



The City of New York  
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*The City of New York*

## **Bronx Community Board Four**

**“The Capitol District”**

### **DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT, FY’2012**



The Bronx Museum of the Arts



Bronx County Building



Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center



Yankee Stadium



The Highbridge



The Lorelei Fountain at Joyce Kilmer Park



The Bronx Hall of Justice



Gateway Retail Center



Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice



153<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge

**Rev. Wenzell P. Jackson**  
 Board Chair

**Mr. José Rodriguez**  
 District Manager

## FY '2012 DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT OF BX. COMMUNITY BOARD # FOUR

Community Board Four would like to preface its Needs Statement by indicating that we fully recognize that the document may seem similar to those submitted in the past however, the reason for this is rather simple, we have continued needs that have not been addressed and although we do not favor redundancy or exhausted priorities we must continue to inform the City of our needs. Every year, as part of our Charter Mandate Community Boards participate in the budget process. Our role in ascertaining our needs is an important and constructive measure taken by Community Boards in shaping the district's service and budget requests. This ongoing process requires the involvement of each Board member and committee. The input from Board Member's personal observations, published surveys, public hearings, and discussions with local service chiefs assist in identifying patterns or areas of problems within the community. As we continue to be face with financial uncertainties we must remain vigilant not to allow for cuts that will impact on our quality of life. As we support efforts made by City Government to balance our budget and manage our City, we cannot be idle observers in the process but rather diligent participants assisting our leaders in crafting innovative ways in managing our budget difficulties.

Community District Four, the Capital District is made up of the following Bronx neighborhoods: Mt. Eden, Highbridge, West Concourse, East Concourse, Morrisania and Concourse Village. Our strong, vibrant neighborhoods encompass East 149th Street on the South, East 174th Street on the North, The Harlem River on the West and Webster to Park Avenue on the East. Nearly 140,000 thousand residents celebrate our distinct and varied positive contributions.

Ours is a great place to visit, work and live. We are the host community to the world renown, Yankee Stadium, Mill Pond Park (new waterfront park), 7 Acre Joseph Yancey Track & Field, The Gateway Center, the Borough's Court System, the Bronx Museum of the Arts and many Art Deco buildings along the Grand Concourse Historic District. We are at the very center of the metropolitan region, only minutes from Manhattan, New Jersey, Long Island, and Westchester. We are the administrative center of the County, housing the offices of the Borough President, The District Attorney, the Courts and the County Clerk. There is easy access through major rail lines, roadways, and public transit, both surface and underground.

We will do our best to ensure that Community Board Four receives its "fair share" of charter-mandated resources. Community Boards must continue to be a voice for the voiceless and a strong advocate for every constituency. It is the responsibility of municipal government to provide the services and resources to community districts in this city that will enable them to thrive and meet their goals.

The service demands of each neighborhood and constituency in our district needs to be matched with the appropriate response from the agencies for all categories of service and resources to create healthy conditions in this fast-growing community.

**COMMUNITY BOARDS:** The City Charter states with vigor the importance and obligations mandated to Community Boards. Experience has taught us that intended programs are without meaning when they are without funds. We are currently operating on an internal budget of \$198,895 for a district with nearly 140,000 residents. Actually, the financial figure is far less than that since much of the Board's budget is pre-allocated for

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fixed expenses. Community Boards provide direct and almost immediate access between community residents and city government. That link must be strengthened. Instead, we are being weakened because as many city agencies are reducing services, we are being called upon with greater urgency to fill the gap produced by the reduction of services from other agencies but without the adequate financial resources. We recognize existing difficulties but we believe that Community Boards are the best thing that has happened for New York City.

We are gratified that the City Council with Mayoral support spared Community Boards from budget cuts this time, but while we have regained an inch, we are still miles behind when it comes to an equitable allocation of city funding. With adequate fiscal support, Community Boards can provide the proverbial “ounce of prevention” that makes it unnecessary for the city to pay dearly for the “pound of cure” often needed. We recommend that each agency provide Community Boards with a quarterly progress report on our requests expressed in the District Needs Statement, which continues to receive no attention or consideration. The community should have a clear understanding of what resources we have, what we do not have and why.

