



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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District Needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2016

Community Board 3 Manhattan spans the East Village, Lower East Side, and part of Chinatown. It is bounded by 14th Street to the north, the East River to the east, the Brooklyn Bridge to the south, and Fourth Avenue and the Bowery to the west, extending to Baxter and Pearl Streets south of Canal Street. This community is filled with a diversity of cultures, religions, incomes, and languages. Its character comes from its heritage as a historic and present day first stop for many immigrants. CB 3 is one of the largest board districts and is the third most densely populated board district, with approximately 164,326 people according to the 2012 American Community Survey (ACS). Our residents are very proud of their historic and diverse neighborhood, however, the very characteristics that make this district unique also make it a challenging place to plan and ensure services for all residents and businesses.

Demographic Change

The CB 3 population is changing in many ways. The 2000 census reported that 23% of our population, over 38,000 of our residents, required income support. By 2013, this population had jumped to about 46% of the total population, over 75,000 persons. The number of people receiving Medicaid-only assistance also continues to increase, climbing from 45,724 in 2005 to 56,301 in 2013 as shown in the CB 3 District Profile on the City Planning Community Portal.

Our community is an example of the growing income inequality that is endemic in New York City. The Furman Report ranks CB 3 sixth out of the 59 boards in the City for a high diversity ratio between lower income and higher income residents. The Furman Center's *State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2013* reports that approximately 30% of our residents have household incomes under \$20,000 while approximately 20% earn more than \$100,000.



Figure 1. Household Income Distribution of Community District 3, 2010 – 2012
Source: NYU Furman Center. (2014). *State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2013*.

Higher-income households, have continued to increase since 2000 (see Figure 2 above), a trend similar to that of lower-income households. Further, the income diversity ratio, which is the gap between incomes, has increased since last year from 7.1 to 7.5 %. Market rate housing and high-end retail continues to grow although many people within our community continue to live on the edge of homelessness and economic survival. An estimated 25% of people in CB 3, approximately 34% of their children under the age of 18, and 32% of seniors were living below the poverty level between 2010 and 2012 (ACS, 2012).

CB 3 is the fourth highest racially diverse neighborhood in the City, with a foreign born population of 36%. We are approximately 42% White, 34% Asian, 23% Hispanic, and 8% Black or African American (ACS, 2012). The percentage of White and Black residents has increased while the numbers of Latinos and Asians have decreased. These population increases and declines are the opposite of demographic changes seen in New York City overall, according to the Furman Report.

Economic Change

CB 3 has worked to retain its affordable housing stock and its local businesses while still serving the needs of its newcomers. The displacement of long-time residential and commercial residents is a great loss to this community. Many small family-owned stores, especially those that serve local retail needs and arts businesses, have been replaced by an ever growing number of bars and restaurants. Families have been displaced from their homes because they cannot afford increasing rents. Community-based organizations, which provide essential services for community residents, struggle to provide more services and fund themselves with fewer resources. The growing need to provide for our lower-income residents in a gentrifying district, as well as provide services for all residents, continues to be a challenge for CB 3.

Livable Neighborhood

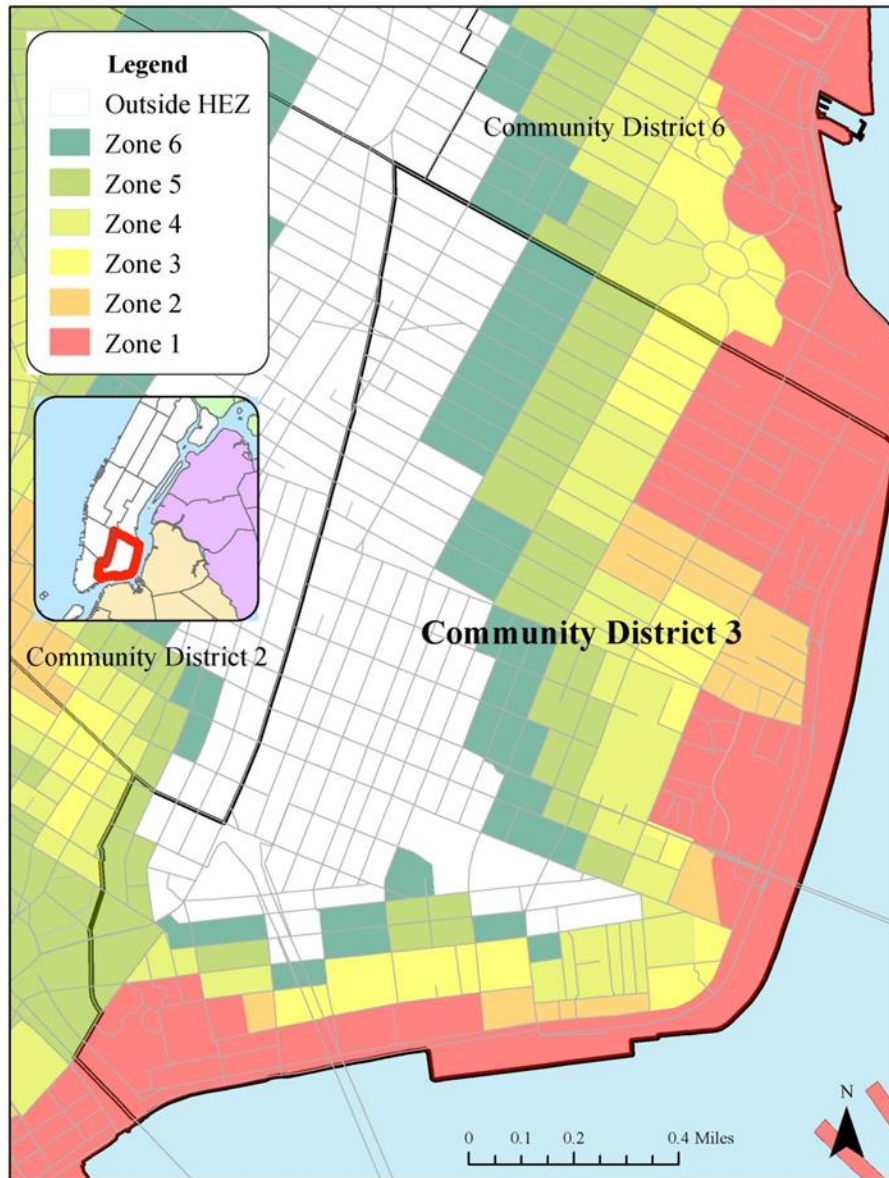
The metamorphosis of this district into a nightlife destination has increased quality of life complaints. Year after year, CB 3 continues to lead community boards with the most NYPD commercial noise complaints (nightlife noise). Nighttime noise from nightlife establishments and their patrons is the most frequent complaint to the community board office. These complaints are very difficult to resolve because no agency has sole jurisdiction over quality of life enforcement. Lack of planning for enhanced police enforcement during cabaret hours, as well as lack of sanitation and traffic infrastructure to support this unplanned nightlife district, further impairs our ability to maintain a livable neighborhood for both newcomers and longtime residents.

Resiliency needs

Over 70% of the district's residential units (roughly 53,681 units) are within a Hurricane Evacuation Zone (Furman Center, 2014). This is approximately 18,825 square feet of residential lots and includes much of the fourth highest number of NYCHA developments in the City (see Figure 3 below). CB 3 is also very vulnerable because only 5,368.9 square feet is open or recreation space, leaving less than 16% of the district with permeable surfaces for storm water runoff and retention (DCP, 2013). Two years after

Hurricane Sandy, there is still much more to be done to make CB 3 a resilient community. Many of the following sections contain a subsection on resiliency efforts and needs.

Community District 3 Manhattan Hurricane Evacuation Zones (HEZ)



Source: Juliana Dubovsky, Community Board 3;
NYC Department of City Planning and NYC Office of Emergency Management, 2014

Economic Development

Retail Diversity

In recent years, Community Board 3 has watched its local mom and pop shops rapidly replaced by chain stores, banks and destination bars and restaurants. Stores that once served the retail needs of local residents have been out-priced in rent, forcing people to either leave their neighborhood to shop or shop online. The unplanned proliferation of nightlife destinations has put a tremendous strain on CB3's infrastructure of police, sanitation and transportation as well as created the most noise complaints of any community board in the city. It has also formed an unattractive retail environment for existing stores or potential new stores because most bars and restaurants leave their gates down during daytime hours.

The Center for an Urban Future's "State of the Chains 2013" report identified the East Village as having the second highest number of national chain stores in all of Manhattan with a total of 170 in the 10003 zip code alone, even though the total count decreased by nine from 2012. It also noted that zip code 10002 (Chinatown/Lower East Side) added 10 stores from last year, a 28% increase. The growth of chain stores raises the overall rents in the neighborhood, displacing mom and pop shops and compromising the unique character of our neighborhood.

