



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 3  
BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION PLAZA  
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## **DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FOR COMMUNITY BOARD 3** **2007-'08**

The Community Board #3 community is experiencing the continued growth that must occur if any neighborhood is to survive. Recent archeological discoveries such as the African Burial Ground, and the artifacts found in Central Park place African-Americans among this city's earliest urbanites. During the 1820's, the settlements of Weeksville and Carville were established within the boundaries of what was then known as Bedford. They were thriving communities where African-Americans had their own schools, businesses, churches, homes, and social groups.

Throughout the rest of the early to mid twentieth century families from the Caribbean islands and others fleeing from the South continued to seek out Community Board #3 as a good place to own property and businesses; raise families; and contribute to the social fabric of the time. Today, we owe our tenacity for survival, strength and cultural preservation to those ancestors. We are proud of our image as a jewel in New York's unique mosaic of neighborhoods.

The boundaries of Community Board #3 are Flushing Avenue to the north; Broadway to the northeast; Saratoga Avenue to the east; Classon Avenue to the west; and Atlantic Avenue to the south. Despite the construction of large-scale public housing developments which occurred during the late 1950's and early 60's, Community Board #3 is best known for its abundance of handsome row houses and brownstones that date back to the turn of the last century. Structures such as "Old Boys High School", the "Tent Building", and the Alhambra Apartments are examples of the area's architectural treasures. A major concern in recent years has been the construction of infill housing by private developers that has become a source of eyesores on the landscape. In addition, the plethora of variances (manufacturing to residential) effectuated in the northeast quadrant has not only decimated the amount of land that could be used for light manufacturing, but it has caused the construction of box-like apartment buildings that do not blend in with the traditional architectural style of the community.

Community Board #3's population represents one of the largest African-American communities in the nation, but it is also home to other ethnic groups; which makes for a rich mix of cultures. During the dark days of the late "60's and early 70's", drug and crack epidemics, bank redlining, the decline in educational institutions, and the lack of municipal services occurred in a convergence that would have totally destroyed other neighborhoods. Yet,

the residents of Community Board #3, in the traditions of old, were determined that their community would not only survive, but thrive. Throughout that entire period, individuals and groups were working to shore up the middle-class base; advocating for fair banking practices; pushing for affordable housing, saving our young from the scourge of drugs, rebuilding our economic base; and demanding improvement in city services.

Into the twenty-first century, the community continues to grow. However, there are major concerns regarding poverty, joblessness, crime, poor health, lack of housing, and homelessness. Community-based organizations, civic groups, elected officials, block associations, and individual activists realize that it is critical to keep the focus on these issues. The partnerships that have been forged between municipal agencies and those local entities working on our issues have been tenuous at some points, but through vehicles such as the District Service Cabinet, the monthly meetings of the Community Board, and various "Town Hall" meetings, the ongoing dialogue brings not only an understanding of the issues but a respect for the unwavering level of commitment to positive change.

Our vision as a premier urban community is clear and direct. It has been set down in the development of the Community Board #3 197-A Plan, which is nearing its final approval stages. The 197-A Plan has become a living blueprint which we use to inform decisions in the near term, as well as to plan for the future. The Fulton Park Urban Renewal Plan is one example of how the 197-A Plan helped the Community Board take a fresh look at this decades-old document and make decisions that were in the best interest of today's residents.

This year, we were able to capture the recommendations of a larger segment of our neighbors by using the public meetings of the Community Board as the base for the public hearings that are mandated as part of this process. Careful thought has gone into each section of this document, as we sought to make strong links between the needs of our community and the municipal service agencies that must respond. It is through the lens of the factors outlined in the 197-A Plan; the lessons learned from all who have gone before, and our own long-range vision of our community that this 2007 District Needs Statement is presented.

The Community Board has been working on and has adopted an affordable housing development policy. While it is still a work in progress, it deals with the necessary issues of the negative effects of gentrification and the housing crisis it creates, i.e., forcing the existing residents out by raising the costs of living within Community Board #3. The issue of subsidize housing construction that is on City owned properties often produce housing which does not meet the needs of CB3 residents; and that housing stock must be allocated in a fair and equitable manner that will allow affordable housing to the low income population, affording them the opportunities to become homeowners.

