



## Community Board No. 10 - Manhattan

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# District Needs Statement

Manhattan Community Board No. 10, commonly known as Central Harlem, is located in Northern Central Manhattan; it is bounded by Fifth Avenue on the east; Central Park on the south; Morningside Park, Saint Nicholas and Edgecombe Avenues on the west and the Harlem River on the north. A chain of three large linear parks-Morningside, St. Nicholas and Jackie Robinson (formerly Colonial Park) are situated on steeply rising banks and form most of our districts western boundary. On the east, Fifth Avenue and Marcus Garvey Park (formerly Mount Morris Park) separate this area from the East Harlem Community.

Harlem has witnessed a phenomenal amount of social and physical change, perhaps more than is evident at first glance. This change has often had destructive influences on the neighborhoods in this community. The successes and bright spots in Harlem's revitalization today are a profound testament to the commitment and tenacity of Harlem's residents who many times have "who have weathered the dark period before the dawn"

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, New York City's black community lived mainly on the west side of Manhattan, currently designated as the Clinton Special District. They moved northward after building speculation in Harlem, following the completion of the Lenox Avenue Subway, led to overdevelopment. Between 1904 and 1950, Harlem rapidly became the center of black settlement in New York City. Along with black southern migrants, artists, musicians, writers and poets were also drawn to Harlem and their talent provided the foundation of what was known as the "Harlem Renaissance."

Presently, African Americans make up 81 percent of the District's population, the highest percentage of any community district in New York City. As recently as 1980, this figure stood at 96 percent. Despite these populations' shifts, Harlem still remains an urban cultural center for African Americans of New York City as well as the nation.

Manhattan Community Board No. 10 is currently updating its 197-a Plan for submission to City Planning. The 197-a Plan is a planning device created by the New York City Charter Revision of 1989, aimed at insuring local participation related to land use issues and service delivery.

Community Board No.10 solicited the help of Hunter College Graduate Program in Urban Planning through the Manhattan Borough President's Office. The students were provided a list of goals and objectives and issues of concern by the board. The graduate students provided a report designed to serve as a framework for the development of the 197a Plan. Subsequently, all recommendations were examined, edited and revised by community residents and board members. The Board partnered with Columbia University's Urban Technical Assistance Program; under the aegis of Professor Lionel McIntyre to update and revise the 197-a plan.

### **Homeless Shelter:**

The City of New York, Department of Homeless Services recognizes the need for an array of services for the homeless. Manhattan Community Board No. 10 has been the recipient of housing programs for the homeless for an excessive number of years. Since 1984 more than 4,500 families have been relocated from the City's hotel shelter system into Harlem. This has resulted in the District being over saturated with housing for the homeless that are not accompanied by adequate social service support.

The existing programs in Manhattan Community Board No. 10 need adequate budget allocations to allow for complementary social service components. This would enable many of the clients to become productive members of their communities and would minimize the exposure of undesirable behavior which spills over into the residential fabric of die community.

Manhattan Community Board 10 has its fair share of housing for the homeless, and is keeping the tradition of Harlem's commitment to social justice. However, it is in fact over-saturated as a community. There are at least sixteen (16) facilities in the District. The existing facilities need adequate budget allocations to provide needed complementary services. The aim should be to integrate the homeless population as productive independent members of the community.

### **HOUSING:**

The City, working primarily with local not-for-profit community development groups, has recently created thousands of affordable housing opportunities. Over 6,000 units were developed during the 90's as a result of the City's then 10-year housing plan; however, it is estimated that approximately 8,700 units were lost during this same period. A larger number of affordable units

must be developed than are lost. The Community Board is hopeful that Mayor Bloomberg's "New Housing Marketplace Plan" will build or preserve 65,000 units of affordable housing over the next four years as promised. The Board also supports the attempts to preserve affordable units in the Mitchell-Lama program. The affordability of thousands of units in this program is set to expire in the coming years. It is imperative that the property owners do not buy out of the program and move thousands of units out of affordability.

Central Harlem's architecturally significant housing stock and its low-rise, pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods are considered important assets for revitalization. Private, public and non-profit developers, who also recognize the unique quality of Harlem's neighborhoods, are hoping to attract mixed-income households in order to increase diversity and economic stability in the area.