In early 2014, CB 3 collaborated with Columbia University to analyze the make-up of retail diversity in the East Village. The final report confirmed that the area is a City- and region-wide destination for eating and drinking. Past CB 3 surveys of businesses on select corridors have previously confirmed that small businesses are continuing to be displaced by liquor-licensed establishments as well. In 2009, approximately 13% of the stores on Avenue A were vacant and 35% were liquor-licensed. By 2012, the vacancies had decreased to 10% as the concentration of liquor-licensed businesses increased to 37%.

These reports and surveys quantitatively confirm years of community member complaints that the concentration of chain stores, bars and restaurants is continuing to increase relative to other types of small businesses. Existing retail businesses are increasingly being forced out of the district with the result that local retail needs are no longer being met.

Retail stores that do survive are threatened by rising utilities and taxes. Surveys by CB 3 identify rent, utilities and property taxes as the biggest challenges that face small businesses. Property taxes have risen dramatically over the last nine years and a percentage of those taxes are passed down to the businesses by landlords. Retail store owners that are no longer able to bear the burden of the taxes are forced to close or relocate outside the district. This continues the cycle of temporary storefront vacancies and closed shutters that ultimately hurts daytime retail businesses.

As reported to CB 3, the pass-along burden of property taxes along with increasing utility rates are the number 1 and 2 major problems facing small business owners. Below are examples of increases in property tax pass-along experienced by two local businesses:

- An Avenue A business had a property tax increase from \$8700 in 2006-7 to \$28,553 in 2009—this is more than tripled the amount of tax owed.
- An Orchard Street business saw an increase from \$1170 in 2004-5 to \$36,373 in 2010-11, which is 31 times higher.

Merchant organizing

Community Board 3 has four Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) currently within its' boundaries:

- the Chinatown BID: Broome to Worth Street and from Allen to Rutgers;
- the LES BID: Orchard Street and currently seeking to expand to include a large section of the Lower East Side with Houston Street as its' northern border;
- the Village Alliance: 8th Street and some surrounding blocks; and
- the Union Square Partnership: 14th Street and the Union Square area.

Although CB 3 is represented by these BIDs and many other business organizations, merchants are still underserved in a substantial portion of the district. The emerging business organizations can provide important representation to those retail businesses that had nowhere to turn during Hurricane Sandy. An example would be information concerning grants as opposed to loans post-Sandy. For example, communication for East Village businesses was lacking and businesses did not have good understanding of grants and low interest loans that were available.

Opportunities for City Support

In recognition of the continued proliferation of chains, bars and restaurants, rising rent and property tax burdens, and utility costs, Community Board 3 requests support for our locally based organizations that are dedicated to creating and maintaining a vibrant, diverse and sustainable local economy. We need continued support for emerging merchant organizations to organize and represent local businesses and to assist them with the goal of retaining small mom-and-pop shops and diverse retail and services to serve local consumers. Finally, technical support to CB 3 from City agencies such as City Planning is needed to help provide tools, such as zoning changes or others methods, that would provide means for diverse retail to remain in the district.

Post-Sandy Statement

East Village retail was hit hard by Superstorm Sandy and has shown itself vulnerable to future events. The East River rose to west of Avenue C, and shops on Avenues D and C, and side streets were flooded. Inventory was completely lost and building infrastructure and business operating systems were ruined.

In addition, loss of electricity for a week impacted all businesses in CB 3. The very small mom-and-pops, including those of the East Village not flooded, all the small Chinatown businesses, and those on the Lower East Side had to replace all inventory along with repairs and loss of pay to workers.

CB 3 has been working with NY Rising regarding resiliency plans to protect businesses. However, at this time we have not seen any plans or proposals that would benefit the businesses that are struggling in CB 3.

The Department of City Planning is looking at:

- insurance and retrofitting options for local retail;
- identification of zoning modifications to support access to local retail as well as strengthening coastal defenses and expanding natural infrastructure systems; and
- advocating for flood insurance affordability.

In addition, Rebuild by Design has won \$335 million for a proposal that would build a berm along the East River from 13th Street to Corlears Hook. The Bridging Berm will effectively raise the riverbank to nine feet above current level, which is more than four feet above Hurricane Sandy's high-water mark.

Resiliency measures that protect very small retail as well as the larger businesses located outside CB 3 are needed to maintain this essential part of our community. CB 3 will work with City Planning and Rebuild by Design to ensure this vital protection.

Human Services

CB 3 is an economically and racially diverse district. It is imperative that initiatives to address the human services needs discussed below must be culturally and linguistically appropriate in order to effectively serve this district's residents.

Youth Services

According to the 2010 US Census, CB 3 is home to more than 22,152 children under 18 years of age. The 2010-2012 American Community Survey found that approximately 35% of the population under 18 years had income below the poverty level and roughly 30% of family households with related children under 18 years of age were below the poverty level. Twenty-two percent of households received some form of emergency food assistance. According to the 2013 Furman report, 30% of households residing within CB 3 have a household income of \$20,000 or less, and many of these families rely on community-based programs such as Out-of-School Time (OST) and Beacon community centers during after-school hours and on weekends and holidays.

Families and youth are in need of intervention services and support system programming. Agencies working with at risk youth populations agree that proactive programs are needed, such as employment, training opportunities, and programs in addition to sports. Community centers, out of school time after school programs, and employment opportunities are necessary to positively engage youth.

- **Expand Access to OST Programming** CB 3 currently houses three Beacon programs, operated by Grand Street Settlement, University Street Settlement, and the Chinatown YMCA and over ten OST programs. Recently, Mayor deBlasio has made significant investments in baselining and expanding afterschool programming, particularly for middle school students. OST funding for elementary school and high school students remains in high demand, and CB3 supports baselining of OST funding to ensure that programs operate on stable and consistent basis.
- **Increase Youth Employment & Job Training Opportunities** Older youth, and at-risk youth in particular, need employment and job training opportunities such

as the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and the Young Adult Internship Program (YAIP), which helps produce critically important and positive outcomes, such as higher lifetime earnings and higher rates of high school attendance and graduation. According to a report by the New York City Independent Budget Office, contractors including CB 3's Chinese American Planning Council and Chinatown Manpower provided summer jobs opportunities for approximately 35,654 students citywide in 2013, which is down from a high of 52,255 in 2009. Unfortunately, over 100,000 additional youth applied for summer jobs but were turned away in 2013, and youth unemployment rates continue to be at record highs in NYC. CB 3 is encouraged by the addition of 10,640 SYEP slots for summer 2014 and supports additional funding to expand existing programs and/or to add new programs to ensure that our older and at-risk youth have the job training and employment opportunities necessary to succeed.

- **Provide Services for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care** Teens in foster care often age out of care without having acquired the skills necessary for a successful transition to independence. According to NYC Administration for Children Services' 2013 statistics, CB 3 was the third highest district of origin in Manhattan for foster care placements (with 105 children in 2013). The 2011 ACS Community Snapshot report showed that while the majority of placements in CB 3 are age 11 and younger, 17.3% of CB 3's placements aged out of care, which is a higher percentage than Manhattan or NYC's overall foster population that aged out of care. According to the Children's Aid Society, many of these young people will exit the foster care system "without the knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes, habits and relationships that will enable them to be productive and connected members of society." Therefore, it is necessary that we maintain and expand programs to help this youth population make the transition from our foster care system to independence and adulthood.
- **Support LGBT Youth Programs** Grand Street Settlement is home to ProjectSpeakOutLoud (Project S.O.L.), a program for LGBTQ youth that offers a safe space for some of the city's most at-risk youth. CB3 supports the continued funding of Project S.O.L. and a further expansion of comprehensive services for LGBTQ youth on the Lower East Side, many of whom often do not have anywhere to go to have their identities accepted and affirmed.
- **Baseline Funding for Cornerstone Programs** CB 3 currently has four Cornerstone Programs, which provide engaging, high-quality, year-round programs for adults and young people that enhance skills and promote social interaction, community engagement, and physical activity. Two of these NYCHA-based community centers are run by Chinatown YMCA (one in Rutgers and one in Two Bridges Community Center), University Settlement runs one program in Campos Plaza II, and Grand St. Settlement runs one program in Riis Houses. CB 3 supports baselining of funding for the Cornerstone Programs to ensure that the programs operate in a stable and consistent manner and can continue to provide these critical services to the community.

Senior Services

According to the NYC Department of Aging and the U.S. Census Bureau:

- There are 22,847 seniors in CB 3, which is approximately 14% of CB 3's population.

- Over 70% of CB 3 seniors are foreign born – the second highest ranking community district in Manhattan for percentage of foreign born seniors.
- Approximately 23% of seniors speak Spanish and 43% speak Chinese. Roughly 59% of people over 60 years old reported speaking English "less than very well" according to the 2010-2012 ACS.
- 13,281 seniors (65+) in CB 3 are below the poverty line, which is approximately 58% of seniors in the district.