## **ARTS**

Community Board #3 is currently home to many artists and the former home to many others. It is also the home of a significant number of art and cultural organizations. These run the gamut in terms of their maturity, structure and sustainability. Our community has been experiencing a resurgence of artist associations that need funding, i.e., Bed-Stuy Artist Association (BeSAA). More importantly, in the face of declining investments in the

arts in schools, all of these organizations and their programs provide needed services for the people of Community Board #3. However, many, if not all of them, exist at the edge of financial peril-undercapitalized, under-funded and under-staffed.

Arts organizations have little time and resources to research and pursue funding opportunities. When they do become aware of opportunities they are often competing with each other for the same resources using what little time they have to prepare separate proposals. Consequently, art and culture organizations and programs continue to be under-funded.

In addition, no cultural organization in Community Board #3 has "Cultural Institution Group" (CIG) status. 85% of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs' \$250 million capital budget is allocated to a group of 34 "cultural institutions" which receive significant capital and operating support to help meet basic security, maintenance, administration and energy costs. In Brooklyn, four institutions – the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden –are CIGs.

We need programmatic funding that would address intergenerational cultural storytelling, and a bridge between music genres (jazz, hip-hop rhythm and blues and classical, etc.). We highly recommend community based organizations that will be able to showcase the talents of local artists, with particular emphasis on youth and seniors, without the exclusion of those in between. All are in need of funding and support. There is a need for a program that will train individuals in areas like digital filmmaking and business plan preparation that would facilitate taking an idea from conception to fruition while capturing the culture of our community, to be shared throughout the neighborhood and beyond.

We have several endangered cultural institutions, i.e., the Slave Theatre and the Tent House, both of which need responsible community organizations to assume their operations. The Slave Theater is left unoccupied and unused. This theater could complement the cultural activities planned for the area with BSRC and SONYA, etc.

We would like a fully funded Eubie Blake Theatre at the Von King Park and more public funded art projects in Community Board #3.

## **DAY CARE**

A comprehensive early childhood education is the most important start a parent can give to a child. Yet, infant/toddler care is infrequent in this community. Providers, both center based and family day care, must be given incentives from a pool of monies to increase the number of start-up programs and ownership of facilities to accommodate the number of children who need service within the area. Additionally, training on how to start, run and maintain a safe, quality environment must be provided.

The limited availability of safe, affordable, high quality child care has become a chronic problem in C.B. #3. After-school care services are crucial to keep youth safe and supervised while parents are at work; to enrich learning opportunities; to develop talents;

and to offer creative and recreational outlets not available in school. Because of recent budget cuts, ACD funded centers have had to close many of their school-age programs. Community Board #3 lost three funded programs. A reorganization move in city government has transferred all after-school programs from ACD to division for Youth, emptying out about 200 classrooms in day care centers which are now in need of programs to occupy the rooms leaving parents without care in many instances. Unmet need is highest in Brooklyn. Parents with incomes just above the poverty line frequently go without effective, quality child care because of the cost. Subsidized slots in private facilities are rare. Quality child care should be a right not a privilege. Every parent should have the right to comprehensive care for all of their children. Our children are our future. Treat them well and they will reward you.

The Welfare to Work Program is not successful due to the shortage of licensed facilities. Family day care is insufficient and the lack of licensed center-based care is a hindrance to the Welfare to Work Program. ACD has reduced the number of slots available to the Voucher Program so private care is unavailable to many social service recipients.

This community suffers from lack of quality, licensed infant/toddler programs and programs for special needs children, early intervention programs and services and inclusive programs. Our special needs children are bused out with daily 2½ hour rides for most children.

Maintaining certified teachers is a problem experienced by private and city funded programs. While New York City may believe that more regulation is the answer to all the child care problems, we believe training, higher wages and time off is the key.

## **HEALTH CARE**

Every day thousands of residents are locked out of a health care system that discriminates in its treatment of patients based on skin color, socioeconomic status and geographic location. The result is health care disparities that have had a devastating impact on the prosperity of this community, which has been ultimately left with a reduced pool of future leaders and a declining elder population. Many inner city residents are without preventative medicine. They go to the hospital emergency room when ill. Usually this is too late and the condition has escalated beyond control. Minority men are less likely to access preventative health care; therefore many of our male residents with diabetes, prostate problems and high blood pressure go undetected. Statistics show that 19% of African-Americans, compared with 12% of whites have no health insurance. Minorities are less likely to receive proper cardiac care, kidney transplants and basic clinical services. While many know the risks of smoking, most don't think about the effects of their cigarettes on their loved ones. While you can stop smoking, eating is necessary. Poor diet, excessive eating and a lack of exercise, contributes to higher rates of obesity among African Americans.