Current issues of concern that affect housing conditions in Central Harlem include:

- lack of preservation,
- stabilization of the residential fabric and housing stock
- limited homeownership opportunities, and
- limited affordable housing opportunities for community residents

Another priority of the Manhattan Community Board No.10 has been to protect the brownstone stock from the SRO designation, which makes them vulnerable for inappropriate targets for homeless programs. Many of the buildings which have been targeted as relocation resources for homeless families are located on relatively stable brownstone blocks, Historic Landmark Districts, as well as on the major avenues of the district which have sites slated for commercial and residential development. When the City Planning Commission designated Harlem as historic neighborhood HPD opened the Harlem Neighborhood Preservation Office with the following goals and objectives as set forth by their agency:

- To encourage and concentrate maintenance efforts;
- To prevent deterioration and abandonment of housing in transitional neighborhoods;
- To promote private investment;
- To coordinate governmental and community activities for neighborhood preservation and to provide public investment to support coordinated improvement programs
- To promote community involvement in all such activities;

Manhattan Community Board No. 10 continues to support the aforementioned goals.

#### Housing Recommendations:

##### 1. Preserve, stabilize and enhance the existing residential fabric:

- A detailed plan for assessing all blocks in Central Harlem should develop to determine the potential for development and to guide targeted development activities. The City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) should preferably use the Tenant Interim Lease Program and Homeworks for housing development, and as alternative measures, Community Board 10 will consider with critical support the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Neighborhood Entrepreneur Program (NEP).
  - The City should strictly enforce laws relating to the sale of drugs on streets and in buildings throughout the District.
  - Ensure that urban renewal plans generate the maximum amount of new construction as possible.
  - Encourage new contextual residential development on vacant lots along side streets (inner blocks) to reflect the existing traditional and physical characteristics of the neighborhood.
  - Eliminate the use of low-rise residential buildings, especially those on the side streets, for any type of special needs housing.
  - Establish a program to stabilize rather than demolish brownstones with structural defects.
  - Identify at-risk buildings and determine how abandonment can be prevented.
  - Seek out every opportunity for new housing construction to ensure variety in age of Central Harlem's housing stock.
  - When consistent with the plan's retail strategy, require all residential construction along major streets (i.e. 116th, 125th, 135th, and 145th streets and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Malcolm X, and Frederick Douglass boulevards) to include ground floor commercial space or other residential amenities.
2. Ensure that Community Board 10 plays a key role in the decision-making process:
- City agencies should consult Community Board 10 prior to issuing an RFP or RFQ for special needs housing projects. Community Board 10 should be given the opportunity to evaluate such RFPs or RFQs to determine if it complies with the Board's goals and that of the City's fair share policy. The Board would take into account federal, state and private facilities as well as city-funded facilities in its own fair share analysis.
  - Community Board 10 should have maximum participation in decisions relating to the HPD housing programs, especially as it relates to the selection of managing organizations.
3. Increase affordable homeownership and housing opportunities for low and moderate-income residents of the district:
- Transfer abandoned city-owned brownstones and row houses to private owners through negotiated sales. Ensure that at least 51 percent of the buildings are made available to current Central Harlem residents. Sale prices should be based upon current physical

condition. Central Harlem residents should be targeted for mortgage readiness programs, which could make it possible for residents to borrow construction loans from local banks.

- Develop a program to assist Harlem residents to qualify for financing for homeownership in the community.
  - Increase the availability of quality affordable housing for low, moderate and middle-income individuals and households as well as senior citizens that currently live in Central Harlem.
  - Encourage the development of homeownership units (i.e. the rehabilitation of brownstones for sale as fee-simple purchases, the rehabilitation of apartment buildings to create affordable condominiums and cooperatives, the new construction for homeownership and expansion of limited equity cooperatives).
  - Ensure at least 50 percent of all units housing developed by HPD or non-for-profit organizations be reserved for Harlem residents and ensure that Community Board 10 be provided with documents to confirm that the 50 percent target is met.
4. Address the Single Room Occupancy unit housing stock in Central Harlem:
- Streamline the process for converting brownstones that are now classified as SRO units and return city-owned brownstones with existing SRO units back to their original design as single-, two-family or multiple-dwelling buildings (up to 4 dwelling units per building).
  - SRO housing should be developed primarily for the elderly population and in buildings that are structurally suited for SRO such as hotels.
  - Provide SRO livable housing in Harlem using existing structures classified as hotels (both occupied & vacant).

