

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FY/2016 COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Community Board No. 9 consists of four communities, Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill, Woodhaven and Ozone Park. Each has distinct characteristics.

KEW GARDENS is an enclave of tree-lined streets and large homes. The colonial and Tudor style homes are pre-World War II with plots generally 50' by 100' or larger. Mingling with the approximate 1000 private homes are Tudor style apartment buildings of the same vintage, with massive facades, enormous lobbies and inner court yards. There are six story apartment buildings built later. The community is stable. The replacement of Water Mains throughout areas of Kew Gardens caused major problems for residents. Trenches were dug, pipes lined the streets, no parking signs were erected with restrictions that lasted throughout the project. The District Manager had ongoing meetings with the contractor and the community. One of our major issues was arranging for bus transportation for the several yeshivas in the area. With the cooperation of all involved the project was completed in December 2012.

RICHMOND HILL is a community with many multi-generational families. Grandparents, Parents and children reside under one roof or within proximately to one another. This is a Working-class community with strong family and community ties. In the early 1900's, the area was mostly German, Italian and Irish. They are joined by new neighbors from Latin America, Asia and India. The area is rich in tradition and history. Many historic Victorian type homes Lefferts Boulevard is in transition. Large Asian populations, including Guyanese, Hindu and Indian groups have settled in Richmond Hill East. More recently the area has seen an influx of Russian-Jews bringing with them their own unique cuisine. This area is in need of particular assistance to aid in their assimilation into our culture. A portion of Richmond Hill also had major main upgrades and street resurfacing with Project QED999. The District office was again kept extremely busy with calls from residents inquiring about the project,

The WOODHAVEN community can attribute its growth to Jamaica Avenue that in the early 1800's was a toll road. Many wealthy individuals had summer estates in Woodhaven. It was home to the Union Course Raceway. The area contains a well-maintained housing stock of one and two-family homes. Today, the Jamaica Avenue shopping strip is well known through Queens. This 25 block Jamaica Avenue Commercial Strip's stores and businesses through the Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Woodhaven Business

Improvement District is now 21 years old, the only BID in Southwest Queens besides the three in Jamaica. Also, the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation sponsors the Street Festival, noted the Best in Queens. The Woodhaven Community is listed as one of the four second diverse in Queens by the N Furman Center.

THE OZONE PARK community is one of private homes that experienced major growth decades ago and settled into a long standing period of stability. Those who settled were of Irish, Polish and Italian extraction. The 101st Avenue commercial strip has the several remaining Italian - American specialty shops, and the area surrounding St. Stanislaus Church still has many residents of Polish extraction.

The Ozone Park commercial strip is in need of assistance. The Businessmen in Ozone Park re-established the Ozone Park Merchants Association. The group held several meetings and discussed the re-zoning of the 101st Avenue Commercial strip and surrounding area.

An extensive clean-up of the area along 99th and 100th Streets between 103rd Avenue and Atlantic Avenue was undertaken by DEC. This was due to contamination from a business called Enzone. The clean-up required the removal of soil and the venting of fumes from the soil. The fill as then then trucked to a DEC certified dump site. The project is expected to continue into the fall of 2014

The DCP proposed a re-zoning of the 101 Avenue Strip and the final draft will be reviewed by The Department in the fall of 2013. This mom and pop area offers specialties that the local chain stores cannot duplicate coupled with personal attention. The small businesses must compete with the Pathmark Mall and the former Service Merchandise Mall, now Schuckman Plaza located on Atlantic Avenue between 102nd and 104th Streets. The owner has been put in touch with the Borough President's Economic Development Office to seek assistance. It is therefore imperative that additional assistance be forthcoming.

LAND USE

The Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill Community prepared and published a history. Landmark designation for both areas being the goal. We met with the Department of City Planning to facilitate landmark a portion of the Richmond Hill Community Was included in the Kew Gardens Proposal and received Landmark status. DCP has combined the two proposals.

In Richmond Hill particularly, many of their Queen Anne homes are in danger as developers buy and demolish them to create attached row housing. In an effort to facilitate this process the Board in conjunction with the Richmond Hill Historical Society proposed a portion of Richmond Hill for a down zoning. After numerous meetings with the Department of City Planning, the community's the City Council enacted this rezoning effective March 9th 2005.