Community Board #3 has experienced the loss of one hospital and several WIC clinics. Infant mortality is higher in C.B. #3. Black babies die at a rate of more than three times that of White. Puerto Rican babies die at rates more than twice that of Whites. Commu-

nity Board #3 infant deaths has been among the top 10 highest in the city.

Obesity – The NYC Department of Health lists this CB as highest in obesity. Our children eat more fast food than any other food. At the beginning of the month parents purchase healthy foods and by mid-month begin to purchase food at the bodegas and purchase less fruits and vegetables. Nutrition education is desperately needed.

The new face of AIDS is young, black, female and now people age 50 and above. There is a commercial with beautiful people of all races at a party. Which one has AIDS? The young think they are invincible and develop a false sense of trust especially those in long running relationships. Students are less likely to engage in dialogue about sex and that may lead to risky behavior and lack of knowledge. The senior population is now also being counted in the number of HIV/AIDS cases. There must be a rigorous campaign to get information out to all of our citizenry, as the disease has become so rampant that no one is exempt, regardless of age, sex or , socio-economic status.

Depression and anxiety are other disorders which should be considered. More mental health clinics are needed.

Asthma – Community Board #3 has a growing number of asthma sufferers in all age groups. C.B. #3 needs preventive initiatives in the form of exercise, well maintained green spaces, pest-control and lead paint removal. The high population of rodents within the Community Board #3 catchments area is climbing higher each day. Asthma sufferers have been affected by the increased development and reconstruction being done throughout the community. Baiting is being done haphazardly or not at all. The garbage receptacles that were distributed as a part of the Mayor's rodent initiatives should be placed throughout the entire community because of the increase in the rodent population. We need to have visiting medical personnel go into the schools periodically to impart preventative steps in combating and controlling asthma.

The fight for quality health care is a new civil rights struggle for the residents of Community Board #3. St. Mary's Hospital has been closed. There must be places identified to offset the services that were provided by the hospital

These conditions contribute to high risk of unemployment, homelessness, violence, incarceration and future mental health problems. We desire, for our entire community residents, enhanced health, disease prevention and the ability to achieve a full and healthy life for our residents.

Even though the Health Department provides free inoculations for emergency situations disease outbreaks like the recent occurrences of meningitis, require an extra step. The folk within this community would be better served by taking mobile vans to the people where the outbreaks occur. In some instances, you have to meet the people where they are.

Our babies are at risk because children are being placed in improper sleeping positions. Parental education for teenage mothers would help save the lives of our children.

We want high energy, mental clarity, full functioning and absence of disease as goals for our community.

## **FOSTER CARE**

According to statistics from The Public Advocate for the City of New York, an alarming number of young women in foster care have children or are pregnant. There are insufficient services available for pregnant and parenting foster care youth, as well as, foster parents who care for pregnant or parenting youth. An alarming number of abused and neglected children grow up to hurt their children. Foster parents must be given intense training on how to care for the children that find themselves enmeshed in a bureaucratic system with no other recourse. There is a lack of consistent monitoring of children within our city's child care systems that must be addressed in order to avoid the unnecessary deaths of our young. Too many lives are being lost due to guidelines that prevent action being taken by case workers, e.g., being denied entrance into a home where children are to be monitored.

The foster care system is inundated with grandparents taking responsibility for the care of their grand children. Those grandparents need supportive services. Further, many foster parents require supportive services to assist them in caring for their foster children. Many of these foster children are mentally and socially delayed, either mis-educated or uneducated, emotionally scarred and developmentally delayed. Foster parents must have services to support them in addressing these issues.