The origins of Harlem's struggle to maintain affordable and decent housing are rooted in dynamic social and economic forces that have brought a range of public and private interests into the housing arena. Today, a slower, yet enduring rate of deterioration, coupled with the current trends of investment and revitalization, characterize the fundamental forces currently effecting housing conditions and population change. Critical to achieving neighborhood stability in Harlem will be housing policies that encourage a new income mix among residents, while providing opportunities for existing low and moderate income residents to acquire residency in the new housing stock being built in Community Board 10.

Additionally, there is a need to increase the rate of homeownership among community residents. A must be found to preserve the physical character of the area, while recognizing the needs of Central Harlem's growing population.

## **HEALTH / HOSPITALS:**

Within the past decade the overall health of the African American population has declined even further, as evidenced by the decreasing life expectancy of males and females, the increase in infant mortality rates, as well as the rise of African Americans diagnosed with AIDS. And this is only a partial listing of health issues.

Most of the African Americans health problems are linked to social and environmental factors related to unemployment, poverty, and restricted and segregated housing, which forces large numbers of people into smaller, older, overcrowded communities where school age children are confined to educational systems that automatically make them unable to cope with the technological demands of the job market. Unfortunately, the interrelatedness of this array of social and health problems has imprisoned succeeding generations of African Americans, precluding their chances of escaping the clutches of their confinement. The current narcotic and AIDS epidemics reflect the omission of these basic services in those communities impacting this population. Members of these communities lack the option of mobility to move beyond their problem-plagued boundaries.

Hypertension or high blood pressure for example is one specific health problem that is especially deleterious to the African American population. Approximately forty percent (40%) of this population will be stricken by this illness as compared with thirty percent (30%) of Caucasians between the ages of 18 and 74 years of age.

Until recently, the scientific community assumed that African Americans' greater disposition for hypertension was linked to their genes and was passed from generation to generation. However, in a recently published report in The Journal of the American Medical Association, researchers noted that environmental factors could outweigh genetic determinants of high blood pressure in the African American community.

The Child Health Clinics, School based Clinics and extension clinics are vital to maintaining the health of Manhattan Community Board 10. This District has experienced a large increase in population, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured. The working poor also comprise a large percentage of the population. The District has seen an increase in asthma, diabetes, the need for dental services, and breast cancer. These needs must be addressed in a manner that is accessible and affordable. Dental services must be maintained at their present level and should be expanded. Each clinic should be expanded.

Harlem Hospital Center is a Level I Trauma Center and as a result is deserving of a new state-of-the-arts facility, which will encompass all of the services presently available,

In addition, an increasing number of adolescent mothers, upon giving birth, do not have human

resources for their newborns. An alarming number of infants are reportedly spending the first three to six months of their lives in the Harlem Hospital Center. Ultimately, these infants face placement in foster care homes. As a result, Harlem is facing an increased demand for foster beds for infants.

It is necessary to immediately increase the number of preventive family assistance programs and resources in the district. Additionally resources must be made available for programs, which have as their aim, the education and prevention of teenage pregnancy

## **THE ELDERLY**

In 2000, 11 percent of Community District 10's residents were age 65 and older. More than one-third of this population of Harlem has incomes below the poverty line. Accessible and affordable health care is an important service for this sector of the population, as they tend to be on fixed incomes. There is a need to increase the total spectrum of services delivered to this population through the Department for the Aging and the Human Resources Administration, including home care, housekeeping and meals programs.

Eighteen senior centers operate within Community District 10. Most have comprehensive programs to address a variety of needs within Central Harlem's senior population. Other smaller centers specialize in specific programs such as nutrition or emotional support. There are also a number of residential health facilities and senior housing facilities, many of which are Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly.

Improved outreach efforts is needed to identify senior citizens who are living in relative isolation and without their basic needs being met, such as adequate shelter, nutritional and utilities, are necessary. According to reports from senior services providers, there remain a significant number of elderly persons in Central Harlem who are eligible for available services but do not take advantage of them. Identification of this "at risk" population is of critical importance.

Housing services for seniors has diminished due to the needed focus on housing for middle and upper income families in Community Board No 10. As a result, the need for housing for the elderly is becoming more pronounced.

Approximately 33% of the elderly living alone, the need for home care has increased. We support alternative private and public programs to fill this need.

Expense needs for the elderly include the following:

- 50% increase in staff for DFTA to offer Technical Assistance to Community Based Organizations assisting the elderly.