The Woodhaven/Ozone Park community's agreed to work with City planning to survey their areas. The survey was submitted to City Planning and John Young is in the process of reviewing the recommendations. We are hoping to see the Down zoning scheduled for ULURP by early next year (2013).

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

Forest Park The rehabilitation of Forest Park continues to be a priority of Community Board No 9. It is time for proposals put forth for Forest Park to come to fruition, e.g. security for Oak Ridge, correcting erosion along the Bridle Path. All can be completed with an insignificant outlay of funding. Consideration must be given to concessioning the Bridle Paths. Private for-profit riding stables use Park trails and complain that the trails are not maintained. Without the park to profit from, these stables would not exist. I am again recommending that the trails be operated through a concession agreement.

Continuation of the Forest Park renaissance is a priority. We cannot slide back to the devastation that occurred after the 1975 fiscal crisis. The renovation of Victory Field track Is a completed with council funding.

Oakridge the former Golf House in Forest Park built in 1905 and reconstructed at a cost of 2.5 million in 1993, is the headquarters of the Forest Park Administrators Office.

The Forest Park Band Shell's 3.4 million dollar reconstruction is complete. We have a new state—of-the-art facility with capricious storage bath and dressing room. The Band Shell is used throughout the summer for concerts and special events. The benches were recently replaced with funding from local Council Members.

Programs at the Band Shell include the Queens Symphony programs sponsored by The Forest Park Trust and local sponsors. These programs introduce many newcomers to the amenities offered at Forest Park. Drastic cuts in programs for the Arts make it difficult to recruit entertainment. We urge increased funding to Cultural and Art programs particularly to those whose cuts exceed fifty percent. A community without art and culture is a dead community.

During the past year the once vibrant, lively Tennis Court area has seen a drastic declined in use. This is due to the deterioration of all the facilities. Seven of these courts were resurfaced the remaining seven need funding. The Tennis Courts need resurfacing, new netting and plantings. We are witnessing a decline in our parks facilities that we have not seen since the early 1980's. These issues must be addressed immediately if we are to recover at all.

One of our Parks priorities is Funding to restore the one hundred year old greenhouse for use as a science curriculum education center. The Forest Park Greenhouse is a unique facility within the 543-acre park. The nursery propagates 450,000 plants annually for use throughout the city. Built in the early 1900's, the antiquated houses need to be refurbished. A modernized facility would allow us to offer school and senior groups "hands-on"

educational programs. The Greenhouse provides a safe environment for learning to take place. The Program includes growing and planting in Forest Park. Last year 1.1 million dollars was allocated

Forest Park needs a sustainable landscape management program to rehabilitate park entrances, maintain landscaped areas, restore woodlands, and nature trails and supervise a volunteer program. Funds are sporadically available for this program. To secure this investment and continue to restore Forest Park's 543 acres, the Administrator's office recommends continued support for the Landscape Management Program. The program will address the major natural resource problems, maintain and create formal landscaped areas. It will consist of a crew chief, foreperson, and candidates from the Parks Job Training Program. The Forest Park Trust is committed to this project and will continue to raise monies to help support it. WE REQUEST CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

The Sobelson, Jackson Pond Basketball court and playground rehabilitations are all completed.

The Marco Giovanelli playground is listed in the top ten priorities of our Capital and Expense Budget for ten years. The importance of playgrounds to a community cannot be overestimated. A deteriorated playground suggests and contributes to the deterioration of the surrounding neighborhoods. Conversely, a new, clean, modern playground that provides activities for children and adults, or simply an esthetic place to sit and rest, enhances the entire community. These two playgrounds reflect horribly on our community. They are safety and health hazards because they are in need of paving to correct trip hazards; health, because they both lack basic toilet facilities. Children are forced to relieve them by using the park area. Monies must be made available at once to correct this disgusting situation.

Consideration should be given to the use of the Street Furniture Franchise that includes, 20 Automatic Public Toilets. The APT's could be utilized in Mary Whalan and Marco Giovanelli Playgrounds and would be more feasible financially. Hopefully we can expect completely rebuilt playgrounds and a lovely new Forest Park. Unless new personnel are hired soon, all the rebuilding will have been for nothing. We no longer have RD's and Parks M&O personnel are in short supply.