## **SENIORS**

Services for seniors are poorly scattered throughout the community. Due in large measure to limited income and excessive home repair costs, elderly homeowners in Community Board #3 have had a difficult time staving off mortgage foreclosure. In Rem property has escalated over the last five years. Tax delinquent properties are three times the citywide rate. Predatory lenders are constantly offering loans to seniors who are unable to repay. The rate of foreclosure actions in Community Board #3 is still high. It is important to establish early intervention and emergency measures to prevent foreclosures and stronger laws to prosecute predators. Programs and resources should be made available for early intervention.

The Meals on Wheels programs must be fully funded. We have a high number of home-bound seniors and this program is vital to the survival of our seniors.

Funding is needed to assist groups that work with our senior population to address issues of isolation among seniors. There should be a campaign launched throughout Community Board #3 to be aware of seniors throughout the neighborhood that isolate themselves. Senior program participants are aware of others that never come out and should be educated as to how and when to report their contemporaries much the same way as child care providers must report abuse. Elderly citizens that isolate themselves from everyone are certainly at risk from such problems as poor nutrition, ill health, depression, injuries etc.

## **EDUCATION**

Although the education system is frequently changed, the children in C.B. #3 must be taught phonics. That is the only way they will be able to attack a word and learn to read.

We advocate on behalf of improved schools.

Increased efforts are needed to provide young people with proper work skills and experience. Our young people must be equipped and enabled to enter the workforce of this city.

We need parenting skills development initiatives. Many parents need to be taught how to parent. A large number of our parents are quite young. Some are as young as 15 years old – still children themselves and they need all the assistance they can get.

We recommend that each school has a population that does not exceed 500 pupils. Overcrowded schools and classes is a deterrent to academic achievement in reading, math and other subjects. Ideally, from kindergarten to eighth grades, class size should not exceed 22 pupils per class.

Each school should have after-school or “extended day” programs, in addition to cultural and recreation programs. There needs to be tutoring and anti-violence counseling that is mandatory, especially in elementary schools. In middle schools, there should be emphasis on preparing students for high school, and special focus on test preparation for specialized high schools. After school programs should also include programming for adults, such as: Adult education, G.E.D. preparation, career counseling, etc.

High school registration should occur in August instead of November. There should be more time spent in focused concentration on preparing and counseling high school students for college.

Our public schools should have functioning libraries and those libraries should be in collaboration with the nearest public library.

It would be advantageous if schools establish a Family Empowerment Center. These centers would be parent friendly and able to facilitate the services of community-based organizations to serve the non-academic needs of the students and their families. Until Family Empowerment Centers have been established, the Community Planning Board Office will serve as an information and resource center for parents.

Recently, the Agency for Child Development school-age programs experienced a reduction in funding. It is imperative that this funding be restored and as a matter of fact, increased. Latch key children are prevalent in this community. Parents formerly on welfare are working yet finding safe child care is arduous. The lack of funding demonstrates a lack of interest in the future of our children. Increased funding for youth programs is an investment in our city's future.

## **PARKS**

We have indicated in our capital budget the need for renovation of several parks, some of which has already taken place. The Herbert Von King Cultural Center is in need of continued upgrading. The park has been renovated but the building is in dire need of complete renovation. The community would benefit from more green spaces.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)'s Marcy Pool is located on Marcy Avenue between DeKalb Avenue and Kosciusko Street, this facility needs to be enclosed and expanded.

The open-air nature of the Marcy Pool renders it virtually unusable eleven months of the year. Enclose the pool and create other recreational and sports facilities within the new enclosure. The remodeling should lead to a facility that complements the remodeled Bedford Y and rival the well-used St. John's Pool. The new facility could encompass a track, fitness center, racquet ball, tennis courts and/or basketball courts. In addition, the site should be explored for additional building construction to provide a multi-purpose community use, such as workshop rooms for youth and senior programs.

DPR personnel and equipment is now aging out. It is our recommendation that before it becomes critical, both should be addressed. The hiring and training of new personnel is paramount as well as, replenishing much needed equipment. Small equipment, i.e., lawn mowers, grabbers and weed whackers are needed.

## **HOUSING**

In an effort to fight the displacement of our residents, we support rent stabilization and resident ownership initiatives. Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable. We propose that affordable home ownership opportunities be made available including affordable co-ops and condominiums. For a community to be successful and thrive, the community must support mixed income housing. Community Board #3 must maintain and increase low income, middle income and market rate housing because a homogenous group can not create or sustain a neighborhood.

