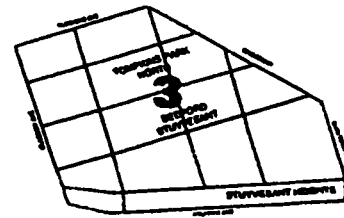




THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3
BEDFORD STUYVESANT RESTORATION PLAZA
1360 FULTON STREET, 2ND FLOOR BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11216



718-622-6601 Phone 718-857-5774 Fax

MARTY MARKOWITZ
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHARLENE PHILLIPS
DISTRICT MANAGER

BRENDA TYSON
CHAIRPERSON

DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FY 2009

INTRODUCTION

As New York City gears up for the next 25 years and the Mayor's planNYC2030, Community Board No. 3 is also looking at the "Big Picture" and its impact on the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant here in Central Brooklyn. Not unlike the Mayor, Community District 3 is looking toward a proactive stance, rather than the hind-site of reactive positions.

The progressive and innovative thinking of this City's leaders to avoid at all costs, the decay and decline of the 1970s will eliminate New York City having to go through the processes of completely re-inventing the wheel from the ground up. It is indeed crucial that this city maintain constant vigilance to repair and shore up our physical infrastructure, facilitating our readiness for the expansion which has already begun. The potential for opportunity is actually palpable and we are in exciting times.

There is a development boom throughout the five boroughs and nowhere is it more evident than here in Central Brooklyn. Hooray! Progress and change ensure the survival of the people. However, as we move forth, it is important that we prepare for the growth and the needs of all the people who occupy the land. So we are challenged even further than planNYC2030 because we must address, simultaneously, the infrastructure, and the areas of crime, poverty, education and social services. We can keep this city extraordinary as we prepare physically for the growth and expansion, but if we have not prepared for the people of this city, it is all moot. A strong city is only as good as its citizenry. So let us move forward to create a greener, greater New York with provisions for all of the residents.

In the 1820's, the settlements of Weeksville and Carville were established within the boundaries of what was then known as Bedford. They were thriving communities where African-Americans had their own schools, businesses, churches, homes, and social groups.

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

The boundaries of Community Board No. 3 are Flushing Avenue to the north; Broadway

to the northeast; Saratoga Avenue to the east; Classon Avenue to the west; and Atlantic Avenue to the south. Despite the construction of large-scale public housing developments which occurred during the late 1950's and early 60's, Bedford-Stuyvesant is best known for its abundance of handsome row houses and brownstones that date back to the turn of the last century. Structures such as "Old Boys High School", the "Tent Building", and the Alhambra Apartments are some examples of the area's architectural treasures.

Community Board No. 3's population continues to represent one of the largest African-American communities in the nation, but it is also home to other ethnic groups; which makes for a rich mix of cultures particularly in this season of expansion. During the dark days of the late "80's and early 90's", the crack epidemic, bank redlining, the decline in educational institutions, and the lack of municipal services occurred in a convergence that would have totally destroyed other neighborhoods. Yet, the residents of Bedford Stuyvesant, in the traditions of old, were determined that their community would not only survive, but thrive. Throughout that entire period, individuals and groups were working to shore up the middle-class base; advocating for fair banking practices; pushing for affordable housing, saving our young from the scourge of drugs, rebuilding our economic base; and demanding improvement in city services.

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

We continue to capture the recommendations of a larger segment of our neighbors by using the public meetings of the Community Board as the basis for the public hearings that are mandated as part of this process. Careful thought has gone into each section of this document, as we sought to make strong links between the needs of our community and the municipal service agencies that must respond. It is through the lens of the factors outlined in our 197-A Plan; the lessons learned from all who have gone before, and our own long-range vision of our community that this 2009 District Needs Statement is presented.

ARTS & CULTURE

Bedford-Stuyvesant has tenaciously held onto its institutions that reflect the arts and cultural experiences of its people. From the gospel concerts presented by our churches to the extraordinary works proudly displayed at the Fulton Arts Fair, the community has continued to breathe life into these institutions. Our elected officials have consistently provided funding, but the need is great.

