



BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14
FLATBUSH-MIDWOOD COMMUNITY DISTRICT
810 East 16th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11230

MARTY MARKOWITZ
Borough President

ALVIN M. BERK
Chairman

SHAWN CAMPBELL
District Manager

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14
STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS
FISCAL YEAR 2014

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

Located in the heart of Brooklyn, Community Board 14 comprises the diverse and dynamic communities of Flatbush, Midwood and eastern Kensington. The east side of Coney Island Avenue is the western border, which reaches to McDonald Avenue from Ditmas Avenue to the railroad cut. Traveling south on Coney Island Avenue one reaches the southern border at Avenue P from Coney Island Avenue to East 23rd and Kings Highway from East 23rd Street to Nostrand Avenue. This begins the eastern border, which is comprised primarily by Nostrand and Bedford Avenues. Parkside Avenue is the northern border. These borders embrace 2.9 square miles, within which more than 168,000 people reside.

The residents of Flatbush represent perhaps the greatest diversity of New York neighborhoods. At one local elementary school more than 30 different first languages and dialects are represented. U.S. Census figures reveal that the top five languages spoken at home are English, Spanish, French/Haitian Creole, Russian and Hebrew. Asians represent 6.9% of the district including Bangladeshi, Nepalese, and Chinese residents, as well as a Pakistani population, which celebrates Pakistani Independence Day annually at the largest street fair in the District. Over 34% of our residents are African American and Caribbean Americans from Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Guyana to name some. Fifteen percent of our population is Latino including 4.9% of our residents who are Mexican. White residents comprise 41.5% of the district. This too is a diverse group of people including Italian, Irish, Russian, and Jewish residents. Community District 14 has slightly fewer age 65 and older residents than the citywide average; has the same as the citywide average in the 18-64 age group and has a larger than average population of children in both the 6-17 year old age groups as well as the under the age of five age group. There is a wide range in the socio-economic status of our residents but the age disparity means that while the percent of people living in poverty decreased slightly from 2000-2009, the percent of children in poverty slightly increased. The median household income in the district was \$42,071 in 2009, the last year for which data is available, below the median income in the borough (\$43,755).

Our residents, young and old, born and bred Brooklynites and newly arrived from the world over, reside in a mix of housing that is dominated by single and two family homes (48%) with a significant number of multifamily dwellings (24%) and a smaller number of mixed residential/commercial dwellings (5%). There are four historic districts in Community District

14 including Albemarle-Kenmore Terrace, Ditmas Park, Fiske Terrace-Midwood Park and Prospect Park South all of which are characterized by neo-classical, Queen Anne and Colonial style homes built around the turn of the 19th Century. In addition, there are several historic landmarks such as the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church, Erasmus Hall Campus, the Avenue H Brighton Line Station House and most recently the Sears Roebuck & Co Department Store. There are several commercial strips in the district serving the needs of residents and beyond. From larger department stores, including Sears and the Target store, which anchors the Flatbush Junction to the many, many mom and pop stores that line Church Avenue, Cortelyou Road, Avenues J and M and Coney Island Avenue, Flatbush Avenue and Newkirk Plaza which make CD 14 a great place to shop and one of the best places to eat in Brooklyn. Serving appetites for Caribbean, Middle Eastern, Pakistani, Mexican, Sushi, and more; from wine bars to a Brooklyn “slice” our restaurants include Kosher and Halal and represent the diversity and the vitality of the community.

The housing stock, vibrant commercial strips, our diversity, the history and beauty of the District, our great schools and access to transportation all contribute to making the neighborhoods of District 14 a great place to live. But, nothing tops our residents. District 14 residents vote at higher percentages than the borough wide average, they respond to the Census at higher than average rates and they work for non-profits and local government at higher percentages. Recently several volunteer neighborhood groups came together to raise money for and then plant trees and flowers on Newkirk Plaza, clinching the title for “Greenest Block in Brooklyn” in the commercial category. Still, there are challenges in the community to be met. With the continued civic engagement of our community members, we will continue to work to address these challenges and make District 14 ever better.