### **EDUCATION**

We continue to urge the Department of Education to engage us as partners in the Department's efforts to improving our educational system. We believe that it would be advantageous to the Department to establish a permanent liaison to attend, regularly, our District Service Cabinet and Committee meetings. The benefits associated from such a formal partnership, we believe would provide for a better understanding from parents and out overall community of the general needs the Department of Education. In addition, this open and inclusive process will afford the community to contribute to the process. The Department of Education must be accountable to parents and community residents by allowing them to play a meaningful role in deciding the future of our educational system.

We are pleased to know that there will finally be a Middle School in the Highbridge section of our district. We are however, displeased with the Department of Education along with the School Construction authority only providing for the construction of a 400 seat facility. Although a community will receive what it has fought long and hard for in reality we feel and community sentiment agrees that this does not adequately address the need that our children are facing.

We urge the Department to re-explore options with the community and have a serious dialogue with the School Construction Authority and discuss building a facility that sufficiently provides for our children. In understanding that we were not going to received what have demanded for many years the result was to push for the Department and SCA to develop a high LEED Certified facility with an environmentally friendly facility to include a green roof. After many meetings with agency heads and local elected officials a tentative agreement was made however, once again the community has discovered that we were being short changed due to an apparent lack of funds.

Upon further inspection with community leaders and elected officials it seems that the Department in their capital plan have allocated enough dollars to move on a more robust plan. We continue to be perplexed with the entire process as laid out by the Department and SCA.



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We further call upon the City of New York through the School Construction Authority to be more considerate of Community's as they continue to develop schools on toxic land. They must give due notification to the surrounding area of the site; they must report to the community on a regular basis; and they must follow all rules relating to remediation and site management. More specifically we call upon the Department adhere to the following in relation to the Mott Haven School Campus.

Task	When
Evaluate soil cover under existing schools	Annual with quarterly inspection
Sample soil gas	Semi-annual for five years
Sample indoor air	Before occupancy and once every 5 yrs
Confirm HVAC operation in new buildings	Annual with routine inspection
Monitor groundwater near barriers	Semi-annual
Convene public meetings	On occupancy & publication of annual report
Place signs on entry-ways	Before occupancy
Establish on-line archive	As soon as possible
Develop community involvement plan	As soon as possible

**TRANSPORTATION**: We continue to voice our concerns about traffic conditions in our District and ask that Administration continues to look into the development of the construction of the East 153rd Street Bridge. The project received the Art Commission Award for Excellence in Design and excellence in inter-agency coordination. We know that the Department of Transportation submitted a proposal to receive Federal funding from President's Obama's Stimulus proposals. We join our colleagues in advocating for the construction of the 153rd Street Bridge development which we believed would eased traffic congestion along 149th and 161st Streets, as well as alleviate some of the congestion on local streets in the neighborhood. We will continue to advocate has to not to be redundant but to express to the Administration and the City the importance of this project to this community.

An outstanding concern of this community has been the lack of adequate parking throughout our District especially around the Yankee Stadium area. We are encouraged by the Administrations congestion initiative that look that the area two years ago but discouraged with the inaction of developing neighborhood permit parking. The goal would be to robustly explore initiating a pilot program in our Community. Community Board Four has long advocated for measures that allow for making parking easier while reducing congestion and improving safety. We again welcome the DOT to evaluate how such a program would be beneficial to Community Board Four and will assist in the coordination of merchants, BIDs and other local stakeholders in developing this project. Many in the community continue to be adamant in their request for continued discussions and studies toward a "Residential Parking Permit Program" for the Yankee Stadium area in the Civic Center.

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Our overall goals and needs with respect to our Transportation concerns are:

- Increase safety
- Reduce double-parking
- Reduce pollution
- Reduce congestion from circling vehicles

**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS:** Community Board # Four supports funding requests for this agency to maintain and increase safety inspection personnel, improve inspector training and recruitment. The agency's inspection and enforcement process is an essential support function to local community preservation efforts. It is essential that the agency initiate an educational component to educate the community on the City's building codes and provide monthly reports to the Community Board that outlines the agency's complaints and resolutions. It is important that codes are reviewed to determine if the City sufficiently addresses "greening" in the coding for DOB and HPD.