Paramount among the concerns is the lack of funding for arts and cultural programs in our schools. We must look to other municipal entities to bring support to the children in our educational systems in areas such as music, dance, filmmaking, and art. Programs that enhanced the curriculum in years past now lie dormant. Any pipelines into the schools

in terms of grants must give preference to underserved communities such as Bedford-Stuyvesant. Pilot projects in Districts 16 and 13 would pave the way for future funding.

The Magnolia Tree Earth Center, the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival, the Skylight Gallery and the Youth Arts Academy at Restoration, and the Weeksville Heritage Center (although just across our borders) all enhance the lives of our neighbors. Increased funding from sources such as the Department of Cultural Affairs would help to undergird these institutions. The Fulton Art Fair will be celebrating its 50th Year in 2008, and there is a critical need to redouble support for this venerable fine arts institution. New collaboratives such as the Bedford Stuyvesant Artists' Association must also be supported.

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

DAY CARE

A comprehensive early childhood education is the most important start a parent can give to a child. Yet, infant/toddler care is infrequent in this community. Providers, both center based and family-day care, must be given incentives from a pool of monies to increase the number of start-up programs and ownership of facilities to accommodate the number of children who need service within the area. With Welfare reform in full operation, parents on public assistance need more qualified infant/toddler services. The Agency for Child Development (ACD) has not opened any infant/toddler programs in CB3, and recently, several lost their funding. Parents needing a full-range of services from the Department of Social Services are not getting it. Additionally, training on how to start, run and maintain a safe, quality environment must be provided.

The limited availability of safe, affordable, high quality child care has become a chronic problem in CB3. After-school care services are crucial to keep youth safe and supervised while parents are at work; to enrich learning opportunities; to develop talents; and to offer creative and recreational outlets not available in school. Recently ACD-funded centers have had to close many of their school-age programs. Budgets have been reduced and this C.B. took a loss of three ACD funded programs. A reorganization move in city government has transferred all after-school programs from ACD to the Division for Youth, emptying out about 200 classrooms in day care centers which are now in need of programs to occupy the rooms leaving parents without care in many instances. Unmet need is highest in Brooklyn. Parents with incomes just above the poverty line frequently go without effective, quality child care because of the cost. Subsidized slots in private facilities are rare. Quality child care should be a right not a privilege. Every parent should have the right to comprehensive care for all of their children. Our children are our future. Treat them well and they will reward you.

The Welfare to Work Program is not successful due to the shortage of licensed facilities. Family day care is insufficient and the lack of licensed center-based care is a hindrance

to the Welfare to Work Program. ACD has reduced the number of slots available to the Voucher Program so private care is unavailable to many social service recipients and low to middle income parents.

New York City must begin dialogue with parents regarding their need for appropriate services. Professional organizations are consulted, but what does the parent want and need? The City of New York child care administrators must dialogue with agencies serving parents in this city. Child care vendors have not met with the City child care agencies for over three years. Meetings are never held. Vendor agencies are told to call the (800) number and someone will get back to them when they have a problem. This does not work and is not good policy.

There is a severe shortage of certified Teachers and Directors in New York City. The City's Teacher qualifications should correspond with the qualifications statewide. The staff qualifications for Teachers and/or Directors in Nassau or Albany are different from the qualifications in New York City. New York City should bring their standards in line with the rest of the State. The difference is a hindrance to employers and boards of directors in New York City. There are more centers going out of business now than at any other time in the history of child care in New York City. Programs are closing at an alarming rate. Check ACD records. The organizations allegedly representing child care are going along with this increase in standards because they have gone into business as trainers, not advocating for child care. Parents need affordable child care and child care employers need to be able to recruit teaching staff as necessary.

This community suffers from lack of quality, licensed infant/toddler programs and programs for special needs children, early intervention programs and services and inclusive programs. Our special needs children are bused out with daily 2½ hour rides for most children. Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists are scarce and are not readily available to render services to children in the community.

