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STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS - FISCAL YEAR 2009

PROFILE

Community Board #3 serves the neighborhoods of North Corona, East Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. The composition of the district is very diverse with residents from every national, religious and ethnic background.

Population

The 2000 census indicates that our population is 169,000, an increase of approximately 32% since 1990. CB#3 has the largest population increase in the entire city. We speculate that our numbers are higher--closer to 200,000. Our community was severely undercounted. Over 40,000 new residents have settled in the Board area, yet, the allocation of uniformed services has relatively remained the same.

The District's land area is 2.8 square miles and is serviced by the 115th Police Precinct; Sanitation Queens West 3; Fire Engine Company 307/Ladder 154 and Engine Company 316; 13 Public schools; 12 private and parochial schools; 2 post secondary degree granting institutions; 4 public libraries; 1 private library; 25 HRA day care/ head start facilities; 15 known mental health facilities; children's group homes operated by Catholic Charities and Human Resources Administration; 9 park/playgrounds; 1 vest pocket park; 7 sitting areas; 8 park strips; Fisher Pool, and the Flushing Bay promenade.

While there are three distinct neighborhoods, we are all working towards a common goal to improve the quality of life for our families and community.

The housing stock is very diversified, encompassing remarkably unified, coherent brick apartment houses and Tudor style row and two-family homes. Some of the finest, architecturally distinctive dwellings in Queens County and the City can be found in Community Board #3, particularly in East Elmhurst and the Jackson Heights neighborhoods. Just

to mention a few notable sites located within the Board is the Jackson Heights Historic District, America's first planned "garden city" and the Louis Armstrong House/Museum, a national landmark in North Corona.

There are a number of lengthy commercial corridors in the District catering to the needs of a full range of resident ethnic groups: Roosevelt Avenue on the southern boundary of the District (shared with Community Board #2 and #4); Astoria Boulevard on the northern boundary; 37th Avenue and Northern Boulevard running through the breadth of the District's residential neighborhoods of Jackson Heights/North Corona and the 74th Street, 82nd Street, 90th Street, Junction Boulevard, 103rd Street retail strips.

The District lies in the shadow of LaGuardia Airport, where some of its residents are employed. Airport related uses along a portion of its northernmost street, Ditmars Boulevard, are obvious with the presence of hotels such as the Garden Hotel, the Marriott Hotel, the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, the Quality Hotel, and on the GCP, the Marriott Courtyard Hotel. National Car Rental also maintains a major facility and the College of Aeronautics is located in the vicinity.

Minor industrial activity is also concentrated in the northern sector of the District, close to the Grand Central Parkway and LaGuardia Airport. The District's showplaces within the M-1 zone is the Bulova Corporate Center, Home Depot and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

What follows are Community Board #3's recommendations and requests for action.

BANKING

There is a critical shortage of banking services within the District, particularly north of Northern Boulevard. The majority of the of banking outlets are congregated in the southern portion of the district in Jackson Heights from 74th to 89th Streets with only a few facilities located in North Corona and East Elmhurst. While we are pleased to see that new banking services have increased over the years, the areas that are sorely deficient, their needs have not been met. Banks must meet their responsibility as members of this community, through the Community Investment Act, to aggressively reach out and market low interest loans. They must be encouraged to invest and provide banking facilities for merchants and residents in North Corona and East Elmhurst, north of Northern Boulevard.

DAY CARE

Affordable and quality day care services should be made available for our children during the most important development years of their lives. In CB#3 there is a severe shortage of facilities. Our children deserve stabilized and nurturing environments that are conducive to learning and foster healthy development. While a new day care center is currently under construction additional programs and facilities are still desperately needed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

One of the defining characteristics of Community Board #3 is its rapidly changing demographic profile. During the past thirty years, our community has experienced significant out-flows of population. This hemorrhaging of population and the negative consequences for the overall economic health of the community has been offset by the influx of new immigrant populations. Many of these new ethnic groups have added to the total mix of business establishments by initiating a wide-range of commercial start-ups. As such, these new entrepreneurs, in concert with other small businesspersons, have preserved

the economic viability and long-term stability of the larger community. In effect, these small family-based businesses have expanded the local tax base, generated the rapid growth of local labor markets, and revitalized the wide-range of commercial corridors found throughout Community Board #3. Moreover, this largely spontaneous mode of economic development has been carried out by entrepreneurs who seriously lack adequate access to technical business resources, formalized capital markets and knowledge of City regulations.