**HOUSING PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT:** We support the development of affordable housing for moderate and middle-income individuals and families as an added element to our new housing stock. The lack of affordable housing is contributing to the flight of moderate and middle-income people from our district. It is in the interest of our Community District to promote economic diversity within our community. We are strongly advocating for City and State funds for the middle-income new construction program and the creation of assisted living housing for seniors. Also HPD should inquire about the possibility of developing this type of housing within existing developments through mix-use zoning changes.

Community Board Four is a long term strong supporter of greening efforts. As such we call on HPD to collaborate with the Department of Buildings to development of new incentive programs for greening new developments and provide for new codes for new construction requiring green and sustainable elements. Further, we call for new codes requiring owners of existing buildings to upgrade and retrofit to meet green and sustainable standards with assistance from City for these upgrades.

Community District # Four has one of the largest stocks of Art Deco buildings in the nation, and we should make it our obligation to preserve them for historical and artistic reasons. Accordingly, we urge NYC HPD to employ a more concerted effort at effectively reaching building owners to encourage them to participate in the preservation and improvement of their Art Deco buildings in district #4. We cannot emphasize enough the need for continued and increased funding for preservation activities and for NYC HPD's active involvement with the Grand Concourse Historical District. Lastly, we urge the City to be creative as it plans toward rezoning in our District to seek innovative ways to further meet our building needs.

### **DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING**

Bronx Community Board Four is pleased to know that the Bronx Office of NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) submitted a proposal for the U.S. E.P.A. Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Program to focus on the Cromwell-Jerome section of Community

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District Four. The Cromwell-Jerome study area is comprised of 19 blocks in the South Bronx, Bronx, NY. The general boundaries of the proposed study area are: Cross Bronx Expressway (Interstate 95) to the north, Jerome Avenue to the east, 167th Street to the south, Edward L. Grant highway, and Macombs Road to the west. DCP has identified 30 potential brownfield sites in the study area. The pilot initiative aims to foster community involvement in the local planning process specifically with regard to the assessment, cleanup and reuse of brownfield properties in the aforementioned area. We believe that an analysis and planning of this sort will serve the economic development interests and vision of Community Board Four. The following was taken from the application submitted by DCP in-partnership with our office.

*The Cromwell-Jerome study area is heavily automotive and borders stable but high-need residential communities with growing new-immigrant populations. Development and investment in the 19-block Cromwell-Jerome study area have been thwarted by a number of factors, and the area has therefore failed to reach its potential as a viable commercial / mixed-use district serving the surrounding communities. First, due to the overwhelming number of auto related uses, it is suspected that subsurface contamination exists in soil and groundwater throughout the area; the costs of potential brownfield remediation are unknown and therefore daunting. Second, local economic conditions and historical perceptions of the market and its viability have typically required enhanced government subsidies for residential development. These incentives, on the City, State and Federal levels, have steadily decreased in recent years to the point of creating a fiercely competitive environment which favors development unimpeded by these additional environmental challenges. Finally, the current zoning, established back in 1961, restricts permitted uses to light manufacturing and heavy commercial uses such as auto-repair and gas stations, and does not allow residential uses. For these reasons, the City must find ways to encourage investment in underserved areas such as Cromwell-Jerome. Today the Cromwell-Jerome area is **overburdened by auto-related uses**. Both Cromwell and Jerome Avenues, despite their proximity to mass transit stations, are lined with auto chop shops, junk yards, and make-shift auto-repair shops whose operations frequently spill over into the public street. Most of these enterprises have seen little or no investment or clean-up in decades. The most recent development in the study area has been self-storage facilities. In fact, there are three large self-storage facilities and a notable 48 open parking lots/auto-related facilities within the 19-block area. Not only do these uses not generate significant jobs or provide basic services to local residents, they make for a disjointed unattractive streetscape and barren streets after hours and on the weekends. The overall lack of investment and development leaves brownfield-impacted lots unremediated and blighted, adversely affecting neighboring residential populations. DCP has so far identified 30 potential brownfield sites in the proposed study area (based on past industrial uses) that hold important opportunity for reaching community revitalization goals in the Cromwell-Jerome area.*