Maintaining certified teachers is a problem experienced by private and city funded programs. While New York City may believe that more regulation is the answer to all the child care problems, we believe training, higher wages and time off is the key. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene constantly increase training regulations but these regulations (Upstate and Long Island have lower qualifications for positions) are not the answer to quality care. Child care centers in New York City are in desperate need of certified teachers yet they are hardly available. Staff stays until they earn their degrees and they leave for the Board of Education or for Nassau County whose qualifications are markedly different and the pay scale is larger.

EDUCATION

In 2003, the New York State Court of Appeals, in its ruling on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, found the following elements to be germane to a "sound basic education":

- High quality teaching
- Small class size, and
- Adequate instrumentalities of learning, such as adequate supplies, textbooks, libraries and computers

These very elements reflect some of our highest priorities for the improvement of our public schools in Districts 16 and 13, which cover the major portions of Community Board 3. The latest data from the Department of Education indicate that many of our schools are still falling behind, when measured by Federal and State standards. Yet, the schools in Bedford-Stuyvesant often lack the tools to provide the "sound basic education" as described. It is hoped that under the new Contracts for Excellence, these fundamentals will be fully addressed.

The element of high quality teaching takes on a deeper meaning in communities of color. It is not unrealistic to state that there are teachers who feel that our children cannot learn, or that socio-economic stigma lead some teachers to approach instruction with lower expectations of performance. There must be innovative and effective professional development programs that immerse all levels of the instructional staff, including district and school-based leaders, in the ethnic and cultural diversity of our community. Old time residents can tell wonderful stories of teachers who lived right in the neighborhood. The advantages are too numerous to mention. Reinstatement of the funding that provides home ownership opportunities for teachers would go a long way toward establishing a cadre of teachers who are familiar with the community and who want to be here.

Our school system would be greatly enhanced with smaller class sizes that would allow for more individualized instruction. Overcrowded schools and classes are deterrents to academic achievement in reading, math and other subjects. However, small class size must be coupled with skilled, competent and concerned teachers if effective learning is to take place.

We also support the use of any additional funding to ensure that all of our schools have fully equipped and functioning libraries; permanent music and art programs, and state-of-the-art science and computer laboratories. Teachers should not be forced to copy pages because there are not enough books for all of the children.

We are experiencing higher and higher drop-out rates from our middle schools. This alarming circumstance is exacerbated by poor academic performance year after year. It is time to examine and institute other models for this age group. This critical situation must be honestly assessed and immediate changes made. By extension, support is needed for additional truancy and support services. Children are out on the streets during school hours, and are falling prey to gang recruitment and crime.

As of this writing, the public school system is slated for yet, another, monumental change. With the entire regional structure less than three years old, the new construct will apparently have some elements of the prior, more localized design. One of the startling changes is that each principal will be able to select from among a number of management/instructional options. How is a parent to cope with such drastic change? Thus far, there has been very little communication with parents at the local level. Community groups, such as the Education Task Force, organized by Councilmember Al Vann, have stepped into the void to provide as much information and encouragement as possible. However, the Department of Education must use every possible means to conduct a comprehensive informational campaign that reaches every parent. In past years, we have advocated for strong parental involvement, and at no other time is this more critical. Through programs sponsored by the Education Task Force and Community Board 3, we have begun to strengthen the linkages between school and community. Innovative models, such as family empowerment centers that provide access to services offered by local agencies and organizations, should be fully explored, and funding provided for pilot programs. Parenting

skills, mediation, workforce development, recreational programs, and a full menu of social services are offered by community groups, and should be readily accessible to parents.

There have been many different ethnic contributions that make this country great. As we encourage children of all ethnicities to learn about the contributions of all of the people that comprise this community, we foster a sense of respect, caring and self worth among our youth. While changes in curriculum are occurring, we continue to advocate for the inclusion of study that highlights the history and contributions of African-Americans and other ethnic groups.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

With the implementation of the revised noise regulations city-wide, Community Board No. 3 supports the combined efforts of the D.E.P. and the 79th and 81st Precincts in responding to and enforcing compliance with regard to the same. With unwarranted construction noises, ubiquitous horn honking, the ever present blaring car alarms, as well as the constant loud booming vehicular sound systems. We would like to request more personnel trained in the usage of the sound detection device(s) and extra units per command.

