



The City of New York Brooklyn Community Board 15



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BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS** **FISCAL YEAR 2009**

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With a continuous increase in population density Community Board No.15 is seeing an economic resurgence and an ever-changing demographic. Community Board 15 will remain in tune with the changing needs of our residents. We will maintain an open dialogue with Community Based organizations and work together to ensure the delivery of services to the District.

According to the Land Use Report of 2005, Community Board No.15 demographics are as follows;

1. Community Board No.15 has the largest percentage of one and two family homes in the Borough
2. The third LARGEST land usepercentage of commercial land use.
3. The LOWEST number of parking facilities in the borough.
4. The third LOWEST percentage of open space.
5. Ranks 6th in the Borough in vacant land.
6. Fourth LOWEST number of multi-family homes in the Borough
7. The third LOWEST mixed use property in the borough (commercial & residential combination)
8. Tied for second LOWEST industrial land use in the borough.
9. A low percentage of transportation and utility land use.
10. An average number of institutions, and falls at the midpoint of all Borough districts.

After a thorough analysis of these facts our needs are clearly defined. Some of the major problems that our Community faces are lack of parking, lack of open green space, possible failure of infrastructure and shortage of affordable housing.

Department of the Aging: During the period 2000-2005, Medicaid subscribers tripled in our Community. This is indicative of the increase in our aging population. What is needed is affordable assisted living and programs to educate our seniors as to what services are available to them. With our large immigrant Community also reaching a golden age, funds should be made available for translators to work at our many senior centers. To ensure the mental health of our seniors we must foster both educational and socialization skills. Volunteer mentor programs can be formed with our local schools. This will allow our seniors the opportunity to give back to our community with their vast wisdom.

Department of Buildings: With the inordinate amount of construction in our District, Department of Buildings must be supplied with an adequate amount of field inspectors. These inspectors must have the equipment and the clerical support needed to carry out their duties. Additional funding must be supplied for evening and weekend inspections. Community Board No.15 has seen a surge in issued permits, complaints, violations and stop work orders. With added personnel each issue could be handled more expediently. Additional staffing is also needed to track complaints and identify abusers of the 311 system.

Department of Environmental Protection: Infrastructure improvements are and will continue to be a Budget priority in Community Board No.15. With the growing population and surge in home construction our infrastructure is threatened. With this congestion, our quality of life is also at risk with the increase of air and noise pollution. Inspectors are needed to work with other agencies to enforce the laws governing music volume whether at neighborhood clubs or at private residences.

Fire Department: Several months ago three people died in an illegal basement apartment due to lack of fire safety training. With our large immigrant population, educational information must be circulated to ensure their safety. Translators must be employed to convey the message that fires must be reported immediately with no fear of recrimination. With our large waterfront area under constant redevelopment it is imperative that we have additional coverage with another 22ft. fire boat moored in our bay

Police Department: The 61st Precinct Stationhouse is in need of rehabilitation. The interior is dated and in need of serious updating. With a large beachfront to be patrolled the 61st precinct in dire need of ATV's to assist in beach patrols. During the summer months additional staffing is needed to man the beachfront areas. The 61st Precinct is home to the largest auxiliary force in the city. Funding is needed for the equipment for these brave volunteers.

Sanitation: With the steady increase in population and housing, additional Sanitation equipment and personnel are needed in our District. During the summer months additional waste baskets and Sanitation pick-ups should be implemented in our beachfront communities. In Gerritsen Beach, alley trucks are needed to maneuver the narrow streets and hairpin turns. Programs should be implemented to allow sanitation workers to clean unkempt homes and work with Department of Finance to charge homeowners for this

cleanup. Exactly when will the new Shell Road garage be ready and what is to become of the existing Knapp Street location?

Transportation: The number one priority in this community is lack of parking. This lack of parking spots has forced homeowners to install illegal parking pads in place of their front lawns. Two of our area parking lots have been sold when we are in dire need of available parking. With several large commercial strips parking solutions must be implemented. Programs must be improved to speed the process of street light outages, replacing missing signs and of time period for repaving. The bicycle lanes in Manhattan Beach seem underutilized while the Department of Transportation insist they remain. The Green Streets plan for Gerritsen Beach also seems ill received by the community. More community input should be considered before projects proceed.

Department of Parks and Recreation: Ranking as third lowest in green space Community Board No. 5 needs to develop the Brigham Street park, located at Brigham Street and Emmons Avenue. This barren land could be an oasis for the many seniors who live in the Nursing Homes around the existing property. Plumb Beach located off the Belt Parkway is a far walk and does not offer a park setting. Our historic Gravesend Community needs maintenance and adoption. These beautiful open spaces could add to the green space of our community with the Parks Department in charge. With the help of the community Manhattan Beach could be updated and offer more enjoyment to the beach goers.

Theresa Scavo

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Chairperson