*Preliminary assessment clearly points to high need in the area for affordable housing (income-limited), local services such as banks and supermarkets, and access to jobs in the Cromwell-Jerome community. A 2009 DCP study also categorized the area as “high need” in terms of increased access to fresh food –the existing retail environment offers limited opportunities to purchase fresh foods, and data show consumption of produce*

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*is low, and the rates of the twin epidemics-diabetes and obesity - are high among area residents. The community also has need to improve links to existing mass transit by improving streetscape, pedestrian crossings, and active ground-floor uses in the area surrounding the subway stations.*

In consultation with District Four members, we applaud the Bronx Office of DCP in their efforts to revitalize and enhance the current character of this district. This endeavor falls directly in line with the Community Board's District Needs Assessment and the initiatives proposed will extremely enhance the current character of the surrounding neighborhood.

We are in agreement with the Borough President's request for DCP to study the area directly east of the Gateway Center for rezoning. The area is prime for a more robust mixed-used development. The Office of the Borough President believes and we concur that reviewing this area would preserve existing structures and fill important zoning gaps to enhance further renewal of the Lower Concourse.

**DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Year after year we have advocated for the increase in funding for youth program and services. We strongly urge DYCD to consult with Community Boards on budgetary matters for we cannot continue to state that our youth are our future and at the same time, because of decisions made that reflect persistent failure to our youth we are not providing them with the economic, educational and social opportunities they need to compete in an ever-changing global market.

With the increase in population, we are experiencing an influx of youth coming into our district. It becomes our obligation to provide them with the life skills they need to mature into adulthood. Consequently, the lack of adequate funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program is a continual concern for the youth of our district. Year after year, summer job opportunities become less and less, which makes it very difficult to assure teens the life and work experience skills they need to enhance their development. Without these opportunities, our young people will be relegated to hanging out in the streets causing disruption to the quality of life of our community residents. In the end, the cost of addressing problems associated with at-risk youth will be far greater than providing them with the resources they need to enhance their productive growth.

**DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING:** One of the areas DFTA is responsible for is to ensure that seniors receive equitable and quality services. What are DFTA's short and long-term strategies to better meet the needs of the elderly population, in a changing environment? We kindly request that DFTA formulate and execute a plan to build stronger partnerships with consumers, community partners, advocates, private and public organizations. Sufficient funding must be allocated to service providers to adequately address service demands and to renovate senior service centers, where appropriate. Accordingly, we want DFTA to support the expansion and continuation of funding for senior centers to meet local needs and provide services for money management for seniors. Lastly, continue elder abuse training services and continue Adult Daycare Social Model and geriatric mental health services.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** As always we thank the continued efforts of the Officers and Leadership of the 44th Precinct, who have been a vital part of the crime reduction efforts.



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As one of the most populous Bronx districts, we continue to urge that our need for Public Safety be measured against our service area and high-density population. Particularly, because of our unique status as the “Capitol District,” we host Yankee Stadium, the Civic Center, several commercial strips, the entire County Court System and more, which adds to an unusual and extensive drain on city resources. We were pleased with programs that brought about the crackdown on drug related activities particularly “operation impact”.

With gang activity, youth on youth crime and other abuses towards our quality of life on the rise, it becomes imperative that sufficient funding be provided to place additional School Safety and Police Officers in the confines of the 44th Precinct. We feel that a focused aggressive enforcement and deterrence strategy applied on relatively minor offenses such as graffiti, loitering, loud music and petty crimes on the principle that this would send a message and enhance our quality of life.