This annual statement of Community District Needs has been prepared and is hereby submitted by Community Board 14 in accordance with §2800-d (10) of the Charter of the City of New York. Data included herein are drawn from the United States Census, New York City Planning, the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University, and the Center for the Study of Brooklyn at Brooklyn College’s Brooklyn Neighborhood Reports. The report is organized alphabetically according to New York City agencies and City services.

Aging

Nearly 18,000 residents, more than 10% of our population, are 65 years of age or older. With only six Senior Citizen Centers in the community a good deal more could be done to support our seniors. In addition to recreational, nutritional and social programs, senior centers are invaluable in disseminating information regarding services and programs such as Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption, or EPIC prescription drug program or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Brooklyn was the only borough not awarded an Innovative Senior Center (ISC) in the last RFP cycle. Clearly, Department for the Aging must target the application and provide additional support to Brooklyn ISC applicants. Case management funding and family caregiver support service must be funded adequately to meet the needs of our seniors. Funding for employment training and job placement services, legal assistance and transportation services must also keep pace with the demand for these necessary services in our District.

Animal Care and Control

In addition to the very common problem of feral cats, the rail road tracks that run through the district have become a haven for feral and recently quite vicious dogs. Despite several attacks, the capacity of Animal Care and Control was such that it took months to capture these particular dogs. Abandoned houses have become homes to colonies of raccoons, which the City does not address unless rabies is suspected.

Personnel capacity at Animal Care and Control must be increased to expeditiously address situations that rise to the level of potential harm to our citizens. The ability to respond in a timely manner is imperative. In addition, there is a difference between spotting a single raccoon in a garbage can and a raccoon colony taking up residence in an abandoned building. A response policy review is in order in the latter circumstance to avoid health issues and to ensure the quality of life of nearby residents.

We are impressed by the work of civic organizations that organize trap, neuter/spay, and release programs and support funding for these valuable groups.

Buildings

The building boom of recent years declined due to the economy, leaving several stalled sites in our District. It is imperative that resources to address stalled sites be provided. In 2009 significant portions of our District were down zoned. DOB must have an adequate number of plan examiners to ensure that buildings comply with zoning regulations and that those attempting to take advantage of vested rights to build according to pre-2009 zoning are completely compliant with those regulations.

Parking is at a premium throughout Brooklyn but because of the large percentage of single family homes in our area, the opportunity to create curb cuts and parking pads is greater than in other neighborhoods. This further reduces on-street parking. It is important that enforcement is adequate both in the form of inspectors who can respond in a timely fashion to complaints and by creating online resources by which street addresses with permitted curb cuts can be discerned.

Backyard add-ons seem to present a special challenge when access is difficult. Inspections for all building complaints must be timely enough to address the concerns of surrounding neighbors before violating structures are erected.

Children's Services

The percentage of children under the age of five in District 14 is 9.2% - slightly greater than the borough-wide average. However, the number of seats in public early childhood programs is woeful. There are only 2.6 seats per 100 children under the age of three in infant/toddler group day care. There are 39.5 seats in preschool group day care per 100 children age three-four, compared to 50.6 seats per 100, borough-wide. For children who are age four in District 14, there are 12.6 Universal Pre-K seats per 100, compared to 23.0 borough-wide.

Family Day Care programs, Head Start expansion, and the addition of Pre-K capacity are imperative in our District. For years the Community Board has requested additional funding for these critical programs.

Community Boards

Community Boards continue to be an essential component of City government. In addition to their other Charter-mandated responsibilities, they provide crucial interagency linkages and possess critical community knowledge needed to optimize service delivery at the local level. The boards continue to work closely with local agency officials to ensure that limited municipal resources are effectively distributed. The Citywide 311 non-emergency telephone complaint system retains specific complaint information centrally thus making it difficult for community boards to monitor agency performance as intended by the New York City Charter. Community residents continue to report difficulty in getting useful follow up information related to complaints submitted via 311. Agency liaisons to the Community Board often do not have direct access to the 311 complaint system, which is exacerbated by the incongruence of the 311 complaint numbering system with agency systems. While 311 might be useful for *gathering* complaints for Citywide policy and planning purposes, clearly Community Boards are the most locally focused means of *resolving* issues. They must be funded accordingly.