Policing of the park to preserve and protect citizens and equipment requires the hiring of Park Enforcement Officers. When they are on the job our parks are safe and secure. We request PEP Officers stationed in Oakridge as well a return of the mounted unit both Police and Parks to the Park. We have reached a tentative agreement with both agencies and are seeking funds to construct a shelter in Forest Park to house at least two to four horses.

Officers patrol Forest Park on a limited basis. Vandalism, graffiti and illegal dumping occur regularly. We need 2 PEP Officers year round to prevent these problems. We must have at least two additional officers to work along with the 102 Pct. in patrolling the park.

Funds must be allocated for tree pruning and removal of dead trees. Forestry Division cannot perform the monumental task of tending to our district's trees without the manpower and equipment needed.

The "Civic Virtue" statue was removed on a Saturday without any warning to the Community or the Board, to The Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. The circumstances are questionable to say the least. Questions of who approved the transfer what monies were paid to this private cemetery, and what will happen to this piece of Public Art? Civic Virtue stood at this location since the 1940's The Greenwood Cemetery has restored Civic Virtue and it must be returned to Its former site on Queens Boulevard

BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

The computerization of the Department of Buildings has eliminated an enormous amount of paperwork. The Community Boards' access to information is as close as the BIS system. The policy established to inspect sites with a District Manager or staff member, once a month is working. Hot spots for each Community Board are personally addressed by an individual who is aware of the circumstance. The program needs expansion.

The follow-up on The Department of Building Safety violations is non-existent.. We need a system of follow-up that does not only issue fines and violations, but a one that corrects and cures them. Illegal conversions severely and adversely impact all city services. Single family homes on a residential block of fifty homes converted illegally to three family houses result in three times the amount of garbage, a serious lack of on street parking facilities, and overcrowded schools that cannot provide the proper services to their students. Public transportation problems escalate and most importantly, close living conditions create animosity, adversity and additional problems for the police. This all occurs without the city's knowledge.

From 2000-2003 the Queens Department of Buildings issued 4,860 permits for new two-family Privately owned residential buildings, and 3,424 permits for three and four- family buildings. Our Borough continues to grow at an alarming rate. These numbers are for legal construction. The Board continues to seek out and report illegal construction. Stop work orders on illegal construction must be diligently enforced and acted upon.

COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

**The Reconstruction of Jamaica Avenue provided new streets, curbs, sidewalks and trees. The Jamaica Hospital Medical Center has worked hand and hand with this Board to build up Jamaica Avenue. They constructed a Women's Center in the abandoned post office and Rehabilitated several abandoned buildings for use as office space. All this was accomplished cooperatively with the Community Board. Boundary Fence sits in the middle of the Avenue, they have purchased the property through a Land Use Agreement (ULURP) In December 2009 Community Board 9 passed the following resolution: **

Community Board 9 approves the sale of this property to Boundary Fence and Railing Systems only on the commitment of Boundary Fence to the terms and conditions they have agreed to as stated on the document outlining the physical improvements to the street scrape of the property. The improvements include screening, planting of street trees and trellis, signage improved lighting.

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION

Since welfare reform initiatives began, the City has had great success in moving people from decreased from nearly 1.2 million to 429,900 in June 2003. As more people find jobs, those remaining on public assistance have more barriers to employment. The percent of public assistance cases that are partially or fully unable to work rose from 54.7 percent in June 2002 to 56.4 percent in 2003. These hard core welfare recipients must be to reevaluated, re-categorized and placed in a work environment to become productive workers.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

Community Boards Nos. 9 & 10 has a large senior population and four Senior Centers located in Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park serving 500 meals daily. Our homebound elderly population relies heavily on the “Meals on Wheels” Nutrition Program. This program delivers well-balanced meals to the frail elderly who are unable to prepare nutritional meals for themselves. The program must be increased to meet the demand of our ever growing senior population We are in desperate need of additional vans and drivers to deliver these meals.

There is a need to support the many churches, synagogues and private organizations that fund senior programs. The programs also provide recreation, social and educational programs to the senior population. Without these groups many seniors will spend lonely days shut-in at home with nothing to do. Funding must be made available for our seniors.

The recent budget cuts affected the elderly population the most. In CB9 the Forest Park Senior Center lost 75% of its funding the Hindu Cultural Center in South Ozone Park has fallen on hard times. Although they lost a large portion of government funded centers many sponsored by religious organizations have had to cut back on the number of meals served.