There are still many senior citizens who are without affordable housing and do not qualify within the present income guidelines, a review of existing criteria is required. The 202 guidelines eliminate many and should be reformed. Seniors on fixed income, no matter the amount, should be afforded an opportunity to a quality, safe, and affordable housing. Some seniors are no longer able to manage a home and/or would prefer an apartment at this time of their lives, however because of income they can not be considered.

We lack Assisted Living accommodations for seniors in Bedford Stuyvesant. In order to participate in the Assisted Living programs, seniors are displaced from familiar surroundings, family and friends.

Programs need to be developed through HPD for community residents to purchase foreclosure properties with subsidies. Banks which hold large mortgages on properties can give back to the community through the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) here in Community Board #3.

There needs to be a procedure put in place that will monitor private homes that are being used for various social programs within CB3 so that residents and Community Board #3 will know the number of group/programmatic facilities being placed in this community? By comparison what is the ratio of these same types of facilities being placed within other areas throughout the five boroughs?



At this time, Community Board #3 is still in the review process of the zoning study. City Planning is in the final phase of their environmental impact study and they will come before us with the anticipated ULURP phase which should be available in the fall 2006.

Last but definitely not least is the need for a study to address the discriminate housing practices in the northern quadrant of our community that continues with the use of subsidized funding that comes from all taxed citizens. Taxed dollars should not be allowed to discriminate.

## **POLICE, FIRE & SAFETY**

We are in desperate need of increased funding for additional police officers. All of our law enforcement agencies, especially transit need increased manpower. We work closely with both the 79th and 81st precincts but crime, gangs and drugs proliferate in certain areas of the community. We need more visibility of officers on both day and evening shifts and specifically, foot patrol walking the streets of our neighborhood. A task force needs to be developed to pay specific attention to gangs with the Community Board #3 confines not just one that addresses the needs of the entire city.

Our Precincts are still understaffed. There have been increases in manpower but we would like to see them being used where they are most needed. The vehicular fleets of each enforcement agency within this catchments area need to be replaced and/or replenished. The enforcement agencies fleets look as though they are not road worthy for emergency procedures.

It is our recommendation that a community study will assist in identifying social clubs and other entities selling alcoholic beverages within Community Board #3 to insure they are operating legally. Too many places are cropping up without proper licensing. These types of establishments without proper legalization end up being tragic statistics because they are not monitored and do comply with safety guidelines set forth by our City and State.

Bedford Stuyvesant would benefit greatly with surveillance cameras and necessary equipment in the subway stations located within this area. Franklin Avenue, Nostrand, Utica Avenues on the A/C lines; Myrtle and Willoughby stations, as well as Bedford and Nostrand Avenue on the G line, particularly in light of the reduction of token booth clerks and available transit personnel in off peak hours.

Every effort should be made to keep our existing fire houses opened and where possible to reopen those that have been closed. There have been numerous fires throughout Community Board #3 that seem quite suspicious.

Many of our 221 firehouses are turn of the century buildings that need upgrades such as new roofs, apparatus floor replacements, waterproofing, pointing, electrical upgrades as well as, new kitchens and bathrooms.

Funding is requested to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to the public throughout the year in all five boroughs.

The Fire Department provides free CPR training to the public using a special interactive kit that condenses the instruction into 30 minutes. THE FDNY need funding to purchase 10,000 CPR Kits, which include a high-tech mini-training mannequin and a training video. Those who attend the FDNY training session can take the kit home so family and friends can also receive the training, multiplying the effort of this lifesaving program.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Community Board #3 is still reviewing the Transportation Study. This study is analyzing and evaluating the existing conditions within Community Board #3, including the level of service, parking demands, transit utilization and service, and pedestrian circulation. In regard to the future conditions, a comprehensive analysis of anticipated development projects, their trip generation characteristics and their impact on future vehicular traffic, parking, transit and pedestrian components are all being taken into consideration.

Once the Transportation Study is finalized, implementation of its recommendations will require the participation of different agencies and organizations. Among them are NYC-DOT, Brooklyn Borough President's Office, Community Board #3, NYCTA, MTA, LIRR, Taxi and Limousine Commission and our local elected officials. Also, the continued work of the Department of City Planning is essential to assist in anticipation on the future growth of this community.