Community Board budgets have not increased in several years. In fact, over the most recent years cuts to our budgets have been proposed, with that funding being restored only toward the end of the fiscal year. This makes proper planning and efficient budgeting practices a challenge. To fulfill their Charter-mandated responsibilities and continue to act as a government "frontline," the Boards must have necessary and stabilized resources.

Cultural Affairs

Renovations of the Kings Theater on Flatbush Avenue will restore this performing arts venue to its original 1929 baroque-style grandeur. This project combined with the Brooklyn College Performing Arts Center renovation to the south and the existence of performing arts venues to the north, will provide a vital link in Brooklyn's cultural corridor.

We are confident that the Kings Theater will offer valuable cultural programming to our community, augmenting the tradition of diverse programming offered throughout the years at the Brooklyn College Performing Arts Center. Additional funding for local cultural affairs initiatives

will help to ensure the cultural vitality of these exciting projects and will assist in economic development benefits related to drawing audiences to these venues throughout the year.

Consumer Affairs

With the high percentage of District residents in single and two family homes, the Department of Consumer Affairs has done a notable job of identifying problems of unlicensed home improvement contractors. Continued support is necessary.

The maze of rules and regulations pertaining to street and food cart/truck vending places an enforcement burden on NYPD. A review of the myriad regulations and rational streamlining of such rules that supports vendors in a way that is respectful of our merchants and mindful of the different overhead costs associated with the two types of businesses is urgently needed as the food carts and trucks have increased and seem to be continuing to do so in our District.

Adequate funding for inspection and enforcement of unlicensed sidewalk cafes is increasingly necessary as the number of eateries in our District grows. With the burgeoning restaurant scene in Flatbush and Midwood and the hope that added cultural institutions will stimulate additional economic growth, the need for enforcement for sidewalk cafes, backyard seating and cabaret license enforcement is imperative to ensure that growth is to be positive and welcomed by neighboring residents.

Economic Development and Small Business Services

The development of the Kings Theater will create jobs for community residents. In an analysis prepared by the Center for the Study of Brooklyn, the number of workers in the arts and culture industry has decreased from 2.2% in 2000, to 1.9% 2009. The Kings Theater project has the potential to reverse this. The Brooklyn College Performing Arts Center is also currently under renovation. Together these theaters will have economic spillover effects as theater goers will dine at local restaurants. This will support our recently burgeoning restaurant scene in Flatbush and Midwood.

It is imperative that funding be maintained to implement the streetscape projects at the Flatbush Junction and on Church Avenue. In addition to the theaters, the Lakeside project in Prospect Park is a much anticipated improved amenity. Funding must be secured to ensure the project is completed without additional delay.

There are three Business Improvement Districts – the Flatbush Nostrand Junction BID, the Flatbush BID and the Church Avenue BID - and several merchant associations in our community. It is important that Small Business Services continue to support these BIDs in their missions and to work with local businesses to coordinate marketing and business plans and to ensure that businesses within CD 14 are utilizing NYC Business Solutions and Energy Costs Savings Programs.

Mayor's Office of Film

Our District provides a picturesque and historic backdrop attracting many film and television crews. During the month of July (2012), 22 of the 31 days hosted at least one film crew. On some days as many as three separate shoots took place. The City must ensure against

oversaturation, enforce no parking for film crews, and provide incentives for crews to shop locally. Review is also needed to consider ways to ensure that the whole community benefits in addition to the concentrated community groups/neighborhood associations who often receive donations from the productions. It is also incumbent on the City to provide information to community residents and merchants related to how they can request “hot spots” or other off limits locations when the frequency of shoots begins to wear on the community’s patience.