- 50% increase in funding for employment services for the elderly.
- Continuation and expansion of essential services to low income and disabled elder adults including job training assistance and opportunity.
- Expansion of assistance program to address new health needs for the elderly, i.e. AIDS.
- Develop family mentor program for grandparents.

## **YOUTH**

Community District 10 has suffered tremendously from the selection process and general disorganization of the Summer Youth Employment Program. The District office has been involved with this process in early 2004, and there are several aspects of the program that have been cause for concern.

The number of slots that Community District 10 has received from summer jobs grossly underestimates the number of children in this community who could benefit from this program. Furthermore, the Board feels that the children should have been accommodated on a "first come, first serve" basis, rather than a lottery system. The lottery system gave most of the children who applied a false hope for employment that they would ultimately not secure.

As you know, children in Central Harlem are in desperate need of the experience, money and skill development that summer employment provides, and this program is a lynchpin to their efforts to obtain that employment. The alternative to the positive experience of employment is far too often a "lost summer" for our youth, spent on the streets engaged in idle behavior that will invariably lead to incarceration for many of them.

Young people also need after school programs that will provide them with an outlet for exercise and community involvement. Community Board 10 strongly urges Department of Youth and Community Development to fund more programs that support music and athletics.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Adequate social services continue to be a need in the Manhattan Community Board No. 10. A large percentage of the population is unemployed, more than twice the borough rate and twice the city rate. Among youth between ages, 16-25, the rate of unemployment is greater than 50%. Currently one of every three persons in the district is receiving some form of public assistance.

Many of the people who relocated to the Harlem community through the social services program are not from the community, thereby distorting the numbers and increasing the need for social services. The extraordinary number of families relocated to Harlem thorough the City's shelter system has created a pressing need for additional social/support services in the area. Most of these families continue to face many of the same problems, which led to their homelessness:

anti-social behavior, substance abuse, inadequate incomes, new over-crowdedness, and battered spouse syndrome. Simply re-housing these families does not solve their complex social problems. In order to attempt to meet the needs of these families, additional resources must be committed.

An estimated 38,000 people are scheduled by mandate to be terminated from the federal welfare rolls. Neither, the city or state has created a supportive net that must be in place to avert a social disaster. It is imperative that programs be put in place to provide counseling, meaningful and relevant job training, and job placement. This District has a large population that will be impacted by the Welfare Reform Act.

Resources must be made available for preventative family assistance to stem the flow of children into foster care. Programs that provide education and prevention of early and unwanted pregnancies must be funded. Programs to work with families to remove their children from foster care must be given priority. In addition, programs that work with children and families, especially adolescents and their children must be supported.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Central Harlem's economic base is largely determined by its land use and zoning which designate it as a predominantly residential district with supporting retail and service centers, community facilities, and entertainment and tourist establishments along its principal east/west and north/south thoroughfares. The 125th Street east/west commercial corridor, Central Harlem's primary retail area, ranks as a regional shopping and commercial street that serves as a cross-borough thoroughfare and provides direct connections to major regional transportation access arteries.

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Frederick Douglass boulevards, two of Central Harlem's three principal north/south corridors, serve as local convenience shopping corridors while Malcolm X Boulevard, despite its heavy residential composition, includes tourist cultural attractions, famous restaurants, entertainment establishments and several of Harlem's largest employers. These distinct characteristics along with Community District 10's growing population serve to reveal Central Harlem's capacity for economic growth and development as a viable and active component of the City's regional economy. It is estimated that in 2005, Central Harlem residents will spend approximately \$375 million on retail goods and services.

Central Harlem's single most important need in terms of economic development is to increase its population and diversify its income base. The strategy to accomplish this is through the effective provision of appropriate housing. A substantial amount of housing remains idle and unused in privately owned buildings, even as market forces and government programs and subsidies have

clearly signaled these owners of the need and the demand at most income levels for housing in Harlem. As the provision of housing has become a public good, as demonstrated by the continuous state of a Housing Emergency in New York city, and as the pervasiveness of inaction on the part of these landlords to rehabilitate and make available units of housing forestalls the optimal development of the community, it is incumbent upon the City of New York to make use of positive and negative incentives to encourage the private redevelopment and rehabilitation of housing.

The lack of processed and packaged basic public information about Central Harlem resident consumer base (e.g. income levels, spending habits, demand for goods and services) has been noted by local commercial landlords as one of the reasons why it is difficult to bring into the community choice national and regional retailers as well as other businesses. It is imperative for the City of New York to lower the cost of business investment in the Central Harlem area by providing such information. Community Board 10 urges the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Department of Business Services (DBS) and the NYC Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to work in concert to produce such documents as may be necessary and make them readily available for wide dissemination.