73rd Street: Has rapidly developed over the years and has become a thriving Bangladeshi commercial area. While there is a merchants association in place, the following recommendations will help to make the area more successful:

- Install muni-meters from 37th Avenue to Broadway
- Regulate delivery times- schedule for off peak hours
- Increase sanitation pick up, hire the services of the Doe Fund
- Seek assistance from City Agencies on the proper

74th Street: This commercial corridor has developed into a well known shopping and dining area as a result of the dynamic growth of West Asian entrepreneurial activity. In effect, this corridor has a well-defined ethnic and commercial identity that could be further developed. The following strategies are proposed for the 74th Street corridor:

1. Improve sanitation pick up.
2. Enforce traffic regulations.
3. Increase police/traffic enforcement in the area of 72nd to 75th Streets;
37th Road to 35th Avenues in order to better move traffic and to reduce noise and air pollution.
4. DOT should modify parking regulations and employ muni-meters.

82nd Street: The 82nd Street Business Improvement District (BID) is the only public/private partnership of its type in CB #3. Therefore, it would be worthwhile to use this BID as a model for other commercial corridors in Board #3.

90th Street: While this is the smallest of Community Board #3's commercial corridors, this strip requires assistance and planning to make it a viable entity. Its economic viability is essential to the health of the immediate adjacent residential properties. It should be incorporated into the planned Roosevelt Avenue upgrading.

Junction Boulevard:

1. Establish a strong, active Merchants Association.
2. Improve sanitation pick-up and enforcement.
3. Improve traffic enforcement on Junction Boulevard (between Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue).
4. Address the issue of informal street vending as well as enforcement.

103rd Street:

1. The Corona Business Corporation, a local organization of immigrant entrepreneurs, is proposing that parking for the customers of 37th Avenue to Roosevelt Avenue is developed.
2. Establish a strong, active Merchants Association to meet the specific needs of the rapidly growing immigrant entrepreneurs.
3. Improve street lighting and business facades.

Roosevelt Avenue: Roosevelt Avenue is a dynamic and rapidly growing commercial strip. Most, if not all, of the business people on Roosevelt Avenue are immigrants. Therefore, it is imperative that any economic development initiatives proposed for this strip should be formulated to meet the specific commercial, technical, and language needs of these multi-ethnic immigrant entrepreneurs. There is a need to establish a Business Improvement District and local Merchant's Association. Establish an "Economic Development Task Force" to survey the emerging economic needs of this multi-ethnic commercial corridor; from 69th Street to 114th Streets. Improve commercial facades, street lighting and police security.

37th Avenue: Thirty-Seventh Avenue has professional offices providing medical, real estate and legal services. It is a neighborhood strip with restaurants serving international cuisine that caters to the local community. The portion from Junction Boulevard to 114th Street badly needs revitalization, including the upgrading of roadbeds and curbs. There is a need to establish strong, active Merchants Associations from Jackson Heights to Corona.