Education

District 14’s educational facilities are among the best in the City. The graduation rate from our high schools is 81% compared to the borough-wide average of 59%. The dropout rate is 4% compared to the borough-wide 12%. The percentage of high school seniors who enroll in college is 68%, as compared to 48% across the borough. There are 21 elementary schools in the District (12 public; 9 private/parochial); there are two public middle schools; there are three public K-12 public schools and six K-12 private/parochial schools, and a total of 12 high schools in the District (7 public, including the 5 small schools housed at Erasmus Hall Campus, and 5 private/parochial).

One half of the public elementary schools in our district are near or over capacity. The City has recognized our need for additional seats in the District and there are plans to build a K-8 school for School District 22 students, however the school will be physically located in Community District 12 and will not have an adequate number of seats to meet the need of our residents’ children. It is imperative that a location be identified to add needed classroom space within the boundaries of the District.

Midwood and Edward R. Murrow High Schools have very large populations of students who continue to reach high levels of academic, athletic and artistic achievements. Erasmus Hall Campus hosts five different small high schools, one of which is an early college school, offering students the opportunity to accumulate as many as 30 college credits at Brooklyn College along with their high school diplomas. It is important that the Department of Education recognizes the utility of larger high schools while opening up small school opportunities. Capital improvements to the school building must be targeted to ensure the safety of those in schools that share a building and to ensure adequate facilities for a 21st Century education.

The District is also home to Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. The Princeton Review named Brooklyn College the most beautiful campus in the nation and ranked it in the top ten for “Best Academic Value, Diversity and Location.”



This 17,000 student campus is undergoing great renovation and expansion; truly a time of growth. The Performing Arts Center along with a nascent plan for expansion along the east gate provides potential for expanded academic programs as well as campus dormitories and retail opportunities. The benefits pertain to students at Brooklyn College and to the community as a whole and all efforts to support these projects must be available.

Emergency Management

Last year's hurricane Irene did not bear the full force that was feared but provided an opportunity to ensure that agencies are prepared for emergency situations. Certainly the City agencies in our District performed in a manner that assures this District's safety. One civic group – the Community Emergency Response Team – also reacted and provided additional safety nets in preparation for the storm. A review of ways in which these CERT teams can be supported and coordinated within the Office of Emergency Management's efforts would increase their ability to help ensure the safety of our residents in the event of an emergency.

Environmental

According to the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's My Neighborhood Statistics, noise complaints have increased by more than 60% from 2001 to 2011. Response and enforcement must be adequate to address this growing concern. The maintenance of catch basins in our District is an ongoing challenge. Funding must be sufficient to clean and repair catch basins.

There are a number of environmental efforts in our community that warrant support. A number of CSAs in the District as well as community gardens and composting projects contribute to the greening of our community.

Fire

Community District 14 generally, and in particular the north Flatbush area, require optimal fire protection because of the large number of multiple dwellings and century-old housing. Brooklyn firehouses must be maintained in good repair and the installation of back-up generators must continue to ensure that needs are met throughout the Borough.

Fire apparatus, ambulances and life saving equipment must be maintained and upgraded where needed. Funding must be provided for carbon monoxide and smoke detectors to seniors and populations not able to afford the purchase. In addition, CPR kits to responsible community groups must continue to be provided. Education and Fire Prevention Programs, including Juvenile Fire-Setters Prevention Program; Fire Safety Education; Fire Safety Houses are important prevention programs and must be maintained. Efforts to coordinate FDNY emergency response with local CERT teams should be explored.

Health/Hospitals

Central Brooklyn has lower than the national and the city-wide bed to population ratio (2.3 beds per 1,000 residents, compared with Manhattan's 4.7, the state's 3.1 and the nation's 2.6). In 1980, Brooklyn had 26 hospitals; now it has 15 and 41 percent fewer acute-care beds. Adequate hospital services are essential in any community. The closure of Caledonian Hospital several years ago and the more recent recommendations to merge hospitals and shutter inpatient

psychiatric services in Central Brooklyn further threaten access to health care especially urgent care.