Community Board No. 3 would like there to be routine storm and sewer drain cleaning and maintenance, rather than it being solely complaint driven. Maintenance continues to be an issue of high priority within the community. A proactive position is always greater than the usual reactive one after heavy rainfall or snow/ice accumulation.

Lastly, we eagerly await more information regarding the Automatic Meter Reading Technologies, and the implications for our residents.

HEALTH CARE

Every day thousands more residents are locked out of a health care system that discriminates in its treatment of patients based on skin color, socioeconomic status and geographic location. The resulting health care disparities have had a devastating impact on the prosperity of this community. Many inner city residents are without preventive medicine. They go to the hospital emergency room when ill. Usually this is too late and the condition has escalated beyond control. Minority men are less likely to access preventive health care therefore many of our male residents with diabetes, prostate problems and high blood pressure go undetected. Statistics show that 19% of African-Americans, compared with 12% of whites, have no health insurance. Therefore, we support the efforts by Governor Spitzer to develop and implement a universal health insurance plan. According to the timeline, half of the 2.8 million uninsured New Yorkers would be covered by 2008 and, due to the critical health needs in Bedford-Stuyvesant we should be given top consideration for one of the first pilots.

Due to the closing of St. Mary's Hospital and Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, the situation in

emergency rooms at Woodhull, Interfaith, and as far away as Methodist Hospital, have become untenable. Long waits are now the norm, since the uninsured typically use the emergency room for primary care. There is an immediate need to re-examine the impact of these, and other closings, and to bring in the resources that are necessary to serve the population.

The Health Department provides free inoculations for emergency situations. It has now been announced that a new strain of influenza is on the horizon. Once flu season gets close, DOH should look at a variety of non-traditional inoculation sites to serve the people. It may be good to consider area super markets like Foodtown and Key Food, churches, community centers, community rooms within NYCHA developments, and other such venues. Even mobile vans placed strategically in areas where the inoculation rates are low would create a healthier environment for all the residents in the CB3 area.

Brooklyn continues to be ground zero for NYC's HIV epidemic of African Americans, women, and children; and has the third largest AIDS population in the United States, followed by Manhattan and Los Angeles. This borough has more people who have been diagnosed with AIDS than forty-five other states and more children than forty-seven other states... Nearly 25% of the 83,249 New Yorkers living with HIV or AIDS are from Brooklyn, and each year the percentage of Brooklynites who die from AIDS increases. We applaud the support of our elected officials in providing support for initiatives such as the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. Those efforts must continue through preventive measures in our schools, and through avenues such as block associations and local community groups.

Conservative estimates based on 197-A data and U.S. 2000 census data indicate that more than 39,000 CB#3 residents have one or more disabilities. Disability categories breakdown as: 7,986 sensory impairment, 14,955 physically, 10,019 mental/emotional, and 6,834 self-care. Upwards of 18,295 people have disabilities that interfere with full time employment. People dually diagnosed with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities account for over 6,244 people. The prevalence of disabilities outweighs the capacity of service providers whose missions are to serve people with disabilities. Therefore, there is a long-term need for additional funding and technical assistance to these organizations.

Community Board No. 3 has a growing number of asthma sufferers in all age groups. CB3 needs preventive initiatives in the form of exercise, well maintained green spaces, pest-control and lead paint removal. We need to have visiting medical personnel go into the schools periodically to impart preventative steps in combating and controlling asthma. Rodents and other vermin are heavy contributing factors to asthma suffers.

Depression is a serious but treatable health condition that frequently goes undiagnosed. Serious psychological distress is associated with depression and other mental illnesses. Here in Bedford-Stuyvesant 5% of the residents experience serious psychological distress. Mental health patients have requested that increased evening hours be made available for those suffering with mental health issues. Parents utilizing public and private child care facilities should be offered mental health services. Directors all over the community stress the need for mental health intervention in all of their centers. More mental health clinics are needed.