Northern Boulevard: The commercial area between 69th and 90th Streets is mostly geared towards automotive needs with car dealerships, auto parts, repair facilities, fast food and sit-down restaurants. This "strip development" is characterized by establishments that cater to traffic-based consumption. Northern Boulevard between 94th to 114th streets contains many uses that is inappropriate. A new study and analysis of Northern Boulevard should include re-evaluation of all uses and development to provide needed services such as supermarkets, drug stores and banks. The commercial uses off the Boulevard into residential areas contain many illegal auto sales lots, illegal auto repair, tire shops and illegal night clubs in the mid 80(s). Economic development initiatives should be targeted to the area between 94th to 114th streets. Historically this section of the commercial strip has received less economic and technical resources than other portions of Northern Boulevard. Moreover, this would balance the commercial viability of Northern Boulevard as it traverses through CB #3. Facade improvement and increased sanitation pick-up would serve to up-grade the image of this commercial strip. The Northern Boulevard Task Force should be expanded to increase its prospective impact on the economic development of this strip.

The Langston Hughes Library is providing stability for the Corona portion of Northern Boulevard. Both the library and the Elmcort facility could serve as anchors for prospective economic development initiatives in this area. The site of the original Langston Hughes Library, located between 102nd-103rd Streets on Northern Boulevard, is strategically located in the center of the Corona commercial district and should be evaluated for its future commercial potential. Any prospective commercial development, along this portion of the strip, should encourage a more diversified business mix that would meet the everyday needs of the residents in the immediate catchment area. There is a need to establish a strong, active Merchants Association on Northern Boulevard.

Astoria Boulevard

1. Improve business facades and lighting.
2. Increase police presence for security purposes.
3. Traffic enforcement is needed to discourage "U" turns.
Left-turn signals should be installed.
4. The entire commercial strip needs revitalization.
Every business must comply with the C. of O. and building codes.

Enforcement must be the same for every residential and commercial establishment throughout the District.

5. There is a need for a strong, active Merchants Association.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Buildings / Zoning

A study and analysis of residential development in Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, and North Corona must be conducted towards a view to maintain the low-density status of these neighborhoods. Traditionally, East Elmhurst, North Corona and certain sections of Jackson Heights have always been comprised of one and two-family homes, with the exception of the co-op areas. In recent years, however, developers have systematically converted these homes into multiple dwellings. A serious review of the zoning regulations is in order. There are two separate studies currently under review by City Planning, North Corona 2 and a study commissioned by Councilwoman Helen Sears for the lower part of Jackson Heights. To effectively address the community's zoning concerns a district wide study that would also take in the neighborhoods located north of Northern Boulevard. City Planning, Department of Buildings, let's work together to ensure that the residential character of these sections of the district are preserved.

Department of Buildings and New York State DEC- Soil Remediation for Former Gas Stations

In recent years there has been a proliferation of gas stations converting into residential facilities. It has been our experience that when these conversions occur not all former gas stations file for the necessary permits with the DEC for inspection and soil remediation. Currently there is no mechanism in place at the Department of Buildings to alert New York State DEC that a former gasoline station has filed for permits to change its use to residential occupancy. All parties involved must look at developing a system that will help to easily identify these conversions so that the owner can be directed to the proper authorities; DEC.

EDUCATION

In Community Board #3 our children are our highest priority. They are growing up in the capital of the world in a time of plenty. They have high expectations and we have high expectations of them. Their lives will be filled with challenges; many of them brought on by a never-ending cascade of new technologies. Among their tasks will be to know which to use, and which to reject. We must provide them with a rounded education that teaches the basics as well as wisdom in these matters.

We have 13 operating public schools, 12 private and parochial schools. There are currently 9 elementary schools, Public Schools 69, 92, 127, 143, 148, 149, 212, 222 and 228 which feed into intermediate school, I. S. 145, and I. S. 230 all are operating at full capacity. The College of Aeronautics, Plaza College as well as the Lexington School for the Deaf is located in the District.

Our public schools remain overcrowded, although some new classrooms have been added. Our children attend huge schools with too many children in each class. Census projections indicate more overcrowding is on the horizon. At the same time, our schools are barely used before and after the school session. We would like to see them offer working

parents the opportunity to drop off their children at 7 a.m., with a healthy breakfast available. Schools should remain open until 10 p.m. and offer a variety of activities; parenting classes, ESL, GED, cross age tutoring, sports, and cultural programs. These activities should be offered by the Board of Education and/or community based organizations. Where possible, these programs should be planned and staffed locally. Programs should also be available during the summer months.