In order to accommodate the district's vulnerable senior population, CB 3 calls for the continuation and strengthening of:

- Multilingual supports and services that allow senior citizens to remain in their homes and communities, such as congregate and home-delivered meals, case management and coordination, home care services (including non-Medicaid funding homecare), safe and reliable van transportation, physical and mental healthcare, recreational activities, programs like Visiting Neighbors that provide much needed companionship and assistance with essential activities such as grocery shopping and affordable, accessible housing.
- Services such as Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) provide critical supports to help seniors age safely in their own homes, and funding for existing programs should be maintained, while the NORC programs in our community should be expanded.
- The loss of private senior centers, like the Salvation Army Chinatown Corps on the Bowery, puts additional pressure on public senior centers such as Meltzer and BRC which were almost lost this past year. Although the senior centers that were slated to close in June 2014 will remain open, the funding allocated to senior centers in our district will only keep them open until June 2015. This district cannot afford to lose senior centers, particularly since they are culturally sensitive to our diverse community and in proximity to so many seniors' homes.

Homeless Services

Community Board 3 is home to 15 shelters, sharing with CB 12 the highest number of shelters in Manhattan's community boards. Most of these facilities are absorbed into the community without notice. However, the Third Street Men's Shelter and Kenton Hall continue to have ongoing impacts on the community, including drugs and loitering and reported aggressive behavior on the street.

- Large facilities in CB 3 must be accompanied by appropriate security for the facilities for the safety of both shelter residents and neighbors.
- DHS must supply increased security, including DHS police, for these facilities and have security on the street at all times.
- DHS should investigate making Kenton Hall into an in-house program that will not necessitate having residents go back and forth between Kenton and Third Street Shelter for meals, as this exacerbates the problem of crowds of people on the street, allowing illegal or inappropriate behavior.

We continue to see homeless adults in the area of the district north of Houston Street. DHS will not report figures by community board, but there is agreement among residents that more homeless are seen on the streets and that this trend has been increasing for the

last several years. Current outreach targets chronically homeless (homeless over two years) with case management.

- Manhattan Outreach Consortium reports that on average, once an individual is added to caseload, it takes two weeks to get them inside and off of the street.
- Since 2007, MOC has placed over 700 clients into permanent housing and our retention rate is over 95%.
- Since not all of the homeless fit into the "chronic homeless" category, they are not followed with case management. Therefore, CB 3 believes the current policy of conducting outreach to only chronically homeless individuals should be reassessed to allow for true outreach to all homeless.
- The loss of funding the Advantage Program for transitional homes appears to have resulted in more families in shelters or on the streets. CB 3 believes this funding must be restored.

CB 3 is the summer destination of young homeless travelers. There are many complaints of aggressive and inappropriate public behavior and drugs.

- Lower East Side Harm Reduction and The Space at Tompkins have programs that target this population for services. However, neither of these programs have the ability to provide enough outreach and services.
- Programs such as those at LES Harm Reduction that strive to outreach with a goal of bringing people into their facility for services should be expanded.

CB 3 also supports additional efforts to combat youth homelessness. According to Safe Horizon, nearly 20,000 homeless people 24 years old and younger live in New York City.

- Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ, compared to 10% of the general youth population in the United States. LGBTQ runaway and homeless youth face a unique set of challenges, from greater exposure to HIV/AIDS to being ostracized by their families and communities, and require specialized outreach services to address these challenges. In FY 15, almost \$16 million was included in the City budget to address youth homelessness. CB 3 supports the baselining of this funding and an expansion of programs to reach out to homeless youth, especially LGBTQ youth.
- Homeless youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer are more likely to commit suicide than other youth. In order for the City identify and address youth in this vulnerable population, CB 3 supports the inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the DHS's Homeless Outreach Population Estimate.

Health

Much of the health data used by CB 3 is from the NYC 2011 Community Health Survey. However, it should be noted that this information, while the best we have, includes the following zip codes: 10002, 10003, 10004, 10005, 10006, 10007, 10009, 10038, 10048, 10280, and 10282. CB 3 only includes, 10002, 10009, most of 10003, and small portions of 10013 and 10038. Therefore, we do not have health data that is definitive for CB 3.

Mental Health

According to DOHMH's EpiQuery for 2010 Community Health Survey, our community ranked in the middle third of New York City as a whole for use of counseling or prescription medication for a mental health problem, and in the highest third of NYC communities for a diagnosis of depression. There is a significant need in this district for culturally competent mental health services for residents, particularly with training for our Chinese and Latino populations, as well as an expansion of the limited services currently available for pediatric and adolescent populations and for the LGBTQ community. CB 3 was pleased to see that, after including requests for support for the "Children Under Five" Mental Health Initiative currently provided by University Settlement in several of its prior District Needs Statements, funding was baselined beginning in FY 15.

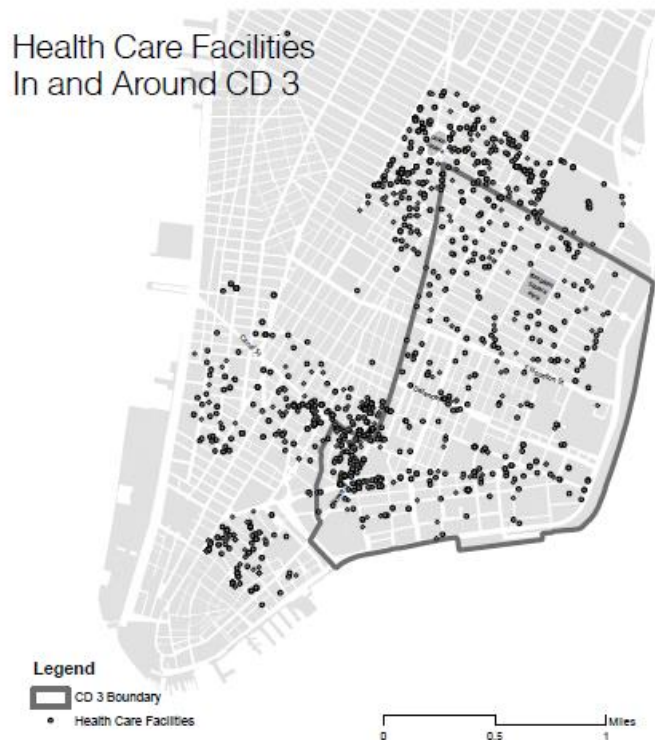
Specific Health Concerns

- **HIV/AIDS** HIV / AIDS continues to be a serious health crisis in CB 3. According to the NYC Department of Health's (DOH) 2011 statistics on HIV/AIDs, there were 3,359 People Living With HIV/AIDS in the Union Square/Lower East Side United Hospital Fund district. Of those individuals, 83% were male and 17% were female. According to the New York City Annual Surveillance Statistics, in 2011 there were 52 AIDS diagnoses and 46 deaths in this district (which includes ZIP codes 10002, 10003 and 10009). It is essential that our community continues to receive educational efforts and services, such as HIV testing services and access to needle exchange programs. Funding is needed to enhance existing programs and to develop better linkages between programs in order to reduce fragmentation of service delivery.
- **Alcohol Use** The DOH 2012 Community Health Survey found that the Union Square/Lower Manhattan district ranked in the top third citywide for binge drinking, with the highest percentage of people who self-reported this. This new survey also showed that both heavy drinking (defined as an average of more than 2 drinks per day for men and more than 1 drink per day for women) and binge drinking (defined as 5 or more drinks for men or 4 or more for women on one occasion in the last 30 days) found approximately 24% of respondents were binge drinkers (compared to 16-17% for New York City overall). Funding for a more comprehensive public health effort targeted at CB 3 is needed to address the interaction of multiple factors to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related problems.
- **Asthma** This community needs funding to reduce known asthma triggers, such as poor housing conditions and rodent and insect infestation, as well as funding to increase education and awareness of how to reduce these triggers and thereby reduce the incidence of asthma. The DOH 2012 Community Health Survey reported the Union Square/Lower Manhattan district ranking in the middle third of New York City for having asthma in that year. New York State Asthma Hospital Discharge data by ZIP codes (from 2008-2010 data) shows variation in asthma rates by age in CB 3; of the population 65 years and older, ZIP code 10002 is among the highest rates (59.4 per 10,000 population) and in the population 17 years and younger.
- **LGBTQ-Specific Care** CB 3 has a growing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community. As this community continues to live and grow throughout

our community, there is a growing need for organizations like APICHA-CHC and Community Health Network that provide LGBTQ-affirming health care services, such as personalized primary care, initiation and maintenance of hormone replacement therapy, and care management. CB supports continued funding for LGBTQ-affirming health care service providers, and an expansion of these services to meet the increasing need of this growing population in our community.