According to the Health Department the increasing prevalence of obesity in the U.S. has contributed to an epidemic of diabetes. About 95% of diabetes cases are type 2 diabetes, which is strongly associated with obesity. Uncontrolled diabetes can worsen the harmful effects of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and other risk factors for heart

disease. In Central Brooklyn, 12% of adults have diabetes, compared to 9% in New York City overall. Free exercise classes such as those offered by the Beacon Program should be increased. Doctors should be encouraged to underscore healthy living practices as part of their assessment and treatment. Information on eligibility for food stamps should be more readily available in neighborhood gathering places such as Laundromats and nail salons.

HOUSING and LAND USE

2007 will mark the passage of the Bedford-Stuyvesant South Rezoning Plan. Along with the Fulton Park Urban Renewal Plan, the Saratoga Square Urban Renewal Plan, and the forthcoming Bedford-Stuyvesant North Rezoning Plan, our community will have set the course for a comprehensive housing vision that will affect the development and preservation of our buildings and landscape for many years. However, we have been proceeding in a piece-meal approach that makes it difficult to see the future “big picture”. Therefore, one of our major needs is technical assistance from agencies such as City Planning and HPD, to help us make a comprehensive assessment of:

- a. the status of the urban renewal plans
- b. the coordinated development of the plans (how they fit together)
- c. how our housing needs have (or have not) been met by these plans
- d. vacant land under the aegis of several city agencies
- e. how Community Board 3's Affordable Housing Policy impacts all of the plans

As the Community Board enters its 30th year, we feel that such an examination of “where we are” is critical. Such a study will require time, staff, and commitment from agency staff and members of our Community Board, and other stakeholders. It is a project whose time has come, since we are committed to the final review and revision of the 197A Plan during 2007/8.

Bedford-Stuyvesant has one of the highest foreclosure rates in the country. Over the past decade, community groups and elected officials have partnered to fight this rising tide. We note that several city agencies have predatory lending programs, but do not seem to coordinate their efforts. A creative, combined approach on the part of these agencies (mirroring our coordinated efforts in the community), would give our existing initiatives the additional impetus that it needs. This would maximize resources, and make it easier for residents to access services.

A procedure needs to be put in place to monitor the use of private homes used for various social programs within CB3. How many group/programmatic facilities are being placed in this community? By comparison, what is the ratio of similar facilities being placed within other areas throughout the five boroughs?

There is no domain in life that is not obliged to upgrade its relationship to the needs of CB#3 resident with disabilities and their families. This is particularly relevant to housing development. The need for more “accessible” affordable housing is a given. However, utilization of “universal design” practices which go beyond the concept of “barrier free” living is necessary to make living spaces accessible, safe, and practical for all residents.

Last, but definitely not least, is the need for a study to address the seemingly

discriminatory housing practices in the northern quadrant of our community. Housing being built on public and private land does not seem to be available to all citizens. In addition, some of the developers have applied for a variety of tax credits, while seeming to offer housing to only one group.

LANDMARKS

Community Board No. 3 has one historic district and nine individual landmarks. There are several additional areas within the community that are deserving of city landmark status. We should do all we can to preserve the historic housing stock for future generations. Educating home owners and residents on the Landmark process as a major catalyst for preservation and economic development is essential.

In addition to landmarking other areas of the neighborhood, there are two endangered buildings which require immediate and long-term attention. These are our priorities. The Slave Theatre once had a royal life as the Regent Movie Theatre. The Tent House is owned by the United Order of the Tents, one of the oldest women's organizations of color in the country. Assistance is needed from a number of city agencies to help us move through the proper channels required to save these treasures.

PARKS AND RECREATION

We are justly proud of our parks and green spaces. They are well-used by community residents, young and old. During warm weather, the parks are used for quiet sitting, as play areas for day care programs, and for games such as chess and checkers. Although special events take place in some parks during the spring and summer, there is no comprehensive calendar of programs for Bedford-Stuyvesant. This resource would go a long way toward promoting increased use of our parks.