While two Pre-K facilities were recently constructed in our District they are already overcrowded. Space must be found immediately for Pre-K, so that a seat will be made available to anyone in the district that requires it.

We Need A High School

We have no high school in our District and the ones zoned for our children are severely overcrowded. We suggest the Board of Educations consider the following sites for a high school at: Willets Points and the former Standard Box Company located on Astoria Boulevard.

Our Children Deserve The Best

In today's complex society, where most children come from homes where parent(s) work full time, mechanisms must be put in place to allow them the opportunity to fully support their children's education. State-of-the-art communications technology should be made available for the benefit of parents, students and the school staff. Our children deserve only the very best. A first class education entails reducing the class room size from 32 to 20 students, introducing a foreign language in first grade, advanced math, science, geography, history, civics and a lap top for every child to take home.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Provide Funding for the Implementation of the Army Corp of Engineers Recommendations for FLUSHING BAY

The environmental studies and recommendations on the ecological decline of Flushing Bay must be acted upon expeditiously to improve the quality of water in Flushing Bay. Implement total breakwater removal; channel modifications; dredge the inner-bay; creek and restore the wetlands. Bring Flushing Bay back to Pre-World's Fair (1964) condition which would be conducive for the return of wildlife and the wetlands.

Air Pollution

We urgently need air pollution testing monitors installed within our district. Approximately 23 million people drive through our community to access the GCP BQE and LaGuardia Airport each year. We are concerned about the affects the pollution may have on our health.

Noise – Horn Honking

We call upon D.E.P. and the Police Department to monitor and mitigate the excessive horn-honking emanating from cars, trucks and buses that invade our environment.

Constituents residing in and near commercial districts are inundated with horn honking at all hours of the day and night. Include C.B. #3 in the "Silent Night" operation.

Sewer/ Catch Basin Cleaning/ Repairs/Replacement

District-wide residents have reported an increase of sewer back-ups during heavy rains. An assessment of the condition of sewer pipes and catch basins must be conducted. Defective equipment should be replaced as soon as possible. A regular repair and cleaning schedule must be set up and maintained in order to avoid costly emergency repairs.

Fund Study for a Separate Sewer System

Our population has increased significantly since the 2000 census. Neighborhoods that were once comprised of one and two family homes have been replaced with multiple units accommodating six to ten families. The aforementioned changes have placed a great demand on our sewer system and are reflected by the increase of flooding and sewer back-up complaints. Prior to 1996, constituents residing in East Elmhurst north of Northern Boulevard reported the majority of flooding and sewer back-up complaints. Sewer back-up conditions are no longer confined to East Elmhurst; we are receiving complaints from all over the District including areas where the problem did not exist before. A study and upgrade of our sewer system is urgently needed.

HOUSING

Illegal conversions are a reflection of the need for affordable housing. City, State and Federal governments need to develop strategies and programs to alleviate this pressing problem.

A population of seniors, who might retire to other locales, has opted to stay put in the neighborhood and desperately need neighborhood based affordable residences with amenities suitable to their needs. There is only one senior facility within the district and there is a tremendous waiting list. We are in desperate need of additional facilities.

Serious discussions and policy should be developed that allows a senior to downsize his/her apartment without losing SCRIE benefits (while living in the same building or close location) thus freeing up a larger rent-regulated legal apartment.

We need the assistance of a community-based office such as HPD and NSP to educate landlord/tenants of their rights and responsibilities.

Human Resources Administration

The elderly population continues to increase and needs additional care. Home care, escort services, transportation, mental health services and meal funding must be increased, not decreased. In this respect, all efforts must be made to ensure related agencies are better coordinated to provide supplemental and required services to seniors and the working poor.