CHILD CARE

For years we searched in an effort to bring affordable Day Care to Board 9. There are several small programs and some Home Day Care slots but they are insufficient and cannot care for the family, affordable day care is a necessity.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Queens continues to be short-changed on several Fire Department programs, i.e. a

dedicated Juvenile Fire setter Program and an Arson Task Force for Auto Crimes. Last year we noted that the Borough lagged far behind Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx in the installation of Emergency Reporting System Boxes.

Many of our 221 firehouses are turn of the century buildings that need upgrades such as new roofs; apparatus floor replacements, waterproofing, pointing, etc. We request specific consideration be given to these requests.

This Board has a large immigrant population, many living in illegal conversions ripe for Fire, we need a Fire Prevention Task Force to deal with this.; the task force should include Department of Buildings, Consumer Affairs, Police, etc.

Funding is requested to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to the public throughout the year. Also, the Fire Department has developed a CPR Training course for the public. This is a life-saving program offered free of charge. We support the FDNY requests for funding to purchase 10,000 “CPR Kits” to be given to each individual taking the course. Use of the kits will enable the fire Department to “train the trainer” as the kits can be used by the public to teach CPR as well.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

As of August 2013 the 102nd Pct. had an increase in crime of 7.92% ranking then 11 of 77 patrol precincts. The high crime areas are Woodhaven Boulevard west to the city line and 103rd Avenue north to Forest Park. We have seen an increase in Felony Assaults, 23.6T, Robberies 0.1% GLA 9.0% Grand Larceny 2.3%

Pocket problem areas in the 102 require special attention.; Jamaica Avenue, 85th Street to the City Line; 101 Avenue, 75th Street to the City line are areas that have drug activity and Quality of Life issues. The prior Social Indicators showed the 102nd Ranking 18th out of 123 precincts Citywide in crimes against properties and persons. We have a total of 3876 major crimes for the year ending 2003. Due to the large caseload additional detectives are required to investitage and further reduce crime.

Allocation of radio cars for supervisors and police officers is a necessity. The supervisors do not have capabilities without autos. An increase in vehicles is required to maintain a running fleet for patrol. Currently the 102nd receives one of the lowers allocutions of RMP's.

The 102nd requires unmarked vehicle for special operations. One additional van is needed to transport Youth truants and an unmarked non-descript vehicle for undercover officers, In order to curb Grand Larceny Auto a vehicle equipped with LO-Jack is needed to tract and arrest the perpetrators.

The two youth officers and 3 Domestic Violence officers and one Domestic violence Sergeant share one vehicle. We need two additional vehicles to better serve the community. We again request additional scooter for the precinct. Currently we have only 1 two wheel and 3 three-wheel scooters assigned. Our regular patrol has 12 to 15 cars.

Our precinct is responsible for patrolling 543 acres of Forest Park. Three wheel-scooters are required for this patrol. Scooters are also effective during the school year at Franklin K. Lane High School and JHS210. These vehicles add to the effectiveness of crime prevention on our commercial strips; Jamaica Avenue, 101st Avenue, Queens Boulevard and Lefferts Boulevard. We request a minimum of nine scooters, three for summonses and three for traffic and three for Forest Park. Bicycle patrols of Forest Park help the Police right crime in areas in accessible to scooters, horses and cars. The Bike Patrol increase brings a need for additional equipment.

We require twenty-three marked Bikes for patrol access and visibility. Our Civilian Patrols throughout the precinct brought a 30.10% reduction in Grand Larceny and Grand Larceny Auto. We request four radios to assist the volunteers in providing information during surveillance. This saves precious time by not calling 911 but calling the Precinct direct.

In 2014 per the request of Deputy Inspector Henry Sautner the 102 precinct is requesting allocation of funds to repair the precinct's parking lot.

Forest Park's 543 acres is the full responsibility of the 102nd. After a sexual abuse incident in August 2013, Deputy Inspector Sautner created a Forest Park Detain in the park throughout the day. We are requesting allocation of three ATV's. If these vehicles are purchased by the Community the Police Department will keep them permanently in the command.