## **Local Business Community/Network**

### *Big Retailers/Growing Issue*

As briefly mentioned above, Community District 10 and Harlem overall is presently undergoing a period of extensive development and investment. This period of this pending transition with powerful corporate interests at its forefront have led many to pose the following question: does the forecasted benefits of Harlem's "second renaissance" actually benefit its local business community or merely serve to displace them and subsequently weaken any existing notions of entrepreneurship within the resident community?

This "second renaissance" is to be greeted with cautious optimism. The renewed investment and development in Central Harlem puts the neighborhood in a unique position. While new investment is welcomed, potential negative effects are to be feared. Harlem has much to gain as well as much to lose. It is the goal of Community Board 10 to embrace the new investment while safeguarding against the displacement of lower income residents and local, independent merchants.

This is a growing concern for Harlem's community business organizations such as the Harlem Business Alliance, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, the 125<sup>th</sup> Street BID and local merchant owners as well as for business merchants throughout the entire country that are faced with the same prospect.

Community District 10's local businesses and entrepreneurs are potentially well positioned to understand and address the specific needs of their own local community. The key difference lies in the successful implementation of a well-structured plan for local business capacity building through technical assistance and expertise, information technology, and financial resources that will help ensure their permanence. The objective is to structure and implement a strategy that will mobilize both public and private resources to accomplish mutual goals.

#### *Small Business Merchants*

It is important to note that the provision of business expertise be it through training, mentorship, consultation or a combination of the three, are valuable resources that will develop the local merchant community's competitive capacity and business leadership to operate and benefit from the area's consumer market. It has long been established that the majority of the owners and retail managers within Community District 10's small business community lack the following:

- Formal training in basic business management skills,
- Experience with information technology,
- Skills in business plan development, and
- Knowledge and experience with other business improvement strategies.

All of these are business fundamentals and information resources employed by mainstream market companies for sustainability and profitability. The lack of access to mainstream resources, in particular capital, is a severe limiting factor for businesses within the District.

Again, the solution to the issues affecting the District's business environment begins with an economic development strategy that focuses on the area's local merchant owners. The focused strategy allows for an inside/out approach that (1) addresses the basic needs of the business community as listed above; and (2) creates the required business infrastructure—better facilities, equipment, products, and managers—to help the entire commercial/retail area achieve solid growth and sustainability.

#### **POLICE:**

Manhattan Community Board No. 10 supports Community Policing and would like to see more police officers on the streets, not only on the commercial post on West 125<sup>th</sup> Street but also patrolling to eradicate the pockets of persistent drug trafficking and usage.

The narcotic problem contributes to a high rate of crimes including robberies, prostitution, burglaries and assaults. While "CRACK" and the cocaine epidemic appear to have subsided at

the moment, the quality of life problems, associated with dependent populations still exist. Manhattan Community Board 10 is extremely concerned about the reemergence of Heroin sales on the Frederick Douglass Boulevard lower from 114<sup>th</sup> Street through 127<sup>th</sup> Street and on Manhattan Avenue in the area between 115<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Street.

The 28th, 32nd, PSA5 and PSA6 precincts need additional manpower and updated technology to provide the community with adequate police services. There has been some improvement due to IMPACT zones. However, officers continue to retire, transfer out, or leave for other reasons, many not being replaced. Now that we are experiencing rapid development and growth with new residents, businesses and tourists, the tables have turned. With this growth for the most part positive, came unexpected negative consequences and now a need for more police officers.

There has been an increase in the following as well that warrants immediate attention.

- Grand Larceny Auto
- Robberies
- Burglary
- Felonious Assault
- Prostitution
- Gang-related incidents

Community Board 10 also requests that when additional officers are assigned, they go through a sensitivity training that is appropriate to the neighborhood that is being policed.

## **SANITATION:**

With the redevelopment of city-owned properties and the growth of the population residents the Sanitation staffing has not kept pace with the need to process new additional waste tonnage. Manpower allocations must be increased to adjust for the increases in population. The allocations of Sanitation workers must be increased in District No. 10.

Many of the complaints received by the Community Board concern the condition of the district's streets during the weekends. Area resident, churches and other community organizations continue to complain about the excessive street litter and overflowing litter baskets, which they witness on Sundays.