La Guardia Airport

While one of the positive effects of LaGuardia Airport is the employment factor, it has many negative aspects on the surrounding neighborhoods, such as noise, traffic congestion, air pollution and the pollution of Flushing Bay. Further expansion of the airport to the east should not be permitted as it poses safety, health and environmental hazards. A methodology must be developed whereby the Bay and the surrounding residential neighborhoods are protected.

Less noisy planes, no engine repair and run ups between midnight and 6:30 a.m., limited air cargo expansion, diversion of heavy truck traffic servicing the airport off our residen-

tial streets as well as passenger vehicles, must be vigorously pursued by both the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and elected officials. There have been many studies on each of these concerns. A genuine effort must be made to ensure a healthy environment for our residents.

Port Authority Funds

We are quite disappointed to learn that of the \$ 39. 5 Million just allocated, very little will come to Community Board#3. Despite the fact that LaGuardia Airport literally sits in our backyard; only a tiny fraction of the funds have been earmarked for our District.

In doing a cursory review of the current allocations, much of the funds have gone to JFK, Jamaica Air Train, Willets Point, Streetscape and Traffic Improvements (Rockaway Blvd.), Lighting Improvements (CB#4), Greening Improvements (Rockaway, Springfield Boulevards) just to mention a few. Community Board#3 could definitely benefit from all of the aforementioned improvements and must be included in these projects.

To recap, we request that a health study be commissioned and a plan developed to remediate the ill affects of pollution resulting from the operation of LaGuardia Airport. Power-wash the homes located in Astoria Heights, Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst to eliminate the years of debris that emanate from airplanes. We request sound attenuation; abatement of air pollution / asthma studies ,tree planting and the construction of a separate system to address flooding and sewer back- up conditions in East Elmhurst and through-out the district .

LIBRARIES

In order to serve the needs of our community, the expansion of services is urgently needed. Local libraries must be given the authority to determine their hours and days of operations. Library Administrators know, first hand, the needs of the community and the schedules that are best suited for their customers. We request the following:

Keep Libraries Open 7 Days A Week

CB#3 libraries are heavily utilized, the current 6 day a week schedule does not meet our needs. Provide funds to all libraries to restore seven day a week full-time service.

Expand East Elmhurst Library

While the acquisition process started nearly two years ago, the Community is anxious to see the project move to the next level, construction. The East Elmhurst Library is heavily utilized and requires expansion. The library runs programs during the evenings and weekends, as well as a Latch Key Program year round. The After School Program addresses the needs of children of working parents for supervised activities in a safe and nurturing environment. To better serve the needs of the community, the Library requires additional shelving for books, storage for equipment and seating to accommodate its ever growing number of patrons.

Expand Capacity of the Jackson Heights Regional Library

The Jackson Heights Branch is the most heavily utilized library facility in Northwest Queens. Fully fund the construction of a new facility at the current JHS Library site. A new facility might serve to reduce overcrowding.

Construct Library in Northwest Sector of CD #3

The residents in this portion of the District are sorely lacking library facilities. There is an area in the Jackson Heights Shopping Center located at 75th Street and 31st Avenue where a structure could possibly be built.

PARKS / RECREATION

The number of recreational facilities that are available to all residents of the District is very limited.

Increase Parks and Recreation Personnel in CD #3

The District is sorely in need of additional parks personnel – currently on board is two maintenance workers and three playground associates. In order to effectively manage C.B. #3's playgrounds and parks, staffing levels must be increased.

Fund The Upgrade of the Base Ball Field Located at 78th Street and 25th Avenue

The baseball field is used by our little leagues but urgently require an upgrade; including the installation of a fence and water fountain. There is a severe shortage on recreational space in CB#3. All of our neighborhood parks are fully utilized and there are very few locations where our young people can play. Parks Department estimates that it will cost approximately \$750,000 to make basic improvements.

Increase Forestry Division Budget to \$500,000 per annum to address dead trees, stumps, pruning and planting requests.