Since proposed developments are not anticipated to add any additional off-street parking in the Community Board #3 area, and the existing on-street supply will be reduced slightly as a result of the proposed changes via the Transportation Study, we recommend that a municipal parking lot be placed within Community Board #3 and that there be fewer parking meters. We also recommending that strict enforcement is needed in this area to stop illegal/or double parking to keep traffic running smoothly.

The proposed Transportation Study is recommending in the future, various bus lines will operate over the capacity in the peak direction during the weekday AM, PM and Saturday Mid-day peak hours. Community Board #3 concurs that during AM peak hour, B7 (south bound) and B47 (north bound, B48 (south bound) would require one additional bus, B15 (both directions), and B44 limited (south bound would require two additional buses, B49 (south bound) would require three additional buses, B47 (south bound) would require four additional busses, B46 limited (north bound) would require five additional buses, and B46 local would require seven additional buses to accommodate the current and future demands.

During PM peak hour, B15 (both directions) would require four additional buses, and B44 limited (south bound), and B46 local and limited (south bound) would require one additional bus to accommodate the future demand.

During Saturday Midday peak hour, B15 (east bound) would require one additional bus to accommodate the future demand.

It is recommended that at the corner of Brooklyn Avenue and Fulton Street as well as, New York Avenue and Fulton Street signage be install to alert motorist and pedestrians

alike to off-set the hazardous crossing conditions for pedestrians.

We would like to see the subway station exit/entrance at Classon Avenue or Howard Avenue opened.

The Utica Avenue (A Train) subway must become handicapped accessible. At this time, it is not friendly for the elderly or the handicapped. As it is a major transportation hub with both busses and the subway, this circumstance should be remedied. An elevator at Utica Avenue and Fulton Street is a must.

The Board is reviewing the transportation study regarding bike lanes; we have not come to a definitive conclusion at this time.

We need street lighting that is below the tree lines. In the spring and summer, owing to the great number of leaves, the lights have little effect. The lack of adequate lighting is an important safety issue. We also have a problem with low illumination. Lastly, street lights and poles have been removed and/or are just plain inoperable.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Community Board #3 would like to make Fulton Street a cultural tourism destination. Restoration Plaza on Fulton Street is already the site of an array of cultural features including the Billie Holiday Theater. Other activities and developments should be explored to make the length of Fulton Street a Cultural destination reflecting the area and culture of the peoples of the African Diaspora.

The proposed rezoning of the Fulton-Herkimer-Atlantic Avenue Special Purpose District is one of the tools to permit the development of regional commercial activities, such as theaters, banquet halls, museums and other related cultural establishments.

Community Board #3 is recognized for its many brownstones and historic churches. It is also the birthplace and cradle of many musicians, performers and sports figures. A shuttle bus tour should be created that links Restoration Plaza, the Stuyvesant Heights Historic District, other notable places (such as Boys High School and the Magnolia Tree Earth Center), buildings and the former homes of famous personalities.

NYC Tourist Bureau and the Department of Cultural Affairs should integrate information about Community Board #3 into its tour brochures and promotional materials. The City's Department of Transportation should work with the community to design a tour bus route that minimizes traffic disruptions. The Department of Business Services should assist the community to identify a tour operator and prepare local residents to provide guide services.

An Arts incubator would foster cooperation and facilitate the sharing of resources among cultural organizations. It would include professional services such as bookkeeping and accounting as well as business services such as printing and copying. Incubator staff would assist artist and arts groups with research of funding opportunities and aid in the preparation of joint funding proposals. Its mission might be to support the economic

growth and cultural development of Community Board #3 through the expansion and proliferation of art and culture-based business and self-employment activities. This facility might be housed at Restoration Plaza and further strengthen the Plaza's development as a cultural tourism destination.

NYC Department of Business Services should allocate funds and let a contract to facilitate the staffing and operations of an arts incubator. The incubator staff should work in close cooperation with the staff of the Business Improvement District.

Efforts should be made to identify business activities that meet the goals and vision of area residents. Any new development should be planned to reinforce existing businesses and meet market gaps and residential needs and desires and not duplicate existing functions. The Department of Small Business Services and a local community development organization should conduct marketing studies to identify business and consumer needs throughout the district, especially along the proposed rezoning areas (such as Fulton-Herkimer-Atlantic Special Purpose District, Myrtle Avenue corridor, Myrtle-Lewis-Broadway Triangle and main north-south avenues). They should provide recommendations to create high quality retail and restaurants as well as local ownership and employment.