For the past five years, the community has been in support of a proposal to provide diverse community facilities in the Sumner Armory including: an indoor track, tennis, basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and paddleball courts, a bowling alley, swimming pool and a roller skating rink. The development of the Sumner Armory for community use would consolidate diverse and needed community facilities into one of Community Board No. 3's most regarded historic buildings. The Park Slope Armory is a perfect example of what can be done with such an existing facility. The Community Board would indeed like to see such an edifice here that would enhance the quality of life across generations and be a hub of multifaceted community space within the confines of CB3.

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

The area around the C.S. 21 and the Brevoort Houses has been a troubling site for

some time. While there is a community center in the Brevoort Houses, many parents are afraid to allow their children to participate. Residents and the school family have requested a new community center, built from the ground up, that would be modeled on the Beacon program; providing recreational activities, and a full menu of programs from after-school study to education and job training for adults.

We commend the Mayor's plan to convert school playgrounds into parks. However, there are several considerations that may be unique to Bedford-Stuyvesant. The first is that there are parks on the drawing boards for renovation in the coming years, and we want to insure that there is adequate funding for that initiative to continue. Second, we have had incidents of crime and vandalism in the school playgrounds that remain open after school hours. If the objective is to extend the hours of the newly-renovated areas, there must also be an increase in security.

POLICE

Community Board 3 is in the midst of a dramatic spike in crime. In 2006, the 79th Precinct experienced 1,029 crimes as compared to 1,042 for the same time period in 2007. The 81st Precinct, for the same time period in 2006, experienced 730 crimes and we are up to 747 this year to date. It is clear that overall statistics indicate that crime is on the rise. While we have made every effort to encourage our neighbors to report incidents, many have said they are too frightened to speak out.

We are keenly aware of blatant gang activity within the southern portion of our community. The "Bloods" and the "Crips" have made it plain that our schools and housing complexes are the targets for their recruitment efforts. Rivalries among our various housing developments have reached epidemic proportions. Gunshots are routinely heard at night and during the day, and there have been a total of 84 guns taken off the streets in the 81st Precinct alone. With the removal of the Impact Zone personnel in the 79th Precinct, we are already witnessing a rise in crime in that area. We need assistance from agencies across the board that can get the large number of high-powered weapons out of the hands of our children. Serious questions about the source of the guns, who is supplying the money for them, and how they are getting to our community must be answered immediately.

Against this backdrop are complaints from residents who have been stopped on the street or questioned in front of their homes or on their stoops for no apparent reason. This has led to a distrust of the very officers who are here to protect us. Clearly, more work needs to be done in the area of community relations, and we stand ready to do our part, but there must be a major push from the very top police officials with respect to the level of service from their personnel. This is not a dollar and cents issue, but one that strikes at the very core of ethnic and cultural sensitivity and respect in our community. Innovative programs that address this issue must be instituted, and pilot programs augmented to find out what works and what doesn't. Community input, via precinct councils, the community board, and block associations, must be a cornerstone of any planning.

We are in desperate need of additional police officers. All of our law enforcement agencies, especially transit and PSA need increased manpower. We work closely with both the 79th and 81st precincts, but crime, gangs and drugs and guns proliferate in certain areas of the community. We need more visibility of officers on both day and evening shifts and specifically, officers on foot patrols walking the streets of our neighborhood.

Additional Argus cameras would greatly enhance our enforcement resources with capture and convictions. The key here in Community Board No. 3 is visibility. Mobile Command Posts placed strategically throughout our trouble spots would greatly decrease the random acts of criminality.

The vehicular fleets of each enforcement agency within this catchments area need to be replaced and/or replenished. The enforcement agencies fleets look as though they are not road worthy for emergency procedures.

SAFETY/EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The recent nor'easter that flooded homes and businesses in the area is just a recent indication of the need for a comprehensive emergency preparedness program for Bedford-Stuyvesant. Since 9/11, we are certain that there are many effective measures in place. However, it remains for us to ensure that there is a system in place that is specifically tailored for this community, and we see that as a pressing need in light of natural disasters and impending terrorist attacks.