In addition, community residents must have access to healthcare and insurance information especially in light of changes in health care laws. Preventative services and access to healthy food options, exercise and healthy lifestyle options must be supported.

Homeless

While the number of street homeless in the District is relatively low, there is certainly a concern that the increase in the number of homeless citywide has not left our community untouched. For those on the streets, funding must remain intact for street outreach efforts. In addition, our community requires that street outreach be available in several languages. We are concerned that current contracts do not allow for the engagement of street homeless individuals who cannot substantiate that they are on a path to citizenship.

Transitional housing for those leaving the shelter system must have adequate funding so that the City remains compliant with Local Law 18 and does not attempt to double up families in transitional housing units and continues to provide rent subsidies for those who have left the shelter system while they get their feet on the ground. Given foreclosure rates and the increased burden of the cost of housing, there is a sense of precariousness. Obviously, homelessness *prevention* is key.

Housing

There are 56,267 households in our District. The housing cost burden for our residents continues to rise, with more than 68% of owners paying 30% or more of their income on housing. This includes the 24.3% who pay 50% or more of their income on housing. More than 63% of renters in our district pay more than 30% of their household income on rent, of those 39% pay more than 50%. Between 7.23% and 8.71% of housing units are considered overcrowded. In 2010 the foreclosure rate in our District was 21.6 per 1000 1-4 family residences.

Funding for programs to help finance the cost of acquiring land for affordable housing development and preservation as well as programs that offer low-cost financing options for new construction on privately-owned vacant sites could be targeted to appropriate stalled sites and fallow lots. Preserving the housing stock that exists now is imperative. For budgets already stretched so tight, low interest home improvement loan programs can be the difference in being able to maintain one's home.

Programs that assist first time homebuyers and those that provide foreclosure prevention are essential in our District. Organizations that provide these services must receive maximum support.

Human Rights

Given the diversity of our community, people often remark how harmoniously our residents from different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, who practice a variety of religions (or no religion at all) and who come from all socio-economic strata get along. However, there have been recent incidents of anti-Semitism in and near our district. In addition, in the past year a number of

incidents targeting members of the LBGT community have also occurred. We are also just beginning to understand the breadth of cyber-bullying and depth of its destructive forces. Efforts to combat the types of behavior and acts that offend the human rights of our citizens must continue to address this very old problem and address the fast-changing insidious ways it is expressed.

Landmarks

As noted, our community takes pride in its history. Several neighborhood associations are jointly exploring application for historic district designation. In addition, the development of Kings Theater on Flatbush promises to restore the historic grandeur of this location. At the same time, many 21st century infrastructure needs such as the installation of fiber optics threaten to compromise the aesthesis of landmarked neighborhoods. It is important that the Landmarks Preservation Commission issue determinations of appropriateness in a timely manner to ensure the provision of goods and services are disseminated appropriately in keeping with the significance of the communities in which they are provided.



Library

District 14's existing branch libraries are heavily used and highly valued by the community. The Board continues to strongly support essential improvements needed and objects to any budget cuts. Our local branch libraries provide programs and services that relate in important ways to our communities such as the Caribbean Literacy and Cultural Center at the Flatbush Branch, and the Cortelyou Road library's teamwork with other community groups including Sustainable Flatbush, and the Farm on Adderley for a cooperative effort to green the concrete plaza, as well as the Puzzles and Games and Arts and Crafts programs at the Midwood library. Community Board 14 supports all efforts to provide open libraries seven days a week.

Parks

Community District 14 is lacking in public park space. Only about 70% of residential housing units are within a quarter mile of a Park, this is far less than the 86% borough-wide. The largest park in our district is the Parade Grounds at our northern border, which includes 40 acres of athletic fields, and tennis courts available by permit only. The only recreational space available at the Parade Ground to the local community without a permit is the heavily-utilized Detective Dillon Stewart Memorial Playground. Kolbert Park is in the southern end of the District and the

Deputy Inspector Joseph DiGilio Playground is in the west. Umma Park is a small playground over the BMT tracks in the northeastern end of the District. There are also two tot lots in the District – on Cortelyou Road and on Campus Road. None of the playgrounds have been updated in recent years.