The Fulton First Initiative and the 36th Councilmatic District Task Force have proposed that several of the north/south streets that intersect Fulton Street be strengthened as commercial strips. The small business assistance, marketing and design assistance offered by the Fulton First should be extended to businesses along these finger strips to bolster the overall commercial fabric. Business owners should have facades that are uniform and attractive to the eye, without clutter and unsightly advertisements on the outside.

We need to continue to coordinate strongly formed merchants associations like the Fulton Nostrand United Merchants Association (FNUMA) the Tompkins Avenue Merchants Association (TAMA), the Shops of Lewis Avenue (SOLA); and Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (BSRC). The formation of which has created a visible change in this area.

Plans are underway to form a Business Improvement District (BID) that will monitor cleanliness and safety as well as market the businesses along the commercial strip. This effort is being coordinated by the Fulton Nostrand United Merchants Association in conjunction with the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. In addition, the BID will identify local development corporations that could provide technical and financial assistance to help business owners improve their businesses, develop design standards for commercial strips to enhance the appearance of the retail corridor and to encourage diverse businesses to locate there.

Manufacturing and other industrial sectors, while declining in the City of New York, continue to provide some of the best paying jobs. Community Board #3 has limited land devoted to manufacturing uses, the most important of these is the area generally bounded by DeKalb Avenue to the south, Flushing Avenue to the north, Classon Avenue on the west and Bedford Avenue on the east.

This area is just southeast of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a large industrial complex that is a designated Empire Zone and a Foreign Trade Zone. As part of a state-wide program, certified businesses located within an Empire Zone are eligible to receive significant tax

credits and benefits. A Foreign Trade Zone is a specially designated area, in or adjacent to a U.S. Customs Port of Entry, in which U.S. plants engaged in international trade-related activities follow special customs procedures. Duty-free treatment is accorded items that are processed in these zones and then re-exported. This helps to offset customs advantage available to overseas producers who compete with domestic industry.

In order to address the unique challenges faced by industrial firms and their neighbors in mixed-use areas, the City's new industrial policy includes the creation of the Industrial Ombudsman Program for areas that are outside of the new Industrial Business Zones (new geographic program areas in which the administration promises not to rezone land from industrial to residential uses). The ombudsman who will be designated for parts of Greenpoint/Williamsburg should include the northwest quadrant of Community Board #3 in its catchments area since the area is home to M and MX zones and a concentration of industrial businesses.

Organized recreation activities are sparse in Community Board #3 overall. In parts of the community they are nonexistent, or if they exist, they are difficult to find. The few existing facilities are in a narrow band between Bedford and Tompkins Avenues, Monroe Street and DeKalb Avenue.

Generally, while well served by public transit they are remote from families in the northern and eastern sections of the district where there is a considerable population of youth below the age of 18.

To begin to address the significant need for community recreational facilities, we propose the following developments:

Support Black Veterans for Social Justice's proposal to provide diverse community facilities in the Sumner Armory including: a clinic for medical services and other related health services; recreational activities, including an indoor track, tennis, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and paddleball courts, a bowling alley, swimming pool and a roller skating rink; and a day care center. The development of the Sumner Armory for community use would consolidate diverse and needed community facilities into one of Community Board #3's most regarded historic buildings.

In addition, we especially are in need of a major chain department store and a Multiplex movie theatre to generate employment, to provide a wide range of goods as well as entertainment.

Lastly, we need assistance with marketing the Work Force Development Program collaboration between Black Veterans for Social Justice, Medgar Evers College and Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

This community has been inundated with small shelters. Financial incentives are made available to landlords who are willing to use their property for social programs to house the homeless, formerly incarcerated, victims of domestic violence, mentally ill, sexual abusers, etc. in the community at will. However, no regard is given to the proximity of

such housing units to schools, parks or community gathering centers. Nor is there any oversight of the frequency with which such housing units appear within census tracts or even city blocks. We want HRA and agencies funding these housing options to communicate with community members to structure how and where such housing units/shelters enter C.B. #3., in order to ensure a peaceful co-existence.