An annual commitment of \$500,000. for each Community Board is necessary to effectively address the backlog of complaints for tree pruning, removal of fallen limbs, dead trees, stumps and planting.

POLICE

Women's Holding Cell At The 115th Precinct

Efforts must be made to address the critical need for a holding cell for female prisoners in the 115th Precinct. No provisions have made to accommodate the needs of female detainees. When a woman is apprehended, she is brought to the men's holding area and is handcuffed to the outside of the cell. We believe that the current way female prisoners are handled is inhumane. We therefore urgently request that funds be made available for the construction of a separate holding facility for women.

Staffing Levels

Increase civilian and uniformed personnel at the 115th Precinct. Our population has increased by more than 32% but the allocation of police personnel has remained the same. In order to effectively meet the needs of the community, additional officers and civilian personnel are required.

Operation Impact

We request that Operation Impact be continued; the program is making a significant difference in the safety and quality of life of constituents residing on and around Roosevelt Avenue.

Operation Silent Night

Include Community Board #3 in Operation Silent Night. Noise is generated at all hours of

the day and night by cars, trucks and buses honking horns. Motorists idling engines, loud music emanating from nightclubs and bars must be addressed. Noise is the number one complaint in our district.

CPOP

The Community Policing Officer Program must be reinstated and expanded. The presence of the beat officer has always proven to be an effective deterrent to criminal activity. Additional traffic enforcement staff is also needed in order to reduce the number of traffic violations.

School Crossing Guards

There is a tremendous need for crossing guards in C.B. #3. Many of our schools are located near major thoroughfares. Provisions must be made to ensure the safety of students attending both public and private schools.

Increase Funding To The Police Department and Consumer Affairs to Address Illegal Street Vending /Peddling

Over the years illegal street vending has risen to the top most reported condition within the district. Any day of the week and particularly on week-ends, our streets are crowded with illegal street vendors. Residents report that it is nearly impossible to navigate their way through our local streets. While the Police Department and Consumer Affairs do the very best that they can to address illegal street vending; additional resources and staffing must be made available to them. Funding for week-end and late night inspections is sorely needed.

SANITATION

Personnel

Since 1990 our population has increased by 40,000, staffing levels for QW3 should, therefore, be re-evaluated. Additional personnel and resources must be made available to effectively address the needs of the community.

Increase personnel at QW3, including enforcement agents and Sanitation Police.

Increase Daily Litter Basket Collections

Increase daily litter basket collections in C.B. #3, in order to improve the level of cleanliness throughout the District. Litter baskets located in commercial areas and where there is heavy pedestrian traffic fill quickly and require frequent attention. While local merchants participate in the Adopt-A- Basket program they cannot keep up with the constant overflowing conditions caused by residents and merchants improperly using the baskets. The current collection schedule is not sufficient and therefore requires additional basket service throughout the business day. Special attention must be given to the 73, 74th Street shopping district, 37th Avenue; Junction Boulevard; 82nd Street; Roosevelt Avenue; 90th Street, 103rd Street, Northern Boulevard and Section 33 in North Corona.

Education

A movement to educate / re-educate our residents on their responsibility is in order. Sanitation must launch a campaign to reach people in their language to spread the word about sanitation regulations.

Supermarkets

The Community is growing rapidly with new residential construction going up everyday, ancillary services such as supermarkets, bookstores and libraries are sorely missing. Over the years, our neighborhood supermarkets have been systemically replaced with pharmacies. Our seniors must travel a great distance to do the day to day shopping. It is impossible for them to take the car to go to the shopping center due to heavy traffic and limited parking. Public transportation is not option for many of our seniors. We need more neighborhood supermarkets, bakeries, bookstores and coffee shops particularly north of Northern Boulevard.

TRANSPORTATION

District Wide Traffic Study

Thirty-seventh Avenue, Broadway, Junction Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue, our streets are too narrow to handle the volume of traffic that passes through. A comprehensive study to examine pedestrian, vehicular and parking patterns throughout the entire District is required. The assessment will assist us in developing a plan to effectively manage conditions on our streets.