Currently as of July 29th 2014 the Pct. has decreased in crime 33% ranking 29th out of 77 patrol precincts. The quality-of-life enforcement complaints increased over the years. Complaints given to the local police are assigned low priority and the complaint receives no response. The result is that many illegal actions remain uncorrected and unchallenged which encourages the proliferation of these violations. We need expanded traffic control and enforcement.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Cb9 students deserve the same amenities and services extended to other students in the City of New York. They deserve education in a building that is at least up to minimum standards. We continue to advocate for monies to be allocated for construction and maintenance of schools. In District 27 we have more than 44,000 students who are in overcrowded and run-down school facilities. The Youth and Education Committee is concerned with the impact continued budget cuts have on the district's ability to provide basic services to our students. We continue to advocate for affordable Day Care (which is non-existent to our students). And pre-K programs in our public schools. were always accountable to DYCD. It is DYCD who has neglected their responsibility to monitor programs that they funded. Instead, Communities throughout the City is now suffering because DYCD feels that those programs funded in the past, are not in communities of need. How absurd!!!

We are concerned that Community Boards have been cut out of the Planning process and have lost their Community Share/ YDDP allocations. Community Boards have been involved in comprehensive planning for youth services in their districts for over 20 years, and have worked closely with Community Based Organizations and DYCD. One thing we must not lose sight of is that YDDP Funding was set up for all youth in NYS/NYC no matter what their income level may be, and is based on Community Based programming to meet the ever changing needs of that community, and to provide positive places for recreation, tutoring, cultural education, delinquency prevention, special needs populations, i.e. Immigrant youth, disabled youth, etc. It is imperative that Community Boards and the Community Citywide retain a voice and role in this process. Community Boards know the needs of their communities and have a charter mandate to plan for youth services. Community Board's possess unique knowledge of its neighborhoods and have connections to community groups, civic organizations, schools, local government, hospitals, libraries, community based organizations, etc. There must be a place for the Community Boards and the Community in the planning of youth services that will after all, be serving the youth of our neighborhoods.

It is the Charter Mandate of the Community Board to assess the impact of local services in their districts, and it is The Department of Youth and

Community Developments Charter Mandate (Section 733c- Powers and Duties) to plan and coordinate neighborhood services in conjunction with Community Boards and Youth Services Planning Committees. Not just through quarterly Joint Planning Committee Meetings The Community Board and the Education & Youth Services Committee believes in the concept of Comprehensive Planning for Youth Services at the local level as mandated by the City Charter. We support the Comprehensive Planning Initiative, the Letter of Agreement and the prerogative to hire a Youth Coordinator specific to each individual Community Board. This independence is necessary to preserve and ensure that each Community Board has the capability to plan for and coordinate youth services across agency lines. In turn it enables the youth and families in each community board to access their fair share of available services.

In July 1995, the Youth Coordinator line was cut from the city budget. We are a community with an ever growing and diverse population. This has impacted on the service in our communities. Our needs changed with our population. Although we were able to rehire our Youth Coordinator she has additional responsibilities and we maintain that the Youth Coordinator position is a full time unique position. CB #9 requests an increase in funds to address the presence of drugs violence, and bullying. We need school programs to deliver preventive and educational services to address this issue.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Needs Assessment conducted by the Youth Coordinator among existing Youth Programs and services for youth in this district found that C.B.#9 receives no cultural workshops, exhibits or performances throughout the schools. Although there is an abundance of agencies throughout the City which perform at various schools, C.B.#9 is excluded year after year. We request the Department of Cultural Affairs arrange for C.B.#9 to be served within its City contracts with cultural service providers.

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION

Requests additional manpower for daily basket truck service 7 days a week. Many commercial strips are open Saturday and Sunday. The Department has a need for one mechanical broom three times a week, in addition to the one we have. Sanitation is responsible for maintaining industrial area malls that require year-round cleaning, Atlantic Avenue from the Brooklyn Queens Line

to the Van Wyck Expressway and Woodhaven boulevard are cleaned an average of once a year. Mall cleaners must be provided to QW9 on a regular basis during the spring and summer months. The Weeds are sprayed but constantly spring up on the center mall of Atlantic Avenue particular between Lefferts Blvd and the Van Wyck Expressway. The Department of Sanitation Enforcement Unit is important to any community. They are effective in ensuring the cleanliness of the area. An increase in their numbers is requested. C.B. #9 looks forward to today's needs becoming tomorrow's reality.

***Mary Ann Carey, District Manager
Community Board 9***