



**DANA T. MAGEE**  
*CHAIR*

**DEBRA A. DERRICO**  
*DISTRICT MANAGER*



**460 BRIELLE AVENUE**  
**STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10314**  
**718-317-3235**  
**FAX: 718-317-3251**  
**E-MAIL: cb2sidm@aol.com**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
***Community Board Two***  
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND

## **DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT**

### **FISCAL YEAR 2013**

The following Statement of Community District Needs for Staten Island Community Board 2 includes a brief description of the District, the Board's assessment of current and future needs, and recommendations to improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

The District is approximately 24 square miles in area. It consists of single and two-family homes, townhouses, duplexes, housing projects, several six-story apartment complexes, co-ops and garden apartments spread across many small towns situated within the middle section of Staten Island. Each town is proud of its unique qualities and individual characteristics, which residents strive to maintain.

We are bound by North-Staten Island Expressway, Goethals Bridge Viaduct, Goethals Bridge; East-Gateway National Recreation Area (includes Hoffman and Swinbune Islands); South-Eastern Pro-longation of Ebbitts Street to Gateway National Recreation Area, Ebbitts Street, Ebbitts Avenue, Property line between Tysens Park Apartments and Tysens Park...Shopping Center, Tysens Lane, Amboy Road, Richmond Road, Eastern Boundary of Latourette Park, (South and Eastern Bound-ary of Richmondtown Restoration), Southern Boundary of Latourette Park, West Shore Expressway, Fresh Kills Creek, Little Fresh Kill; West-Arthur Kill

### **Department of Transportation**

Traffic congestion is the area's topmost problem. As the population continues to grow, our ability to move on, off and throughout the Island has become difficult at best, and at times, nearly impossible. Our roadways consist mainly of two-lane country roads (one-lane in each direction) with an antiquat-ed traffic signal system that needs to be upgraded immediately. Therefore, we request the following new initiatives as well as funded projects move forward more expeditiously:

Provide funding to decrease the number of years in between entire road paving. The existing sched-ule, which is not in-line with the duty cycle faced by our roadway system, typically results in unsafe rough roads that are extremely bumpy and pot holed filled.

The existing traffic signal system on Staten Island was not designed to move vehicles efficiently. Traffic signal synchronization along major corridors like Richmond Avenue, (from Forest Avenue to Hylan Boulevard), Hylan Boulevard (from Richmond Avenue to the Staten Island Expressway), and Victory Boulevard, (from Richmond Avenue to Bay Street) must be done now.

Fund, construct and open the landfill roadways for public use, widen intersections and install turning lanes at clogged locations, and extend Father Capodanno Boulevard through Miller Field.

Expedite the following funded projects: Rockland Avenue from Meisner Avenue to Richmond Road (HW1160, HW1146), Forest Hill Road from Richmond Hill Road to Willowbrook Road (HW986B, HW986C).

## **Department of Environmental Protection**

We desperately need storm sewers in flood-prone areas and sanitary sewers in areas that have failing septic systems. It seems that most, if not all of the previously funded projects (i.e. the Richmondtown-Lighthouse Hill project [SE740B]) never seem to get started. Accordingly, storm sewers and/or Bluebelt systems in flood prone areas must be installed now, with particular attention devoted to streets built below grade level, and sanitary sewers must be installed in areas where none exist. Additionally, we need more funding and personnel for culvert and catch basin cleaning.

## **Parks and Recreation**

We house some of the most beautiful parkland in New York City. The Department of Parks and Recreation has been extremely responsive to our needs and has done a great job. However, there is a lack of adequate personnel to keep our Parks clean. Areas that surround most of our parkland are unkempt, and weed and garbage infested. Additional funding is greatly needed for clean-up, tree planting and stump removal.

## **Sanitation**

It is imperative that we keep our streets and empty lots clean and litter free. For that reason, adequate funding and personnel for street cleaning and enforcement is needed. In addition, we require more waste receptacle placement and servicing island-wide.

We hope the Department will coordinate with DOT and prepare the existing roadways within the Fresh Kills Landfill for public use.

## **Health and Hospitals Corporation**

Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home is the only city-hospital on Staten Island, nevertheless, it does not provide acute healthcare for our residents. We would like the city to grant equal funding to compensate our private healthcare institutions which are overburdened by those without healthcare insurance.

There is a need to restore Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home's vacant buildings. We would like to request full funding for the restoration of these buildings that will add affordable senior housing units.

## Economic Development

Toll and fuel increases are making it impossible for our residents to travel outside the borough to visit large retail stores, cultural places, restaurants and beaches. To help Staten Island residents and to encourage them to spend their money within New York City limits, we ought to embrace large retail stores that want to operate here instead of opposing them. Additionally, we applaud the improvements that Borough President James P. Molinaro has done with the beaches and boardwalk, however, considering the limited funds he is given, the City must play a larger role and provide additional funding and increased efforts to attract more retail, restaurants and food concession stands along the beachfront for all city residents to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dana T. Magee*

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