This community is “alive” with activities, events and programs that take place on an almost daily basis. As a result, the burden placed on our 44th Precinct Community Affairs Unit has increased as our population continues to grow. To improve communication between our agencies and to provide better outreach to our community residents, we ask that this agency consider the necessity to provide funding for technological and other upgrades for improved operational efficiency in the 44th Precinct Community Affairs unit. We also urge Deputy Inspector Shea to increase the number of Youth Officers now serving that unit. Additionally, we are requesting funding to support the Cadets and other youth oriented programs which have proven success and acclaim.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** We continue to strongly support an appropriate increase in FDNY & EMS personnel as well as additional equipment and protective gear with adequate funding for terrorism training and equipment needs in order to improve service delivery to our community.

Fund Fire Department budget priorities referenced in the Department’s New Needs for Fiscal Year 2012 report for needed upgrades to the firehouses that are turn-of-last-century buildings:

Firehouse Renovations-Our firehouses are turn of the last century buildings that need upgrades as new roofs, apparatus floor replacements, waterproofing, pointing, electrical upgrades as well as new kitchens and bathrooms.

- a. Emergency Generators
- b. Window Replacement
- c. Bathroom Upgrade
- d. Roof Replacement/Waterproofing
- e. Pointing
- f. Kitchen Renovation
- g. Apparatus Floor Replacement



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Community Board #4, through its Municipal Services Committee, concurs that funding is needed to expand fire safety education and to duplicate additional learning centers for our borough. We call on the City to allocate adequate funding for FDNY public education programs that includes CPR training and to purchase smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to distribute yearly to the public.

We continue to urge the Department to restore the Bureau of Fire Investigations Bronx-based Office. The ability of Fire Marshals to investigate fires in the Bronx, already jeopardized by the initial move, will continue to be further impaired. And so we request that this agency provide us with a full statistical account on the impact these actions have had on Fire Marshal operations here in our district, with a view towards increasing Fire Marshal personnel to our community.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** This agency has been unable to reach a highly successful level of water conservation through its Hydro-Lock program. Although a decrease has been observed, this summer, we again witnessed many open fire hydrants dispensing huge quantities of water. We do however commend DEP for the innovative "HEAT" program.

What steps DEP will take to prevent the public from opening fire hydrants? Improved technology is needed with the installed hydro locks; they are not working. The effective closure of these fire hydrants can assist in water waste and water pressure preservation, critical to putting out fires.

Community Board # Four urges an increase in field operations personnel in order to meet the current need for service delivery. We are requesting that adequate funds be allocated to hire additional Enforcement personnel to identify and initiate action against violators of the air pollution codes. In addition, we are pushing for DEP to conduct the following: A comprehensive survey of our catch basins along our high traffic/congested areas.

Lastly, we call for the an official outline of all environmental measures associated with the development/deconstruction of the Gateway Center, Yankee Stadium, (new and old) Mill Pond Park, Heritage Field, and the two pocket parks.

**DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION:** The cleanliness level, or lack of in our streets, characterizes our district. We want to ensure that our image is a clean one and as such, we urge the restoration of D.O.S. personnel, including "hand" cleaners, to adequately maintain our streets and sidewalks.

We commend the agency for their outreach efforts and public education campaign highlighting the benefits of recycling. We need DOS to continue reminding city residents and property owners about the recycling program in effect, through a sustained public education campaign.

Community Board Four experiences **difficulties having no regular cleaning and maintenance schedules for the extraordinary number of underpasses, steep streets and sitting areas.** The problem is the need for clarity in agency jurisdiction. Our repeated requests have been that DOS revisit the "Leventhal Agreement", which is ambiguous at best, so that a clear determination can be made and funding allocated accordingly.

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Additionally, we request the funding for additional Sanitation Enforcement Personnel and Sanitation Police.

Lastly, during and after Stadium activities we have notice an increase in unkempt conditions along the 161st Street Corridor. We are requesting additional baskets along this area and long River Avenue towards 149th Street.

### **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP:**

Our community has a good number of small businesses and we strongly believe that those city agencies responsible for business development need to provide the kind of leadership, technical assistance and funding sources to improve the commercial landscape in our district and to assure the success of our merchants, generational businesses and WMBE's with their businesses.

We are hopeful that the Economic Development Corporation will work in conjunction with the Department of Business Services, to assist the Community Board in calling for the needed funding for the development of tying in economic development and tourism. Our district could serve as a catalyst for increased development and local entrepreneurship, resulting in job creation and business development opportunities and services to our community residents.