We are just beginning to explore all of the ramifications of establishing such a system, and there is a need for assistance in that development. We are aware that city, state, and federal agencies all have resources and plans that would be of value. Last year, several members of our Board and community members participated in CERT training, and working with local community groups, block associations and elected officials, we will expand such efforts.

SANITATION

While Community Board No. 3 acknowledges the monumental efforts of the Department of Sanitation, there are still numerous community-wide needs that must be addressed. At this time, CB3 does not have a permanent place to house its sanitation garage and has had to occupy a temporary base within CB1, which is a hardship for both communities. This has resulted in a complicated array of scheduling changes that have not been communicated to the community in a timely fashion and leaves residents in a quandary as to the correct hours for garbage collection.

The construction of the sanitation garage for CB3 must be made a priority. Apparently all of the legal issues have been resolved, yet there seems to be little effort being made to move forward in a timely manner. It is time to move forward.

This year, Bedford-Stuyvesant was named as one of the dirtiest communities in New York City (score card ratings). Bedford-Stuyvesant as a community cannot afford to be so labeled. There are a number of short-term solutions which will be addressed at the District Service Cabinet level. However, as a long-term need, we are requesting that representation from the community be included in any future score-card assessments.

An education campaign is needed to make our residents and businesses aware that the community as a whole must cooperate and abide by the requirements of the sanitation codes as this enhances our environment and quality of life. Local merchants must comply with the codes regulating carting of their refuse. Those businesses that cannot show their compliance should be issued violations.

New families are moving into our community as new housing is being rehabilitated, renovated and built. We need more sanitation personnel and equipment to keep up with the population growth that will continue in the next few years as Atlantic Yards and other mega-projects take hold.

SENIORS

In a memo from the Department for the Aging, dated May 25, 2007, Commissioner Mendez-Santiago stated that, "Racial and ethnic minorities are the fastest growing segment of the older population in the United States. They represent about 18% of the older population now, but by 2050 will account for about 40% of the population." Yet, minority groups have less access to health care, low-cost programs, and alternative housing options. Nowhere is this situation more pronounced than in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The following descriptors illustrate a complex maze of circumstances that put our seniors in constant jeopardy:

- Due to the high home ownership rate in Bedford-Stuyvesant, our seniors are prime targets for predatory lenders with scams that run the gamut from home repairs to all types of clever mortgage schemes.
- The Department for the Agency's goal of "aging in place" is a far-off dream for our seniors because there are no assisted living facilities, and only limited senior housing. Income guidelines are sometimes unrealistic for people who have paid off their mortgages and have been frugal savers.
- Access to geriatric and other specialized care is virtually nonexistent
- While our faith-based community makes every effort to support homebound seniors, there are still those with no ties to churches who become more and more isolated in their homes.
- The lack of senior centers makes it difficult for seniors to access the wealth of services and activities that are provided.
- Information regarding services such as Meals on Wheels, Access-a-Ride is not widely available, although organizations such as, Concord Family

Services does what they can to spread the word.

As this trend continues, the need for innovative service models that reflect ethnic and cultural sensitivity becomes more pronounced. We fully support the case management concept that is proposed by the DFY as part of its service delivery redesign.. However, it is our understanding that Bedford-Stuyvesant is not included as one of the 12 current service areas or the proposed consolidated areas under the contracts awarded by the DFY. Given the critical situations under which our seniors must live from day-to-day, we strongly request that our community be added to this pilot. As an interim measure, DFY should offer training to community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and block associations to help them meet the needs of our elderly and to be able to be effective advocates on their behalf.

SOCIAL SERVICES

This community has been inundated with small shelters. Financial incentives are made available to landlords who are willing to use their property for social programs to house the homeless, formerly incarcerated, victims of domestic violence, mentally ill, sexual abusers, etc. in the community at will. However, no regard is given to the proximity of such housing units to schools, parks or community gathering centers. Nor is there any oversight of the frequency with which such housing units appear within census tracts or even city blocks. We want HRA and State and Federal agencies funding these housing options to communicate with community members to structure how and where such housing units/shelters enter CB3., in order to ensure a peaceful co-existence.