The Central Harlem Community has now become a designated route for sightseeing tour buses causing a need for cleaner streets and sidewalks. Additional pickups are needed, in the high

tourism / commercial areas to accommodate increase foot traffic as Harlem's visibility grows evermore and as a common sense means of addressing the exploding rodent problem.

There is a need for strict enforcement and fines for illegal posters, garbage placed on streets day(s) before authorized pickups, and debris in front of vacant buildings.

The Department of Health has made drastic cuts in its Pest Control Unit and overall only has two Health Inspectors for the Borough of Manhattan. There must be a coordinated effort on the part of Department of Health, Housing Preservation and Development and the Department of Sanitation to maintain the vacant and occupied properties. Often debris/trash is allowed to sit on the pavement in front of vacant lots / buildings for long periods of time. The Department of General Services must be allocated additional funds to fence city-owned vacant property to prevent illegal dumping, vehicle abandonment and unhealthy conditions.

Many fences that are in place have been destroyed or are in a state of disrepair exacerbating illegal dumping at vacant lots they are meant to protect. Better efforts between agencies are needed to clean these lots and repair broken fences. This condition also creates breeding grounds for rodents, fleas and other vermin, thereby creating a serious health problem for the community and surrounding areas.

The Board also supports additional sanitation workers operate the additional mechanical sweepers, additional basket and dump truck, and motorized litter patrol. There is a clear need to increase the number of enforcement officers.

Community Board 10 urges the Department of Sanitation to maximize the water levels in the mechanical sweepers and increase the number of weekly sweeping.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION:**

The ecology of Community Board 10 is a complex mix of residential and institutional buildings, businesses, factories, municipal infrastructure, parks, recreation facilities, and community gardens, among others. In the last decade, there has been an increasing scientific and popular understanding about how greener urban infrastructure improves environmental quality and public health in densely populated, heavily constructed communities like Central Harlem.

The foliage from tree canopy (the cover created by street trees and woodlands in parks and gardens) captures and breaks down air pollution—particulate matter and toxins that both cause and exacerbate asthma. Trees and vegetation in parks and plazas also reduce ground surface temperatures in summer, thus helping to reduce the chronically elevated temperatures associated with the urban heat island effect and global warming. Parks and gardens also provide a critically

needed network of recreational and learning spaces for this generation of young people, who are suffering from alarming increases in obesity and childhood diabetes, as well as asthma. Finally, trees and green spaces also help to reduce storm-water surges and flooding that plague parks and boulevards in CB10.

The public health aspect of greenery and open space is an incredibly important focus point for CB10. The community, in conjunction with the City, must plan wisely for the health and well being of its future generations. A 1999 City Council study found that CB10 had 2791 asthma and respiratory illness hospital admissions, as compared to a citywide district average of 676. The asthma problem in Harlem has been, and is currently being, widely studied and documented. Parks and open space are an enormous part of the solution to this monumental problem. An increase of maintenance of current parks and open space, as well as an increase in the number of such spaces, is a must if Central Harlem is going to continue to flourish.

Community Board 10 urges Department of Parks and Recreation to fund the following:

- Restoration of St. Nicholas North comfort station
- Urban Ranger for Jackie Robinson Park
- Water trucks for Adam C. Powell and Malcolm X Malls

#### *Public Waterfront Access*

Only a small portion of CB10 touches the waterfront. The Harlem River Drive and housing complexes that contain waterfront-parking facilities limit waterfront access. The waterfront will be accessible from the planned esplanade, but only from the Harlem River Drive's overpass at 142<sup>nd</sup> Street. The need to identify other waterfront access points remains critical, as well linking access to the waterfront with inland open spaces through safe biking and pedestrian lanes. In all instances, these amenities should be greened to gain the maximum ecological benefit from this space.

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

Harlem is located at the center of a very vital transportation network and has the basic facilities and infrastructure for an efficient transportation system. However, many of the elements of the transportation system in this district continue to suffer from lack of maintenance and show signs of deterioration that now warrant the investment of capital funds for their improvement. Manhattan Avenue is long over due of a compressive roadway reconstruction.

Harlem is well serviced by subway transportation including the IND 6th and the 8 Avenue lines,

the IRT Lenox / Broadway lines and the IRT Lexington Avenue lines offer easily accessible service to area residents and workers.