Community Board Four would like to seek funding from either SBS or EDC for the development of a study that would focus on business and properties along Ogden Avenue from the Cross Bronx Expressway to West 161st Street and Yankee Stadium. The area in question is located in the Highbridge area of District Four. The Ogden corridor, the neighborhood's primary commercial corridor is prime locale with respect transportation. The neighborhood rest within access to the George Washington Bridge, Major Deegan and the Cross Bronx Expressway making this it ideal for business to develop and thrive. For many years areas similar to Highbridge have suffered due to disinvestment.

Although SBS and EDC rely on private development and provide guidance on best practices for private investors to employ we are encouraging the agencies to take on more of a proactive role and work with the Community Board to create a plan that would allow for the attraction of diversified group of retailers to the Highbridge Community.

The overall goal would be to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the neighborhood by:

- Development of a market assessment
- Evaluation of zoning changes
- Survey of existing properties vacant and occupied
- Service needs (social and economic)
- Outline the areas positives
- Beautification needs
- Quality life issues to address

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### Streetscape/Street amenities

Partner with residents to incorporate residential needs.

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES:** Bronx Community Board Four has expressed its frustration and concerns regarding the Department of Homeless Services' siting policies and how they relate to community review.

The notification procedure that DHS has opted to use is inadequate. There is no meaningful dialogue and consultation with the affected community and no consideration for community input. For several decades, this district has been used as a continuous hosting site by the City to bring in services that have detrimentally impacted the overall wellbeing of our neighborhoods. The City has systematically kept residents and those charged to care for community residents, such as Community Boards from knowing their full intentions. The failure of DHS to fully take into consideration the needs and concerns of community residents, both young and elderly continues to illustrate the callousness of an agency charged to take care of those who are in need of services without thinking about the burden that is placed on others.

When it comes to less affluent communities, it appears all the guidelines of "fair share" policy and indeed, fair play, are forgotten. The Charter grants that neighborhoods should have input into planning its environs. We strongly maintain that the City should truly keep to its "Fair Share" policy. It is unconscionable that an agency with the duty, authority and powers that can change the quality of life of entire neighborhoods go about their business without substantial public review. Such a practice is unacceptable for any community especially Community District Four and so we continue to petition the Council that there must be enforcement of mandated consideration of the review.

Cluster Site Housing and the New In-Take Center at 151st Street and Walton Avenue. The Cluster Site program provides limited assistance to homeless families and leaves rent-paying tenants worse off.

Problems with the cluster-site program include:

- The program gives landlords a perverse incentive to push out rent-paying tenants because the city pays landlords more for these apartments—an average of \$1700 a month—compared to what residents living in rent-stabilized units pay.
- The program uses a limited stock of affordable apartments to provide the homeless with temporary shelter instead of using those apartments for permanent housing
- The city uses apartments in dilapidated buildings with dangerous conditions, such as peeling lead paint, cascading water leaking from the ceiling, and broken or defective fire retardant ceiling

The new In-Take Center at 151st Street:

- Organized press conferences and tours were taken of the facility, and public consciousness was raised about the mistreatment of homeless people in the facility and its negative impact on the neighborhood.
- By 2004-2005, the outrage expressed by CB4 was clear and the Department of



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Homeless Services (DHS) **discontinued communication.** Shortly thereafter, the EAU was moved to Powers Street (In the Bronx), the old building was razed, and the general understanding was that the issue had cleared up.

- CB4 and other city and state agencies and officials were kept 'out of the loop' as the DHS continued its plans to rebuild a 7-story Family Intake Center (FIC) designed to serve all homeless families in all of New York City's five boroughs without the community's input and without including other officials and agencies apprised of the plan.

- In December of 2007, then Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion hosted a meeting and CB4 was invited to speak to then Commissioner Hess. At said meeting Commissioner Hess indicated that he'd address the concerns at a later date. He finally met with us in September of 2008 but by then construction had started. The public hearing/meeting we organized was designed to funnel the community's efforts to stop the building of the city-wide FIC through Community Board Four. Our efforts to directly address the commissioner with what we wanted to propose or consider alternatives for negotiation were to no avail. It is distressing to know that the City continues to ignore its own mandate to grant neighborhoods input into planning its environs. Again we strongly maintain that the City should truly keep to its "Fair Share" policy.