## **SANITATION**

The long promised but legally delayed construction of the BK3 sanitation garage which will house equipment and personnel from this community board district must begin without further delay. Relocation, development, site acquisition and building of CB3's facility must be expedited as it continues to be a top priority for this Board as per co-terminality guidelines. The search for an appropriate site began many years ago. With prodding from the former Borough President, a ULURP action taken, a unanimous vote from this community board and approval from The City Planning Commissioner and support from both the former and current mayors a site was chosen at Nostrand and Park Avenues. It is highly suitable in terms of space and location for use as a sanitation garage with adequate accommodations for personnel and vehicles. It is vital that appropriate steps should be taken when all legal appeals to the contrary have been exhausted and rebuffed, that the area be developed for that specific purpose. We look forward to working with those agencies and other parties necessary to make this become a reality.

Illegal dumping in our community is still rampant. An increase in the number of sanitation police personnel (uniformed/ undercover) and strict enforcement are needed to curb this blatant disregard for environmental and sanitation codes. Sanitation personnel must be deployed for surveillance. In addition, a more aggressive lot cleaning program must be implemented to improve the time frame for cleaning vacant lots (whether city-owned or private).

Pedestrian littering codes need to be implemented and/or enforced. More frequent servicing of the litter baskets are needed (7-days per week) to effectively service the litter baskets in this district, especially on our heavily trafficked commercial strips. There are many commercial streets which have no litter baskets. Private citizens are inundated with tickets for blowing trash, i.e., tissues, coffee cups and plastic bags. The agency must vigilantly enforce against those individuals using the litter baskets to dump household garbage, business trash and other building/renovation debris. The cleanliness problems on our commercial sidewalks/streets and the adjacent areas pose detriments which negatively impact on our communities' quality of life. Litter baskets should be placed at major transportation hubs, outside of subway stations, where buses and subways stop on the same corner.

As our community grows, signage needs to be posed regarding littering and curbing your dog. Our streets are already congested and as the density increases, we do want our sidewalks to be dirty or defiled with animal feces.

Also there appears to be an increase in the unsolicited proliferation of excessive illegal postings on light poles, street signs, traffic signals, trees, fences, the sides of existing buildings and bus shelters in this district. It is imperative that the agency take a more aggressive stance

in enforcing against this abuse and code violation that creates blight in our community.

Community Board 3 supports legislation that would fine, deter or prohibit the distribution of fliers placed on all manner of motor vehicle, residential gates, thrown into the yards or placed on the steps, etc. The neighborhood is inundated with unsolicited fliers which end up on our sidewalks and streets.

An education campaign is needed to make our residents and businesses aware that the community as a whole must cooperate and abide by the requirements of the sanitation codes as this enhances our environment and quality of life.

New families are moving into our community as new housing is being rehabilitated, renovated and built. We need more sanitation personnel and equipment and a proper facility within the district to keep the CB#3 catchments area clean.

## **YOUTH**

We need funding for comprehensive programs that will engage our youth to be viably included in the mechanisms of our thriving community. This program would train the youth to define youth issues, work on solutions and learn how to organize, strategize and make a difference for their peers.

Our Youth Services Planning Committee has the Herculean task of splitting a miniscule pie (Youth Bureau Funds) amongst a large number of qualified applications. Cultural, education, job training, drop-out prevention and recreation programs are priorities and each deserves more funding thereby enabling local organizations to carry out their purposes and goals in a community in dire need of their services. Community Board #3 has no recreational center. The surrounding communities have recreational centers and several have indoor pools

If there is a lack of designated space to house these programs, Community Board #3 recommends that we utilize space that is readily available, such as schools. This would provide resources within walking distance to their home without charge to the host organization for fees associated with keeping the facility opened for these programs.

## **CONCLUSION**

Community Board #3 in Brooklyn has become some of the most prime real estate in this city along with Harlem. It is wonderful that everyone is discovering what the residents of this community have always known; this is a rich, wonderful and historic district to work, live and play in. With the influx of new residents and developers alike, the density in our neighborhood continues to grow and our needs become broader and more diverse. We ask that the City not ignore the residents of this community but protect our quality of life and the very contextual foundation that has made Community Board #3 so very popular.