- **Access to Health Care** While over 84% of residents in the district have some form of health insurance coverage, approximately 12.4% - 15.7% (the highest percentile group) of residents in the district did not get medical care at some point in 2012 when they needed it. Considering that over 25% of residents reported that they were in fair or poor general health in the 2012 Community Health Survey, it is essential that there is equitable access to health care services, particularly since most medical facilities are clustered around Union Square and Chinatown (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1. Health Care Facilities In and Around Community District 3



Source: Amy Yang (2014). A Preliminary Inventory and Assessment of Health Care Facilities within Manhattan Community District 3.

Resiliency

Health care facilities and residences servicing those with health care needs require better planning information so that they can safely and efficiently plan for evacuation when necessary. This includes both transportation and sites for relocation.

- Residents in impacted zones need information for emergency health care and prescriptions.
- Hospitals need planning, including backup generators and technology necessary for operation.

Education

Community Board 3 encompasses 31 public schools in Community School District 1 (CSD1) and five charter schools, as well as 14 public schools in Community School District 2 (CSD2). In CSD1, 13 public schools and 3 charter schools serve elementary school age students (from pre-K to 5th grade), five serve middle school age students (6th-8th grade) and four serve students ranging from pre-K to 8th grade. Two secondary schools serve 6th to 12th grade students and six schools serve high school age students (grades 9-12), of which three are alternative high schools serving over-age and under-credited students. In addition, one school serves students from K – 12. In CSD1, 72% of students are considered economically disadvantaged. The largest population of students in CSD1 identifies as Hispanic or Latino (42%), followed by Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other/Pacific Islander (21%), Black or African America (18%), White (17%), American Indian or Alaska Native (1%), and Multiracial (1%). In total, 12% of these students are Limited English Proficient.

Of CB 3's schools located in CSD2, four schools serve elementary school age students (from pre-K to 5th grade), two serve middle school age students (6th-8th grade) and one serves students ranging from pre-K to 8th grade. Seven schools serve high school age students (grades 9-12).

In June 2014, CB 3 approved a policy paper detailing the quantitative and qualitative justifications for building a shared District 1 and District 2 pre-K through 8th grade school to be built as part of the Essex Crossing development site. The paper is available on the [CB 3 website](#). As discussed in the paper, CB 3 made the following recommendations to the Department of Education and School Construction Authority (SCA):

- **Immediately set aside funding** in the Fiscal Year 2015-2019 Capital Plan for constructing a new fully accessible, state-of-the-art public school at Essex Crossing Site 5 to serve pre-kindergarten through eighth grade residents of CSD 1 and CSD 2 with state-of-the-art educational facilities.
- **Conform the new school to local and national pedagogical efforts**, and ensure the new school contains, among other things, science and technology labs, high-speed internet, libraries, art and music rooms, kitchens in which food can be cooked, and gymnasiums.
- **Ensure new school would act as a community hub**, engage community-based organizations (CBOs) for after-school programming, and work cohesively with other projects planned for Essex Crossing, including multi-generational learning, urban gardening, a technology incubator, and an arts space.

Initiatives to address CB 3's education needs, including the construction of a new school at Essex Crossing, must be culturally and linguistically appropriate in order to effectively serve this district's children and families. In addition, CB 3 has several pressing community-wide and district-specific needs for schools in CSD1 and CSD2, which are listed below:

- **Reduce Class Sizes** As detailed in the Essex Crossing paper, CB 3 found that the SCA's City Environmental Quality Review is severely flawed and significantly understates the impact of new construction – and specifically the Essex Crossing development – on local schools. According to analyses conducted by Class Size Matters, class sizes citywide have risen sharply in all grades since 2007, and K-3 class sizes are now the largest they have been in 14 years. Average class sizes in CSD1 are increasing at a high cost to our students and CSD1 has seen the second largest increase in class sizes for grades K-3 of all CSDs in New York City, at nearly 26% since 2006. Specifically, grades K-3 saw average class sizes grow from 19.6 in 2010-11 to 21 in 2012-13, and grades 4-8 grew from 20.1 in 2010-11 to 23.2 in 2012-13. CB 3 supports efforts to reverse these trends and begin reducing class sizes for our students, many of whom are immigrants and low income. CSD1 needs smaller class sizes in early grades, where small class size is directly correlated to improved long-term academic outcomes.
- **Reduce School Overcrowding** Many of our schools – and specifically over 75% of schools in CSD1 – share a building with one or more schools. The real extent of overcrowding in these schools is partially masked, however, as a result of the DOE's Instructional Footprint, which determines space allocations for specific uses and in these shared schools. After 2011, class size standards were eliminated completely, creating even further overcrowding in our schools. Overall, Class Size Matters estimates that the Footprint has reduced the permitted size of classrooms used for regular, specialty, and student support services by 33%. CB 3, CSD1 and CSD2 support revised accounting and formulas to better reflect actual use, capacity and need so as to ease overcrowding of our schools.
- **Restore School Budgets** Since 2007, DOE has cut school budgets 14%. As a result, schools struggle to fund specialized and enrichment courses, as well as materials and supplies, including basics such as paper and postage. This need is exacerbated in CSD1, where many families have lower incomes and are therefore particularly unable to remedy the consequences of deficient funding.
- **Increase Access to Enrichment Activities** Due to the decrease in discretionary school budget funding and a rising emphasis on state testing, enrichment activities have been reduced or cut completely. Our students need increased access to libraries art, music, theater, movement, dance, foreign language and science programs that are critical to their well-rounded development. CB 3 supports increased funding that will allow schools to provide access to enrichment activities for students of all ages.
- **Provide Facilities for Physical Education and Activity** Our children are in dire need of improvements to school facilities in order to meet their bare minimum needs for healthy physical education, development, and recreation. A 2013 survey of the physical education and activity facilities in 31 CSD1 schools reveals that the play grounds are in poor condition or have no facilities or

equipment for play. In addition, five buildings, serving nine CSD1 schools, are not equipped with gyms, and some are unable to accommodate regulation high school games due to their small size. Schools in CB3 are in desperate need of attention and improvement to address the physical education and recreational needs of our students of all ages. Specifically, all Department of Education play yards in CSD1 are in need of significant repair. The JHS 56 Corlears complex needs improved equipment, including equipment appropriate for young children who are now in the building, as well as basketball, track and floor games amenities. Facilities at PS 15 and Marta Valle/LES Girls Prep/SGL also are high priorities due to their high usage and lack of amenities.

- **Address the Lack of Accessible Schools** No new buildings have been constructed in CSD1 since 1975 – over 15 years prior to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act – and most schools are inaccessible or only partially (first-floor) accessible, severely limiting the ability to meet federal mandates and New York City policy promoting inclusion for students with disabilities. Specifically, only four general education (non-District 75) public schools with elementary grades are accessible; two of these schools are located in the same building and a third school is a dual-language program. Only one middle school is accessible and open to all students. CB 3 supports increased accessibility at current and future schools, which will allow students with and without disabilities to fully participate in classroom and after-school activities side-by-side, provide parents with disabilities the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in their child's education, and expand employment options for school personnel with disabilities.
- **Specific CSD1 Needs** CSD1 has one of the largest proportions of students with disabilities among the 32 districts in NYC. With 23% of CSD1 students diagnosed with a disability, proportionate support – especially smaller class sizes – is necessary to effectively serve this high needs population. In addition, 42% of CSD1 students self-identify as Hispanic, but not one of the 21 elementary schools in CSD1 offers a Spanish dual language program. In contrast, 21% of CSD1 students identify as Asian, and CSD1 offers two Mandarin dual language programs.
- **Specific CSD2 Needs** Serving English Language Learners is a priority for District 2, particularly with respect to students arriving in this country at middle-school age or above. The District 2 community also needs supportive services to address various emotional and adjustment issues of its students, some of whom are raised abroad and move to the United States when they are school-age to live with parents they hardly know.