**PARKS DEPARTMENT:** Although we are pleased with the projects being developed we must however, call to the Department's attention the unsanitary conditions of our parks. During our Summer months we have receive numerous complaints regarding the unkempt conditions at Claremont; Joyce Kilmer; Mullaly; Franz Siegel and the Mt Eden Malls.

We are fully aware of your agencies fiscal constraints however; this cannot and will not be the standard for our neighborhood playgrounds and recreational spaces. Community Board Four has experienced a commercial, residential and economic revival, making it a very exciting time for us here. Most of our major capital improvement projects are completed, projects we have fought long and hard for. Although we are at the brink of an economic down turn, we believe that our urban revival will continue and the fruits of years of advocacy will bear to sustain us as we move forward.

Again we continue to be distressed at progressive financial cuts suffered by your agency limiting both its capital and expense budget. We particularly deplore the losses experienced re: **Parks Enforcement Patrol. Providing adequate Parks Enforcement personnel is essential to the entire Park program, coupled with an appropriate amount of funding for public safety enhancement.** Money spent on maintenance upgrades should be matched with an equal amount spent on safety enhancements. They both go hand and hand.

How are we going to resolve the many issues facing our Community Parks? If this issue is not addressed then we question the continuance of the replacement program. Rational thinking would suggest why continue if they cannot meet the current needs of existing facilities? We are appealing to DPR and encourage an unannounced visit to our Community District so that agency heads may see firsthand what we are referring too. Keep in mind we fully understand that some of the blame should be placed on those who patronize our recreational facilities however, together we need to find a resolution to this ongoing problem. We will remain vigilant we receive our "fair share" of charter-mandated resources.

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### **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE:**

Adequate funding must be provided in order to meet future challenges for it is critical that funds be available to enhance Health services where the needs are great with special attention to HIV/AIDS, Teen Pregnancy, Asthma, and Obesity. Failure to allocate sufficient funds to this agency will not move an agenda that will assist in meeting their mandated mission. But specifically, to mitigate the impact of health problems affecting minority groups and to provide educational outreach services for prevention programming, Immunization Efforts, and School Based Health Centers and Clinics. This is especially critical as we are about to come into the flu season. H1N1 prevention programming, awareness and information programming will be crucial this coming season. The overall public health will be contingent upon the how a strong coordinated effort involving all neighborhood stakeholders.

Community District #4 continues to support the agencies overall health goals and continues to stress the coordination of its community outreach efforts especially the Rodent Campaign.

**IN CONCLUSION:** As always, we take this moment to reflect on the past year and even the years preceding. All too often, we find ourselves in an adversarial position with agencies' policies, but we have never considered their representatives as our adversaries. On the contrary, we have often found the agency representatives to be cooperative, responsive and helpful. We could never achieve our successes alone...It has always been a joint effort of New York's best and brightest and for that the people of Community District # Four are most grateful.

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As we encounter new challenges, we believe that together we can succeed and come up with creative solutions that will improve the quality of life of our residents. MAY OUR PURPOSE CONTINUE TO BE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR CITY'S INHABITANTS!



Submitted by:

José Rodriguez, District Manager

In collaboration with:

Rev. Wenzell P. Jackson, Board Chair

Ms. Kathleen Saunders, 1st Vice Chair

Ms. Llinet Beltre-Rosado, 2nd Vice Chair

Ms. Patricia Titley, Recording Secretary

M. Barry Nissen, Treasurer

Mr. Michael Rendino, Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Ms. Martha Reyes, Health & Human Services Committee Chairperson

Rev. Earl McKay Housing & Land Use Committee Chairperson

*Ms. Mildred James Municipal & Education Services Committee Chairperson*

*Ms. Melody Frazer, Parks Committee Chairperson*

*Mr. Jean Mirvil, Youth Committee Chairperson*