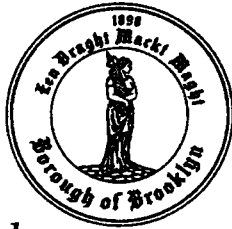


*The  
Borough  
of  
Brooklyn*



# **COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 5**

The City of New York  
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**MARTY MARKOWITZ**  
*Borough President*

**EARL WILLIAMS**  
*Chairman*

**WALTER CAMPBELL**  
*District Manager*

## **Statement of Community District Needs**

### **Community Board 5 – East New York**

Serving the needs of more than 170,000 residents composed of a variety of ethnic and income groups that reflects in a true sense the mosaic mirror of the City of Brooklyn. Its boundaries are from the North: Jackie Robinson Parkway (Queens Border) to the South: Belt Parkway; from the East: Queens city line (border) to the West: Van Sinderen and Louisiana Avenue.

Within our district there are several diverse and distinct neighborhoods such as Cypress Hills' Highland Park, City Line, The New Lots Central Area, and Spring Creek. The needs of these neighborhoods varies but their demands are consistent with overall district needs for affordable housing, economic development, health and social services, education, infrastructure, and public safety.

### **HOUSING**

Affordable housing still remains the #1 priority in this district. We will continue to advocate for the development and building of affordable housing including condominiums and co-op apartments. One of our objectives is to promote the rehabilitation of exiting vacant housing for use as coops or condominiums so that we can enhance stability in our community.

The Department of Housing Preservation and Development needs to have ongoing communications with the board regarding the planning and selection of developers for the development of housing in "Gateway Estates". A good example of community board and the city agency is the Nehemiah Houses East of Pennsylvania Avenue and the Partnership homes in Cypress Hills.

We have consistently sympathized with the city homeless problem by our willingness to accept more than our fair share, and we are saturated with:

- 22 – Residential Care and Temporary Housing
- 5 – Temporary Transitional Housing
- 3 – Large Homeless Shelters.

As in comparison to other community district we have had more than our fair share and therefore request "zero" allocation.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Economic Development and revitalization of commercial and industrial areas is extremely vital for the economic growth of our community. The opening of Gateway Mall is a great start in that direction, with its employment of local residents and its sales is a plus for the local economy. Now we must continue to advocate for completion of the revitalization of Fulton Street and New Lots Avenue commercial area and shopping district.

Since the conversion of Pitkin Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue to Crescent Street as two-way traffic, prime consideration should be given to the development of a commercial corridor along this strip. EDC, DBC, Local LDCs in conjunction with this board need to set-up long range planning objectives and goals for marketing initiatives of the vacant parcels along this strip.

It is imperative that the State of New York maintain funding for administration of the Empire Zone and our commercial and industrial areas.

## **YOUTH/EDUCATION**

Our Beacon schools in the district have proven to be very successful. These Beacon schools are the hallmarks programs of the Department of Youth in our community and must be continuously funded. However, the amount of youth programs that the Beacon schools served does not meet the demands for the amount of youth services and programs needed for this community with such a large housing density.

We will continue to advocate from DYCD to sponsor or help arrange for sponsors to construct a multi-purpose recreational youth center in this community district.

Since there is a new educational program currently in effect for the upcoming school year, we will reserve commentary until this program is completely evaluated.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Health Care and Social Services continues to be one our highest priorities. The construction of the 4th floor at the East New York Diagnostic and Treatment Center, sponsored by Kings County Hospital, must become a reality. We have had an increase in "demand use" at this facility due to the fact of new housing; placement of new shelters housing a large homeless population in need of specialized care.

Our Social Services programs continue to be compounded; currently 42% of our total population received some sort of income support, such as: SSI, Public Assistance, Medicaid, AFDC, etc.

Due to the construction of new Nehemiah Housing west of Pennsylvania Avenue, we are in need of funding for new Day Care Centers in this area.

## **TRANSPORATION-INFRASTRUCTURE**

The infrastructure in East New York is one of the worst in the entire City of New York as every street and all major thoroughfares in this community are in need of some kind of repair. In some cases there is need for resurfacing in others its reconstruction or just merely filling potholes. For too many years we have not been adequately allotted asphalts; therefore, we request an increase in asphalt allocations.

As huge problematic area is the placement and replacement of street signs, traffic and parking signs. It takes an average of 6-months to get signage replaced. We need to get better service in this area.

## **CONCLUSION**

Community board is the first level of city government responsibility for the delivery of municipal services in this district. Our ability to perform depends on the amount of cooperation from the City Agencies and allocated funding for the provisions of essential services.

We look forward to the continued support for the Community Assistance Unit (CAU), Brooklyn Director, Ms. Carolyn Sanders-James for her efforts in resolving problematic issues in this district and making it possible for our board to function efficiently.

This Statement of Needs highlights some of our most pressing needs or concerns of this district. Our requested needs are by no means overstated, and we are prepared to meet with all listed agencies in order to address these needs, so that we may be able to meet our goals and achieve our objectives for the benefit of all East New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Earl Williams  
Chairman