Housing and Land Use

The crisis in affordable housing in Community Board 3 continues to worsen. The Furman Center's State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2013 report notes:

- The median rent for all renters in our community district increased by 19% between 2006 and 2012, from \$900/month to \$1,073/month (2013 inflation adjusted).
- With a rental vacancy rate of 3.9%, units are very hard to come by and affordable units even harder. The 2013 Furman Center report ranks this

board's vacancy rate 26th out of 51 community districts – a jump from 38th place in 2012. This phenomenon is attributable to a number of factors including:

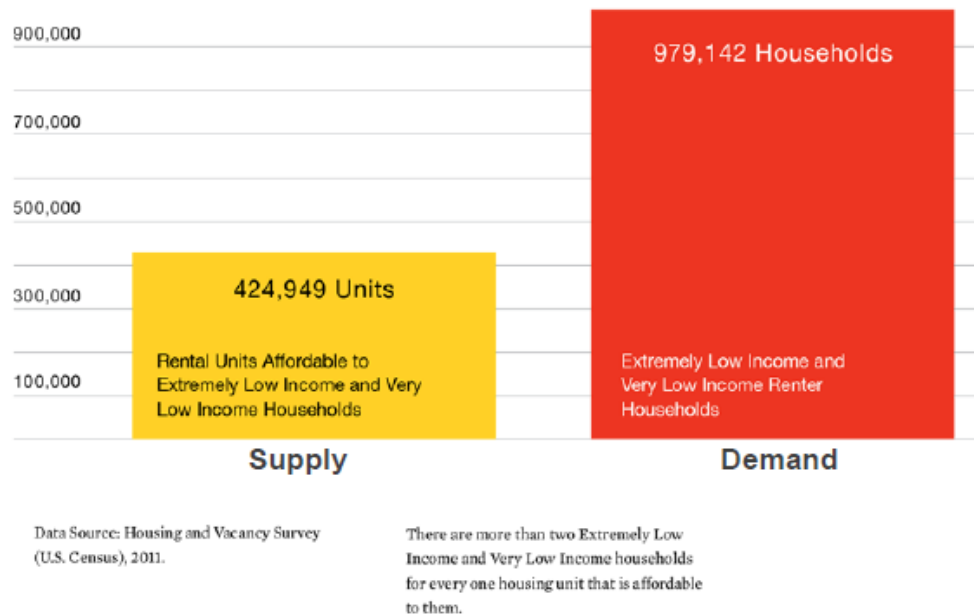
- ♦ The deregulation of rent-regulated existing housing units;
- ♦ Government cut-backs in subsidized housing and rent vouchers;
- ♦ Increasing rents in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments; and
- ♦ The expiration of restrictions on former Section-8 and Mitchell-Lama housing.

Significant governmental action is necessary to curb the alarming change in the community's profile from the most historically important immigrant community in the country – where low-income people from every corner of the world were able to gain a foothold in this county – to a neighborhood that is increasingly stratified and upper income. The income gap is growing; CD 3 has the 6th highest income diversity ratio in the city (Furman Center, 2014). The 2012 Furman Center report stated, "Renter households in CB 3 who have lived in their units for four years or less pay more than twice as much as their neighbors who have lived in the units longer."

We call for all of the following actions to slow the growth of gentrification and to ensure that long-term residents can remain in decent affordable housing:

- **Increase the Stock of the Subsidized Affordable Housing** Over the last decade, federal, state and local government have drastically reduced funding available for the construction or renovation of new affordable housing. CB 3 was once a prime beneficiary of new subsidized low-and moderate-income housing, but, despite the planned 500 units of affordable housing in the Seward Park Urban Renewal Area (SPURA), the rate of this production has slowed. Other than SPURA, the only affordable housing being built is in 80/20 buildings; there are none being built that are totally affordable. Virtually no new Section-8, public housing or Mitchell-Lama housing has been built to replace lost housing stock. The almost complete elimination of Section-8 vouchers has also made it vastly more difficult for low-income and homeless families to find decent affordable housing on the private market. As shown in Figure 1 below, this is a citywide trend affecting extremely low and very low income renter households. In CD 3, which has a poverty rate two to three times greater than that of neighboring Community Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, increasing the supply of affordable units is a priority (2011 and 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Furman Center, 2014).

Figure 1: Supply and Demand Among Extremely Low Income and Very Low Income Renter Households, Citywide



Source: NYC Department of Housing and Preservation (2014). Housing New York: A Five-Borough, Ten-Year Plan. Presentation to Community Board 3 Manhattan.

- **Preserve Existing Public Housing** The over 14,000 NYCHA housing units in CB 3 and the approximately 164,000 units elsewhere in NYC are threatened because of the chronic federal underfunding of this essential housing resource. The cutbacks in funding over the past decade have resulted in under - and deferred -maintenance, raising rents and fees, and threats of land sales. Full federal funding is a key to the preservation of this critical housing resource, but the city should also augment the extremely tight NYCHA budget.
- **Reverse the Trend of Deregulating Rents** The Furman Center reports show that since 2002, the percentage of rent-regulated units in CB 3 declined from 66.3% of the rental stock to only 42 % in 2011. That loss of affordable housing has tremendous repercussions because, in CB 3 alone, the median market rent in 2011 was \$2,775.53/month (2013 inflation adjusted), while the regulated rent was less than half that amount, \$1,247.95 (2013 inflation adjusted), according to a 2011 Furman Center report on rent stabilization in NYC. The loss of this housing stock has had a profound effect on our community. We must reverse the deregulation that has been seriously eating away at our stock of affordable housing since 1993.
- **Upgrade Enforcement of Housing and Building Codes and Fund Community-Based Housing Organizations** Because affordable housing is as threatened as it is, we must fully utilize available governmental enforcement tools to assure that existing housing is maintained adequately and that developers do not alter the housing stock in ways that threaten existing tenants or force them from their homes.
 - ♦ NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)

and Department of Buildings (DOB) must vigorously enforce the Housing, Building and Zoning Codes. HPD needs to ensure that residential structures are adequately maintained and safety standards are met at all times, and that threats to children's health from asthma triggers, lead and vermin are eradicated.

- ♦ DOB must make sure that that buildings are not overdeveloped beyond the legal limits and fire safety regulations are not side-stepped when additions are built on tenement buildings.
 - ♦ Effective plan examination and increased enforcement with tools to enforce regulations is necessary so that non-compliant development does not go unchecked.
 - ♦ Follow up on Environmental Control Board (ECB) and DOB violations to ensure that all violations, including those overseen by the ECB, are corrected and the fines are not merely absorbed by developers as part of their cost of doing business.
 - ♦ Legislation is needed to increase these fines to a level that that makes them a real deterrent to over-development as well as other tools for enforcement.
 - ♦ Federal cutbacks in Community Development Block Grant funding, which has long been used to support HPD and DOB enforcement, will diminish these essential code enforcement services and further threaten our housing stock. These cuts must be reversed.
- **Provide adequate funding to community-based non-profit housing advocacy and legal organizations** This is essential to safeguard existing affordable housing. These groups provide essential assistance to tenants who are fighting the lack of basic services, building code violations, and threatened evictions. Without the work of these community-based organizations, harassment of rent-regulated tenants will be unchecked and long-term residents displaced. The city must increase funding of these groups that provide the first line of defense to community residents.
 - **Legal Reforms to Increase Privately Developed Affordable Housing** Although CB 3 is now located in the economic exclusion zone of the 421-a tax abatement program, we continue to support revisions to the 421-a program that would produce more affordable housing. We believe that the program should be altered to:
 - ♦ eliminate the use of negotiable certificates;
 - ♦ mandate that only 30% of on-site affordable housing can be used to satisfy the abatement requirements; and
 - ♦ mandate that developers taking advantage of both 421-a tax abatements and inclusionary zoning bonuses should allocate 40% of the on-site units for affordable housing.
 - **Make Buildings Green** City policy needs to provide greater incentives to low-income housing providers to reduce energy usage. NYC's 2030 plan sets the goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 30% and since buildings account for 94% of electricity use, energy audits can identify retrofits to reduce waste in lighting, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Federal weatherization funds have been cut drastically in recent years, leaving the weatherization program unable to serve many low-income

applicants. The City should provide matching grants to low-income HDFCs to encourage energy upgrades that will reduce energy costs for low-income buildings, thereby preserving affordable housing while also reducing carbon emissions.

Resiliency

Community Board 3 is currently working with three different plans, two with the City and one in coordination with the City.

EDC is studying of a multi-purpose levee ("MPL") concept to protect Southern Manhattan from the risk of coastal flooding. This effort will evaluate the technical (engineering, environmental), legal, and financial feasibility of developing this type of flood protection infrastructure along a portion of Southern Manhattan's East River waterfront. Community Board 3 has expressed concern that the project must create revenue to pay for itself and therefore may include market rate housing and upscale businesses that will overwhelm the community and completely change the character of the community. Community Board 3 wishes to continue working with EDC on resiliency measures that will be contextual with the community.

In addition, City Planning is studying how to promote flood resiliency while preserving affordability in the East Village, Lower East Side, and Two Bridges neighborhoods. The goals of this plan are to strengthen coastal defenses, upgrade buildings and amend the building code to strengthen new construction, protect existing infrastructure and services, make the neighborhoods safer and more vibrant, and advocate for flood insurance affordability. Community Board 3 looks forward to this collaboration that will promote affordability and preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Rebuild by Design also has won \$335 million for a pilot project—bridging berms that will provide vertical protection for the LES with open space and planted bridges. Walls attached to the underside of the FDR Drive can flip down to prepare for floods. Community Board 3 has supported this concept and looks forward to this collaboration that will provide protection while creating more open space and plantings and include local art.