Given this small number, the upkeep of these few parks, playgrounds and tot lots, as well as Flatbush and Kings Highway malls and green streets is all the more important. Our playgrounds are in need of updated equipment. Kolbert Park, our most utilized park in the District has a large area of underutilized lot in dire need of resurfacing and redesign. The solid black corrugated metal wall over the tracks at Umma Park cries out for a mural.

The lack of public green space also underscores the need for maintenance of street trees including a more frequent pruning cycle especially for our older growth trees and ongoing care for the many very welcome newly planted trees. In addition funding must be provided to remove tree stumps even when a new tree cannot be planted for whatever reason.

It is imperative that Parks be adequately staffed to maintain our few recreational areas and increase the pruning cycle. Prospect Park South, one of our Historic Districts and one of the few in the City which delineates landscaping in its historic plan, has had a long standing commitment from the Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain trees planted on the property side of the sidewalks. Given the historical significance we strongly support continuing this nearly 100 year old agreement.

Police

The men and women of the 70th Police Precinct serve our community exceptionally well, keeping crime and quality of life problems at historic lows. Our admiration for the job they do is compounded by the fact that they operate from a Precinct House not well suited to their needs or to the needs of the community. The Precinct House is undersized, antiquated and deteriorated. The United Cerebral Palsy complex shares this very narrow, one-way street. Thus one of the most active New York City Police Department precinct facilities is in the midst of one of the largest concentrations of handicapped people in Brooklyn.

For over 20 years a request for a new, suitable station house has been pending. At one time the precinct house was in the 10 year capital plan. It is time that funding be identified for moving the project forward at long last.

Continued funding for and focus on the special crime prevention needs of the more densely populated neighborhoods in the Impact Zone and continued support for specialized programs to combat illegal drug sales must be adequate.

Security cameras are the smallest portion of the NYPD capital budget yet communities frequently call upon NYPD to install cameras. The current budget for security cameras must be adequate to meet the needs within District 14.

Sanitation

With each and every resident producing more than two pounds of garbage every day, the efforts of BK 14 to keep pace with the needs of our District must be recognized. Personnel must be adequate to address the demands of our District of 168,000 plus residents, along with several commercial corridors and the large number of schools. The continuation of everyday pickups for schools must continue but with 20 private/parochial schools in our 2.9 square mile district, we urge the City to consider adding these schools to the daily school pick up program. There is certainly precedent for the public provision of services for private schools as public funding is provided for transportation, crossing guards, and meal programs, which arguably targets support to the school community. Daily garbage collection would benefit the entire surrounding community and is indeed a public benefit.

The current number of basket trucks is not sufficient to meet the increasing demands on our commercial strips. With the completion of the subway station rehabilitation in our District and the increased business activity, basket collection must be increased to every day on our commercial strips. In addition, a number of merchant associations and BIDs have opted for high end baskets. Funding is needed to support if not the acquisition then at least the maintenance and repair of high end baskets given that they reduce street litter and have therefore become the containers of choice on our District's commercial corridors.

Our District includes a large number of dead end streets and below grade subway and train tracks. Dumping is an ongoing issue. More equipment is needed to address reports of illegal dumping at our dead ends and near tracks in a timely manner.

Transportation

All types of transportation are important in District 14 where nearly 10% of residents walk or ride bikes to work, nearly 62% take mass transit and nearly a quarter drive. Given its Central Brooklyn location and the number of thoroughfares in the District including Flatbush Avenue, Coney Island Avenue, Ocean Parkway, Nostrand Avenue running north/south and Church Avenue, Cortelyou Road, Avenues J and M to name some heavily utilized east/west streets, traffic and road conditions are constant concerns.