Street Resurfacing/ Reconstruction

Due to several years of neglect, many of our streets present hazardous conditions. The following locations require urgent attention: 104th Street from 34th to Roosevelt Avenues, 103rd Street from 34th to Roosevelt Avenues, 39th Avenue, 37th Avenue from 104th Street to Junction Boulevard, 35th Avenue from 105th to Junction Boulevard.

Install Traffic Lights– 97th and 100th Streets and 23 Avenue

Twenty-Third Avenue has become a virtual raceway with cars and motor-scooters speeding down residential streets. There are no traffic control devices currently in place at these locations to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and motorists; serious consideration must be given to installing traffic lights at these intersections.

MTA

Street Lights / Roosevelt Avenue / #7 Subway Line

The installation of additional lighting along Roosevelt Avenue will provide a safe environment for shoppers after dusk. The improved lighting will greatly diminish the crime pattern currently existing.

Express Bus Service -- 94th to 114th Streets from Roosevelt Avenue to Ditmars Boulevard

There is no express bus serving Northern Boulevard between 94th and 114th and Astoria Boulevard between 94th and 108th Streets. Express Bus service must be made available to constituents residing in this area. The MTA must be made aware that this section of the district has been greatly under-served.

#7 Line – Paint The EL

The MTA made a commitment several years ago that the "EL" would be painted from 69th Street to 114th Streets. To date, the MTA has not made good on their promise. The EL is unsightly and urgently needs a paint job.

Escalators

The escalators at the 74th Subway Station break down at least twice daily. We request that the MTA seriously look at replacing or upgrading the equipment, we need escalators that are engineered to handle high volumes of traffic and can operate 24 hours a day / 7 days a week without fail.

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Planning Committee has identified the needs and priorities of the youth in our District. Prime in this regard, is to provide expanded recreation and leisure time activities seven days a week, year-round. Public buildings must be made available for day and evening programs. Opening fees and space costs for youth programs should be eliminated. The need to open school buildings in Community Board #3 is particularly acute as the District is almost devoid of open spaces/recreational facilities. Funding for summer and year round youth employment is another critical concern of our community. We urgently need creative, meaningful programs to ensure that our youth will become responsible and productive adults of tomorrow. Employment, training, and recreational programs, play an essential role in the lives of many of our youth. It is imperative that funding for these programs be restored.

We request our fair share of Youth Services dollars. In addition, we are concerned about the way Youth Services screens / evaluates RFP's. The agency recently adopted a policy in which only three members of the Community Board are permitted to evaluate RFP's. Screening members are not permitted to discuss or share information with other Youth Service Committee members or Board members. This practice is very foreign from the way that our Board conducts its business. We request that Youth Services re-evaluate the screening process.

Community Boards

Last but not least, at the end of October 2007 Community Boards were informed that our budgets might be reduced by \$ 5,000 effective January 2008 and another reduction of \$10,000 starting July 2008. We were requested to identify areas within our budgets that could be reduced. CB#3 knew before we started the process, that we could not afford to make any reductions. Community Boards run on a shoe string budget of \$199,000 per year, which includes personnel and other operational costs. While we want to cooperate with OMB, it is not financially or practically feasible. Our meager budgets could not sustain the proposed cuts.

Community Boards were left financially behind in the mid 1990(s), when our budgets were reduced by \$28,000. The full amount of those reductions was never restored. Further, we have never received a cost of living adjustment to our base budget and the cost of postage, supplies, equipment and other operational requirements continues to rise. The impending reductions will severely incapacitate our operations.

We sincerely hope that it will not be necessary to reduce Community Board budgets; we provide essential services to our local communities.

In conclusion, the neighborhoods of North Corona, East Elmhurst and Jackson Heights, more than 200,000 residents, require the services of a fully funded Community Board, all the City agencies and elected officials, working together, to ensure the continued success of C D 3.