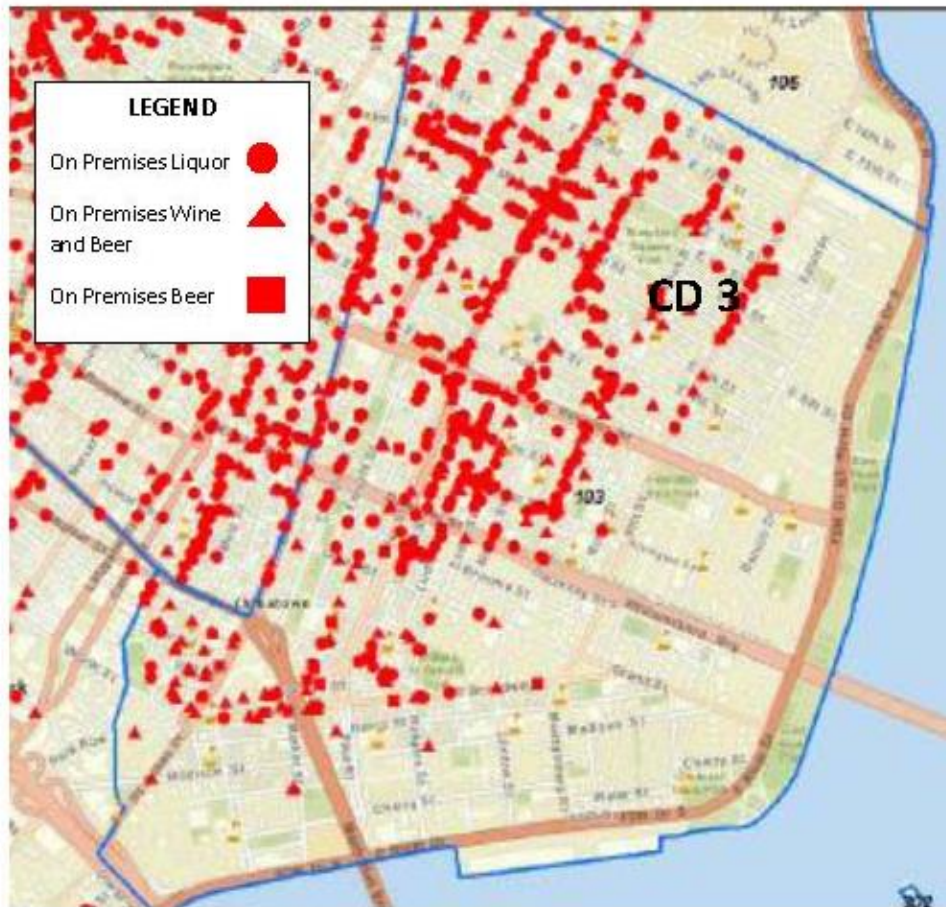
Other protections that are still needed are:

- Buildings in Zone A should be mandated to take steps in upgrading aging infrastructure, waterproofing the building, provide needed water pumps, and provide sufficient backup power generation.
- Proper evacuation/contingency plans for seniors and disabled, and for residents living in high-rise developments must be developed.
- The need for backup generators, particularly to provide for stairway lighting & recharging of electronically operated medical equipment is a priority.

Nightlife and Licensing

Community Board 3, especially the Lower East Side and East Village, has become a nightlife destination with many of its areas densely populated with businesses holding liquor licenses (Figure 1).

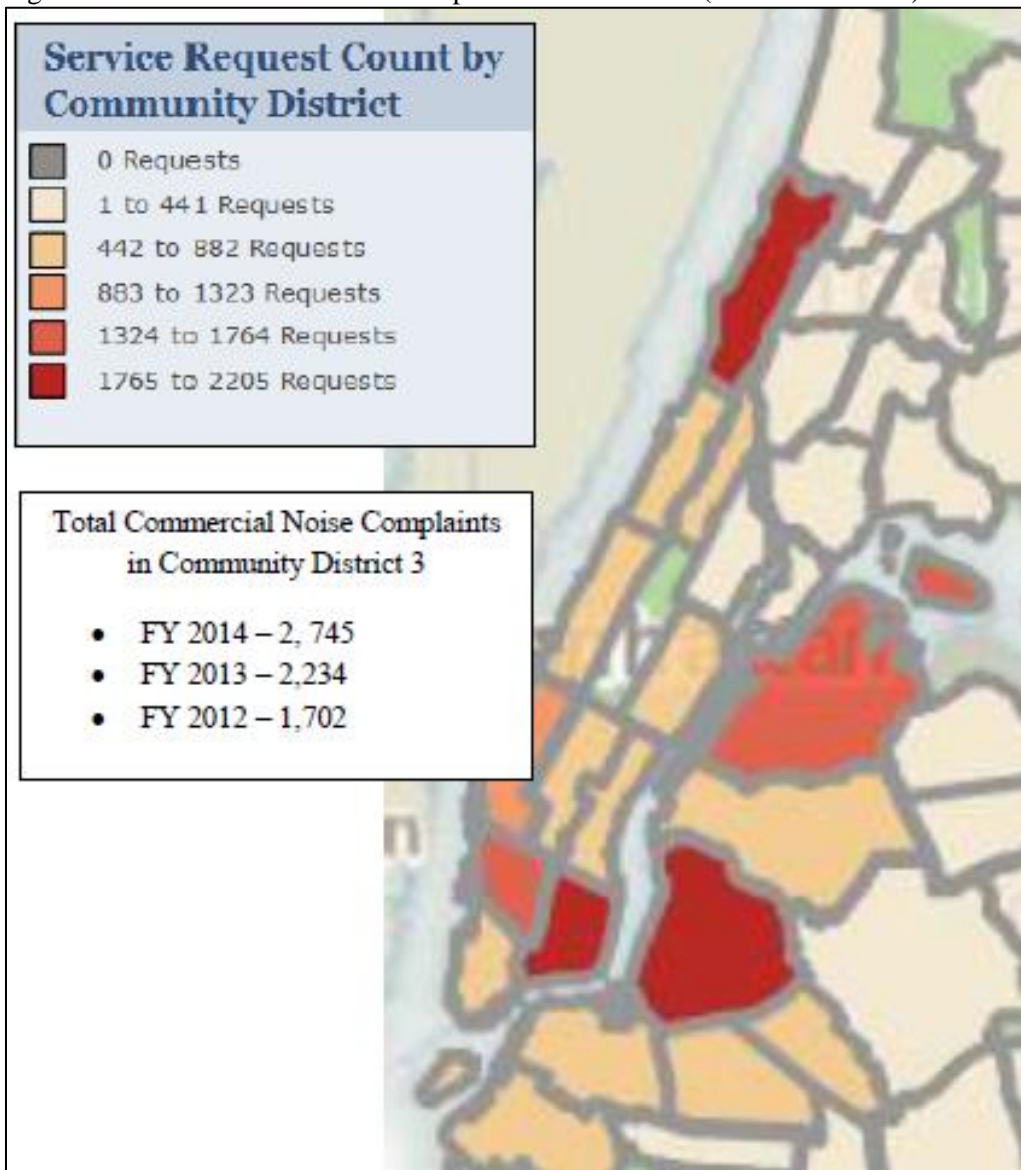
Figure 1. All On Premises Licenses in Community District 3 Manhattan



Source: New York State Liquor Authority Mapping Project – LAMP, 2014

The Community Board office allocates the majority of its time to addressing SLA-related complaints rather than the many complex issues of the District. The number of complaints about licensed businesses continues to rise (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2. 311 Commercial Noise Complaints in Manhattan (Fiscal Year 2014)



Source: New York City 311 Service Requests, 2014)

- Per 311, CB 3 has consistently had the highest number of NYPD commercial noise complaints of all community boards. The 311 commercial noise complaints have increased over 26% in the last year.
- The number of liquor license applications has increased slightly from the last year, 331 to 338. The increase from 2006, when CB 3 starting tracking the number of applications, is from 260 to 338. None of these statistics include renewals of licenses where there have been no complaints.

Community Needs to Address Nightlife Issues:

- Although the local precincts now work more cooperatively with CB3 to resolve noise complaints, all CB 3 precincts need the restoration of specialized cabaret units to more effectively address the rising number of complaints each year, enforce conditions of liquor licenses to insure that business noise is not emanating to the street and assist businesses with managing their sidewalks.
- The City needs to utilize existing tools to address quality of life complaints that result from the oversaturation of eating and drinking establishments and more effectively use its limited police resources. The "6 in 60" legislation that was enacted in 2010 allows police to refer businesses to the SLA when they violate noise laws, fail to control unruly crowds and repeatedly draw police attention six or more times in sixty days. The NYPD, however, is unwilling to use this tool, in that police are not documenting non crimes, such as violations of operating stipulations and quality of life complaints. The NYPD now repeatedly responds to non-crimes instead of utilizing this legislation for repeat offenders. The rising number of commercial noise complaints in CB3 clearly shows the need for more effective quality of life enforcement and the need to use this available tool.
- Increasing numbers of hotels are being developed that include destination nightlife businesses that create more nighttime noise. Some offer rooftop and other outdoor areas that also add to the noise impacting residents. Outdoor nightlife in residential areas should be restricted to early hours so that the quality of life of residents is not impacted.
- With the ever increasing volume of people and vehicles in this district, vehicular and pedestrian traffic and horn honking has become a major complaint. TLC and NYPD traffic police should perform targeted horn honking enforcement operations.
- The City should create infrastructure, such as rat proof baskets and extra sanitation pickups, to address the growing health issues caused by an increased rodent population and greater garbage output because of the numerous eating and drinking establishments in CB3.

