrounds from doing their part to keep the parks clean as well, and additional PEP officers should be deployed for ticketing offenders.</i>	The agency will accommodate this issue within existing resources.
38/39	DOHMH	Provide more information and services related to STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning	<i>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 can easily be prevented with condom usage. It is imperative that safe sex campaigns be re-ignited as it seems the fear of dying from HIV/AIDS is not as prevalent today as years past due to recent medical treatment breakthroughs.</i>	Preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs is a top priority for DOHMH. Through a variety of condom distribution and community-based programs, we work to give communities the tools they need to stay safe. While additional services would be contingent upon available funds, please feel free to contact us to discuss available services in your community.
39/39	NYCTA	Provide a new bus service or Select Bus Service	<i>Re-instate the B 71 bus line. This line was an integral part of accessing the cultural icons of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Grand Army Plaza Library, and Prospect Park.</i>	Please contact the Agency directly and promptly for more information.