Bus shelters are needed throughout this heavily traveled community. Proposed cut backs on bus services are a serious concern of Community Board No. 10, since many of the working members of the community ride the busses to and from work at staggered hours during the day and evenings.

The Department of Transportation must allocate funds to the Bureau of Engineers office. Replacement of Bus Stop, Parking, Street Name signs are vital to this community. Drastic cuts in this area have caused parking problems, inconvenience to commuters and visitors. There is a need for additional personnel for traffic studies to determine the need of additional traffic signals as the neighborhood continues to be revitalized.

We are also requesting that the Department of Transportation and the Department of Design and Construction include in their budget ongoing extermination and pest control measures for the major construction project that is presently underway and any proposed work.

The issue of truck traffic enforcement has long been neglected by the city's enforcement agencies. Community Board 10 calls on the DOT to limit the number of truck routes in Community Board 10, particularly on West 110<sup>th</sup> Street (Central Park North) and also on Manhattan Avenue. Limiting truck traffic should have a net impact of moving vehicular traffic along while reducing the particulate pollution, which contributes to the high incidence of asthma in Central Harlem.

#### Transportation and Infrastructure Recommendations:

- Improve access and amenities near subway and bus services.
- Address infrastructure deficiencies.
- Improve residential and commercial parking availability.
- Improve vehicular circulation.
- Control the flow of commercial traffic and reduce air pollution.
- Increase pedestrian safety.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:**

The schools that fall within the boundary of Community School District No. 10 between 110<sup>th</sup> Street and 122nd Street include the completely renovated Wadleigh Junior High School. However, with the influx of the new students, relocating into the district, the school needs to increase its effectiveness to attract the students and reclaim its original standing for academic

excellence. In fact, all elementary and middle schools, which fall within these boundaries, must improve their academic performance in order to gain the academic attractiveness that the students in the Community deserve.

The vast majority of Community Board No. 10 schools are included in this school district. Among the capital needs of schools in Central Harlem is the restoration of unused school buildings for the increased student population. Community Board No. 10 supports the efforts of the local school district to obtain funding for additional computer rooms. We also support after school programs and the use of schools for afternoon and evening community use.

Community Board No. 10 supports the development of innovative programs and the establishment of private and New Vision schools in the district. Additionally, Community Board No.10 recognizes the need for increased pre-kindergarten programming in the district and supports the implementation of such programs throughout the district.

Recommendations:

- Set aside small buildings and land for use as early learning centers, private schools, business ventures and technical learning centers to address the needs of the community.
- Identify space in the district to be set-aside for college collaborative efforts.
- The district will encourage major established colleges and universities, along with new qualified groups to address the issues of low college attendance of the residents of Central Harlem.
- Pre-kindergarten and nursery schools should be available for every child in the District. Adequate space can be provided through Department of Education leases along with present space in available schools.
- Buildings and land should be identified for the provision of quality alternative programs for parents who choose to send their children to schools in the neighborhood for special educational programs.

Manhattan Community Board No. 10 strongly supports the students right of safe passage to and from schools by recommending that no land use within two blocks of it's schools in any direction be approved for liquor stores, pill mills, drug paraphernalia, bodega, cigarette or alcohol advertisement or any other undesirable, or immoral unsightly or unhealthy usage.

Community Board 10 would like have to better communication with the Department of Education to assure quality education to all the children in the district.

## **LIBRARIES:**

Community Board 10 urges the restoration of funding to library services 6 days a week. The four neighborhood library branches need to remain open at least six days a week to provide learning opportunities to an already underserved population. Manhattan Community Board No.10 supports the request for an increase in funding for books, materials and electronic databases, computer networks to access twenty first century learning and communications.

With the increase in housing and population, there is a critical need to provide full spectrum library services. The libraries play a vital role to address and complement the educational environment and provide a valuable resource to residents in the community. Libraries serve, as educational and cultural centers that often are the only resources children have to go after school. They are the knowledge base of the community and the future.

There is a need for sufficient hours of public service, more mornings and evening hours, adequate levels of staffing, a safe and clean library environment and security for library materials and facilities at all times. Community Board No.10 continues to recognize its branch libraries as important educational, informational and cultural resources in the district. We support capital budget requests, which include funding for the site selection for a full - size replacement branch for Macombs Bridge Library. The present facility is only 685 Sq. feet. It is the hope of Community Board 10 that the proposed site addresses the population of that area, which has increased due to renovated housing stock.