Sidewalk Cafes

Sidewalk cafes add to vitality of street life but also create congestion and noise. Lack of DCA staffing has resulted in the loss of routine inspections for permit compliance, as well as the loss of night inspections.

Community Needs to Address Sidewalk Café Issues:

- DCA should create rules to distinguish between sidewalk cafes that are bars and those that are restaurants. This would allow communities to identify appropriate locations where sidewalk cafes will not conflict with residential living.
- DCA should create rules for evaluating sidewalk cafe applications that would examine the 8-foot sidewalk clearance, as well as existing sidewalk congestion, such as locations near subway entrances or bus stops, to ensure sufficient sidewalk access for pedestrians and wheelchair bound residents.
- The City needs to use nightlife revenue to provide staff and resources to monitor and enforce its existing sidewalk café regulations.

Parks/Recreation

Community Board 3, like most districts in New York City, does not meet the City Planning Commission's guidelines for per capita open space according to the Governor's Open Space Report based on the 2010 Census.

- Open space/population ratio is approximately 0.66 acres per 1,000 people.
- The Governor's Report recommended 2.5 acres per 1,000; and NYC averages 1.5 acres.
- Open space is not evenly distributed throughout the district, with the area west of Avenue A and the Chinatown area lacking adequate open space.

Some Parks Department buildings in our community are used as store houses for citywide Parks operations. Given that CB 3 already has so few open space and community facilities, our local parks should not bear this unfair burden for other neighborhoods.

- Stanton Street building at Sara D. Roosevelt Park is now on Parks capital list and received \$1, 000,000 in capital funding from the City Council and the Borough President.
- Three out of four Parks buildings in Sara D. Roosevelt Park are used for Citywide Parks storehouse and supply centers and a central communication center.
- Parks Department should allow the public to reclaim use of the Parks buildings (particularly those within Sara D. Roosevelt Park) by redistributing supplies and the communication center more equitably to other facilities, and programming public use of those buildings.
- The "White House" in Baruch Houses is not operational and is in need of capital repairs.
- The Seward Park building should be utilized for community programs.

Recreational Use

The permitting procedure for recreational permits has improved in having fields accessible to local groups and for fair distribution. However, Community Board 3 asks that Parks increase transparency in the permitting process, as well as revisit public procedures for reviewing and re-approving light usage for night use of fields. CB 3 asks that Parks continue to maintain this fair distribution of park permitting time for local groups.

Lack of park space is compounded by lack of recreational sports fields. This is further exacerbated by permits allocated to groups from outside the community. While we do not seek to exclude outside groups from our parks, we do feel that:

- Priority should be given to local groups, particularly non-profit youth leagues.
- Emphasis on local groups should include a re-examination of Park Department policies that restrict the use of parks and play areas during daytime hours.
- NYC Parks must review and modify the existing grandfather policy for CB 3 recreational fields.

Community Gardens

NYC Parks adopted new rules for licensing of community gardens every four years, where active status gardens in good standing have had licenses renewed. Even so, there remains limited open green space in the community.

- For sites not transferred to Parks, the City should transfer them to Parks or local community land trust organizations to maintain the locations as permanent open community space.
- Community gardens under Parks should be mapped and designated as permanent parkland.
- Since all community gardens have the same maintenance and resource needs as public parks, all gardens under NYC Parks jurisdiction should be provided with adequate infrastructure, such as available water spigots, ongoing topsoil renewal, wrought iron fencing, and electricity/solar lighting where applicable.

Maintenance

Constant maintenance by trained DPR professionals is required. While the City restored proposed cuts to the Parks budget this year, and staffing citywide has increased compared to the previous year, levels are still below full-funded staff needed to maintain parks and staff playgrounds.

Rodents in Parks and Community Gardens

The Community Board 3 district as a whole has had the second highest failure rate for rat inspections in Manhattan, and has continued to be overrun with rats year after year. The failure rate this year is worse than last year, increasing from 7.75 % to 8.3 percent.

- CB 3 Parks that have ongoing rat problems include Columbus Park, Tompkins Square Park, and Sara D. Roosevelt Park.
- Parks Department has only one full time exterminator, which does not allow for adequate baiting. Another exterminator is needed.
- More full-time experienced extermination and staff to maintain and clean the parks is necessary to protect the health and public safety of the community.
- Rat-proof wastebaskets are needed, as well as working with food vendors and providers to ensure clean up.

Tompkins Square Park Events

Tompkins Square Park is popular for loud events, but is the only park in NYC with a concert area in close proximity to residents.

- NYC Parks is working with police and DEP to monitor noisy events in TSP. Parks needs to ensure coordination and implementation of enforcement of noise regulations to ensure a livable neighborhood.

Comfort Stations

Toilets in CB 3 parks and playgrounds are badly needed. Funding is still needed for comfort stations in other parks throughout the district such as Baruch Playground and McKinley Playground.

Wireless Access

CB 3 asks that NYC Parks consider establishing free wireless access in all public parks, such as the network available in Tompkins Square Park, to allow all residents who cannot afford their own wireless connectivity to use their laptops and other devices in parks.

Waterfront

Pier 42 has received funding for the first phase of rehabilitation, but at least \$50 to \$60 million more is still needed. CB 3 strongly urges and expects that the relevant City agencies will raise the necessary funding, fast track, and complete this improvement and stabilization, so that Pier 42 will never be lost as a crucial amenity to this community.

Resiliency

Community Board 3 is currently working with EDC on the feasibility study of a multipurpose levee and with Rebuild by Design on a pilot project from 14th Street to Montgomery Street.

EDC is studying of a multi-purpose levee ("MPL") concept to protect Southern Manhattan from the risk of coastal flooding. This effort will evaluate the technical (engineering, environmental), legal, and financial feasibility of developing this type of flood protection infrastructure along a portion of Southern Manhattan's East River waterfront.

- Members of public have expressed that the new waterfront esplanade should not be destroyed and that the view of the waterfront must not be impaired. The Community Board has expressed concern that the need to generate revenue may result in massive market rate housing that would change the nature of the community.
- If new space is developed on a multi-purpose levee, open space accessible to the community and in context with the multicultural nature of the community should be included.

Rebuild by Design also has won \$335 million for a pilot project—bridging berms that will provide vertical protection for the LES with open space and planted bridges. Community Board 3 looks forward to this collaboration that will increase accessibility to our open space in the East River Park while creating more protection for the community.

Landmarking

Community Board 3 asks that the Landmark Commission expand its feasibility survey of ideal sites for landmark preservation similar to the one it has already done for the East Village. Such landmark feasibility studies should include the immediate area surrounding Tompkins Square Park, Chinatown and the Lower East Side.

New York City Libraries

Community Board 3 has five branches of the New York Public Library (NYPL) system: Chatham Square, Hamilton Fish, Ottendorfer, Seward Park, and Tompkins Square. According to NYPL statistics (Figure 1 below), in Fiscal Year 2014 our libraries have had 1,074,270 visits.

Figure 1. NYPL Statistics for Fiscal Year 2014 in Community Board 3

NYPL Branch	Number of Visits	Program Attendance
Chatham Square	300,877	21,957
Hamilton Fish	162,873	7,460
Ottendorfer	138,452	13,091
Seward Park	326,264	38,807
Tompkins Square	145,804	12,688
TOTAL	1,074,270	94,003

Source: New York Public Library, 2014

Community Board 3 has the highest number of visits in the NYPL system and visits across the district are up 4% from the previous fiscal year. Ottendorfer, Hamilton Fish and Chatham Square had all seen significant increases in the number of visits.

- City libraries now have baselined funding, but this is still below 2008 levels. Funding is needed for books, classes, computers and hours.
- CB 3 branches have the highest levels of use in the City, and preserving library openings to six days a week and restoring full operating hours is an utmost need.
- The libraries are especially necessary to our many low- and moderate-income residents who depend on the libraries for access to books and film and as the only quiet place to read or do homework or other work.
- Residents who have laptop computers but cannot afford internet fees use the library for internet access.
- Our libraries need funding for expansion of collections, automation, staffing, and programming.
- The arts and cultural programming for local libraries in this neighborhood is extremely important to many neighborhood residents, particularly families with children and seniors, who cannot otherwise afford access to commercial venues.

Arts & Cultural Affairs

Our district has historically been an incubator of the performing and visual arts, with a higher concentration of artists and arts organizations than most districts.