More and more complaints come into the Community Board office regarding the lack of supervision of these programmatic residences that are not appropriately supervised. The block residents are often living in fear, because the program participants intimidate them and their families, or often seem to be wandering through the streets on their own. There appear to be a severe lack of social services offered to these residents, and they deserve this type of assistance. It cannot be left to the landlord to request help. The agencies, such as the Department of Homeless Services, should provide bridge services until people are ready to function independently.

One of the models that we are proposing in our education section regards the inclusion of a variety of social services located in various public schools. The need for greater access cannot be overstated. Parents and caregivers could readily take advantage of resources that are located in their child's school, or in a nearby facility. The Family Empowerment Center model is predicated on this concept, and we are requesting resources for a pilot project of this nature.

TRANSPORTATION

Community Board No. 3 is evaluating the existing Transportation Study to see if it will be adequate to handle the projected growth in planNYC2030. This study is analyzing and evaluating the existing condition within Community Board No. 3, including the level of service, parking demands, transit utilization and service, and pedestrian circulation. In regard to the future conditions, a comprehensive analysis of anticipated development projects, their trip generation characteristics and their impact on future vehicular traffic, parking, transit and pedestrian components are all being taken into consideration.

For some years, we have been requesting an elevator at the Utica Avenue Station. It is the largest station in Bedford-Stuyvesant with several bus lines crossing together at Fulton Street and Utica Avenue/Lewis Avenue. The station is extremely deep, and presents a hardship for the handicapped and the elderly. This is a top priority, and we would like to see movement toward funding, planning, and construction in the near future.

Our community is recommending that a municipal parking lot be placed within Community Board No. 3 and that there be fewer parking meters. As land becomes less available, due to the ever increasing population and opening of new businesses in the area, a Municipal Parking Lot along the Fulton Street commercial corridor is desperately needed.

WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In past editions of our district needs statements, we have addressed economic development and workforce preparation as separate entities. However, we are experiencing a ground-breaking investment in Bedford-Stuyvesant via the CNED initiative, the Mayor's Commission on Economic Opportunity, and PlaNYC.

Working with the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant (CIBS), CNED has launched a number of projects that will have a lasting effect on the growth of education and jobs for the underserved, and in building a strong commercial infrastructure. The new workforce pilot and the Work Advancement and Support Center will target unemployed and underemployed men and women. Economic development pilots will bring about positive change on commercial corridors such as Malcolm X Boulevard, Fulton Street, Lewis Avenue, and Tompkins Avenue.

Community Board 3 is a member of CIBS, and fully supports this outstanding opportunity for community growth. One of our roles over the next two years will be to help with the sustainability of these pilot programs after funding has decreased.

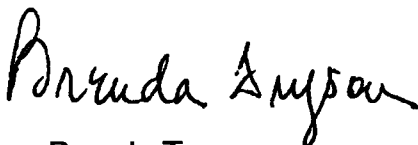
CONCLUSION

As the density in our neighborhood continues to grow and our needs become broader and more diverse, we ask that the City not ignore the residents of this community but protect our quality of life and the very contextual foundation that has made Community Board No. 3 so very popular.

We also request that, as changes are being planned for this neighborhood, that we, the residents, be kept abreast of those plans and have input from the initial stages to the culmination of each project. We want to be able to embrace our past, preserve our present and plan for the future of Community Board No. 3.

Community Board No. 3 is excited about plaNYC2030. We know there will be changes, but change is good when all residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant can benefit from it. Our community embraces the opportunity to usher in the new and celebrate the old at the same time. Together with the planners of this City, we look forward to orchestrating the most magnificent Bedford-Stuyvesant ever.

Respectfully submitted



Brenda Tyson
Chairperson



Charlene Phillips
District Manager