There are two through truck routes (Church Avenue and Flatbush Avenue) and four local truck routes (Caton Avenue, McDonald Avenue, Coney Island Avenue and Kings Highway) that run through our District. These routes cannot sustain the daily volume of daily truck traffic, local traffic, mass transit and commercial, residential and recreational activity. For example, there are daily gridlock conditions on the stretch of Caton Avenue that runs along the Parade Grounds through which people have to navigate to get to the athletic fields. However, it seems untenable to move more trucks on to Church Avenue, which is often impassable due to truck deliveries, busses and the volume of regular vehicular traffic. The Truck Route Management and Community Impact Reduction Study must be reviewed with maximum community input in order to alleviate our overburdened District.

Coney Island Avenue is in dire need of serious attention. According to the DOT online GIS map, Coney Island Ave from Avenue P to Avenue J were last resurfaced in 2000; and from Avenue J to Church Avenue in 1992.

Funding for roadway maintenance, milling and paving and night resurfacing must be adequate to keep pace with use.

There are several road bridges in the District. Maintaining the condition of road bridges over the Brighton Line tracks (at Foster Avenue, Newkirk Avenue, Cortelyou Road and Beverly Road) and the road bridges over LIRR tracks (at Nostrand Avenue, Bedford Avenue, Ocean Avenue and Coney Island Avenue) is imperative. For both safety and aesthetic reasons the corrugated metal walls and/or fencing that run along the sidewalks of these road bridges should be in the scope of repair and maintenance projects.

The District has 82.9 miles of streets and only 3.7 miles of bike lanes. Bike lanes are increasingly called for by many community members but a number of residents are resistant too. Given our border with Prospect Park and the growing number of residents who commute to work, but with the concern for truck routes, commercial corridors with delivery windows and the condition of many of our streets, bike lanes must be thoroughly considered and proposals properly vetted.

New York City Transit, MTA, MTA Bus Company

The work at the Brighton Line subway stations has been successfully completed. The stations are beautiful and service improved. In fact, the Avenue H station is now on a Transit Museum tour. The community has risen to the occasion to beautify Newkirk Plaza to complement the subway station to such an extent that it was deemed by Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President to be the “Greenest Block in Brooklyn” in the commercial category.



Station rehabilitations at Cortelyou Road, Beverly Road and Parkside Avenue must be sufficiently funded to reach the high bar the MTA has set with these other successful Brighton Line Station rehabilitations. Given the inconvenience local residents and our area merchants have had to withstand through the process, funding must be sufficient to expedite completion with minimum service disruptions and no station closures.

The recent restoration of several bus lines was welcome news. However, the B23 on Cortelyou Road was not among the lines that will operate again. The Community Board fought this cut when it was originally proposed and would strongly support its restoration given the few east/west public transportation options and the utility of this bus for the patrons of businesses on Cortelyou Road.

Youth and Community Development

Given that Community District 14's population under the age of 18 is greater than the Citywide average, Youth Services is a priority in our community. For the past five years Community Board 14 members have organized a Youth Conference. Every year attendance has grown. In the spring of 2012, nearly 600 people between the ages of 12-20 interfaced with approximately 40 different agencies and organizations. They were able to gain information, sign up for programs and events geared to leadership development, jobs skills, recreation, education and more. In addition to information tables, the event included six workshops on topics that ranged from interviewing skills to cyber-bullying.



Our commitment to youth is augmented by the work of the many community based programs in our area but more must be done. Currently, there is no Beacon Community Center within the boundaries of our District. A Beacon Center as well as the Out of School Time Initiative, and the Young Men's Initiative must be directed to our District. Department of Youth and Community Development events including youth job fairs, runaway prevention programs, and college awareness fairs would be supported and well attended in the District given our Youth Service track record.

Conclusion

Community Board 14 continues to strive to make even better the vitality, quality of life, access to programs and services and beauty and enjoyment our community has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact the Community Board 14 office for further information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn Campbell".

Shawn Campbell
District Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alvin M. Berk".

Alvin M. Berk
Chairman