- The arts serve as an important means of expression, preservation and exploration of our diverse community and cultures.
- District arts venues, including libraries, community gardens and parks, balance the scales of gentrification by providing local, often low cost, access to arts expressions.
- Cultural venues have a powerful synergistic relationship with neighborhood small businesses and are economic drivers to our local neighborhoods.
- Fourth Arts Block estimates that their member arts organizations generate more than \$24.8 million in annual economic benefits for local restaurants, shops, and

support services. Across the Lower East Side, the economic impact of neighborhood arts groups is over \$50 million.

- Funding to turn these linkages into viable projects cannot be further reduced without negative consequences for artists, youth, seniors, the educational system, small businesses, visitors, and others.

Community Board 3 supports the continued efforts of the Department of Cultural Affairs to foster a healthy creative sector by advocating for:

- City agencies to include commercial and nonprofit arts venues and organizations in their economic planning and development.
- City agencies to work in public-private partnerships to provide reasonably priced electricity and water to community gardens, so they can develop into true community centers for culture.
- Financial incentives for outreach made available to local venues to promote partnerships with local community-based organizations & the use of space to increase public & resident benefits.

Difficult economic times cannot justify threatening the creative arts. The arts community needs to have a healthy, balanced and open-minded society with support for creativity and activities that inspire the human spirit.

Transportation

Accessibility and Safety

Accessibility and pedestrian safety are a Community Board 3 priority.

- Curb cuts are essential to make the sidewalks accessible for people who rely on wheelchairs for mobility. Currently they are forced to travel in the street in some locations. An expedited schedule for the remaining curb cut installations is an essential priority.
- Many existing curb cuts need repair. NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) should prioritize identification and repair of curb cuts that do not meet smoothly with the street bed.
- All crosswalks should be clearly marked and curb cuts should be well-defined in the pavement.
- Ponding and storm drain blockage make it difficult for pedestrians to cross some streets in the district. NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should identify and correct these ponding problems.

New patterns of sidewalk and street usage associated with increased cycling has created the following needs:

- Increased NYPD staffing to enforce traffic laws regarding dangerous cyclist behavior: riding against traffic, on sidewalks, through red lights and without yielding to pedestrians.
- DOT should maintain reduction of pedestrian-cyclist conflicts as a design priority.
- DOT should increase bicycle parking facilities to reduce inappropriately chained bicycles that contribute to sidewalk congestion.

Bridges

The approaches to/from the Williamsburg and Manhattan Bridges are particularly dangerous for pedestrians.

- The Williamsburg Bridge is very confusing and dangerous to both pedestrians and cyclists. There should be a self-enforcing design to prevent the continuous conflicts between pedestrian and cyclist movements.
- Cyclists often use the dedicated pedestrian walkway of the Manhattan Bridge, even though there is a physically separated bikeway on the other side of the bridge. Enforcement and design changes are needed to encourage cyclists to use the correct bikeway.
- In 2012, the Delancey Street Pedestrian Safety Plan did improve safety along that corridor. Similar safety improvements are needed on other traffic corridors, such as Essex St, which is part of the traffic patterns related to the bridges.

Curbside Management

Local businesses need adequate loading/unloading zones for commercial delivery. Curbside parking regulations need to balance competing demands of pedestrians, businesses and motorists.

- Businesses should be encouraged to report needs so that loading zones can be sited, allowing small businesses to comply with regulations.
- Commercial delivery needs must be considered by DOT when DOT assigns on-street bus stop locations through the intercity bus permit system. Existing truck loading zones should not be eliminated if this threatens the continued operation of existing local businesses.

Bus Management

The new intercity bus permit system, along with the increased number of "Chinatown bus" companies, has resulted in layover and staging problems on the streets in Chinatown and the surrounding neighborhoods. Permitting of stops is being done on a case-by-case basis that is driven by individual applicants. This process ignores accompanying issues of staging and layover:

- This should be addressed with a DOT plan to study and locate bus stops and layover zones.
- There should be dedicated enforcement to prevent unauthorized layover.
- There needs to be coordinated information sharing between NYPD enforcement and DOT licensing so that "bad actors" are penalized when permits are issued.

Public Transportation

Community Board 3 is underserved by public transportation. The eastern and southern-most residents of the district will continue to be denied public transportation until the MTA/NYCT restores or extends cross-town bus routes:

- Despite the district's density, many of our residents are poorly served by the subway system and live more than half a mile from the nearest subway stop.
- MTA/NYCT should restore the discontinued Grand Street bus route.
- The City should improve the environment for public transportation within CB 3 by taking strong, creative measures to reduce traffic congestion, which contributes to a vicious cycle of reduced ridership and reduced service. The MTA/NYCT will reduce service after ridership on a bus route drops below a

certain threshold. Service cuts have a severe negative impact on vulnerable populations, including the disabled, who rely on public transportation.

First Responder Services

CB 3 opposes any cuts to first responders and any potential firehouse closures.

- The neighborhoods of the Lower East Side and Chinatown are some of the most densely populated areas of the city and contain hundreds of tenements over a century old that are structurally vulnerable.
- The response areas of 9 fire companies in 4 battalions currently serve CB 3.
- We support the Auxiliary Patrol Units (APU) and the Auxiliary Patrol Support Units (APSU) as necessary to supplement first responder emergency services. The APSU are specialized Rescue Units which cover multiple precincts in support of the NYPD Emergency Service Unit (ESU).

Rodents

Community Board 3 has seen an increased rat problem in the last year. The failure rate for rat findings has increased from 7.75 % to 8.3% according to the Department of Health Indexing. The serious rat infestation problem in Community Board 3 is a public health and safety issue:

- CB 3 consistently ranks in the top two or three worst community boards among community boards in Manhattan for failing rat inspections and is rated as "urgent action required."
- CB 3 ranks third lowest among all NYC community boards for percentage of acceptably clean streets.
- CB 3 is an unplanned destination nightlife district, but does not have the sanitation infrastructure to accommodate this. DSNY litter baskets often overflow. The Department of Health has stated that the number of eating/drinking businesses contributes to this problem, but there is no plan to deal with the problem. Sanitation needs to have more basket pickups on weekends to prevent garbage on the streets that attract rats.
- Sidewalk "rat-restaurant" baskets need to be replaced with rat-proof litter baskets.
- CB 3 is a very densely populated. There are many old tenements without access to indoor storage or compactors. Increased curbside refuse and recycling pickup service are needed.

Environment

CB 3 has few City resources allocated to reduce air pollutant exposure and asthma triggers despite a disproportionate amount of air pollution sources from the expanded 14th Street Con Edison fossil fuel power plant and from the vehicular congestion caused by its three bridges, transportation corridors, vehicle idling, and curb-side bus operations.

- DEP and NYPD should enforce idling regulations. Follow up of DEP violations for idling shows that these are often dismissed.
- Air pollutant exposure is compounded by the heat island effect of roads, artificial turf, and bare roofs, which raise temperatures and elevate ozone levels.

Impacts of Private Development without Infrastructure Planning

CB 3 is experiencing another development boom, and the lack of accompanying planning for sanitation and traffic has resulted in negative impacts.

- This is particularly true in the LES section below Houston. An extreme example can be seen on the Ludlow block below Houston where there are two new hotels with accompanying destination traffic, and a large new residence. Traffic has come to a standstill, businesses and hotels do not have appropriate loading / unloading, which further congests traffic.
- There is not enough garbage collection, at one residence, bags are held in the curb lane, which exacerbates rodent problems, and moved in and out of the street as parking / loading is needed.
- Infrastructure support, including more garbage pickups and traffic planning, is urgently needed.

Resiliency

City Planning and Rebuild by Design will be working with CB 3 and stakeholders to holistically look at how to protect and maintain our infrastructure. The Bridging Berm is an exciting proposal to accomplish protection for everyone in the impacted area. Below are specific needs that must be address in the resiliency plan. This list was developed in the after-Sandy planning.

- Develop a plan for proper monitoring of streets and avenues during crisis to provide for safe traffic flow.
- Provide alternative transportation – Staffs for senior centers and service providers that do not live in the community need transportation to come to work. Access-A-Ride shut down within hours of evacuation, leaving many disabled people unable to evacuate. The breakdown of the transportation system affected businesses and services that are important to public safety.
- There must be a public evacuation transportation plan that is visible and accessible for all residents to utilize efficiently. This is especially essential for those with special needs. First responders should create a traffic plan for emergencies when traffic lights and street lights go out.
- The loss of telecommunications and the overall lack of communication about some utilities in the area presented a major problem during sandy. Traditional public pay phones attached to a reliable landline network are critical to public safety and must be maintained.
- Plans and maps for local charging stations should be created and made available.
- Local groups are creating a plan for hubs and centers for information, supplies, coordinating volunteers and providing care. The City should create a plan to educate and distribute maps of local, emergency resources.
- Emergency infrastructure in case of future power failures is needed. Solar powered cell phone towers distributed throughout

CB 3 should be considered. These require minimal energy and could be activated in case of power failure, and would provide much needed information and communication during a blackout of a power blackout.



Gigi Li
Chair



Susan Stetzer
District Manager