



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
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*Community
Development &
Budget Priorities*

*Economic
Development*

Education & Culture

*Health & Social
Services*

Housing

Land Use

Parks & Recreation

Public Safety

*Sanitation &
Environmental
Protection*

Transportation

Youth Services

FY 2016 Statements of Community Board 11 District Needs

Community Board 11 is located in the north central section of the Bronx. It lies between the Bronx River and Hutchinson River Parkways and is bounded on the south by East Tremont Avenue and on the north by East Gun Hill Road, Boston Road and Adele Avenue. It is comprised of traditional neighborhoods such as Allerton, Morris Park, Pelham Gardens, Pelham Parkway, and Van Nest. The major thoroughfares passing through our district (CD11), in addition to some of our boundary streets, are Allerton Avenue, Bronxdale Avenue, Morris Park Avenue, Pelham Parkway, and White Plains Road.

CD11 is serviced by the New York City Department of Education and a number of schools operated by religious organizations. Additionally, Mercy College, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology are located in the district. The Police Precinct of record is the 49th Police Precinct, which, along with Sanitation District 11 and Parks Department District 11, is entirely coterminous with CD11, although a number of playgrounds and park areas, which are located in Bronx Park (a joint interest area officially outside of CD11), are also serviced by Parks District 11. CD11 is serviced by the Human Resources Administration's Office of Family Services at the Fordham, Crotona and Bergin Centers. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has designated CD11 a Neighborhood Preservation area, although our Neighborhood Preservation Office on Allerton Avenue has been closed for some time. CD11 is also the home of Jacobi Medical Center, Weiler Hospital, Bronx State Hospital, Beth Abraham, Calvary Hospital, New York Eye Surgery Center, the Bronx Occupational Training Center and the New York Center for Special Education.

1. General Trends

2. Housing

Community Board 11 urges that the funding for the various programs which provide loans to residents and landlords in our district be increased. Specifically, the Home Improvement Program, Article 8A loans, Community Consultant Contracts and Senior HELP Program are all extremely valuable programs to the residents of our community.

In addition, we urge that HPD and the Buildings Department be provided with inspectors and enforcement personnel needed to do all inspections in a timely manner.

3. Land Use

Community Board 11 is urging a change in the uses allowed in an R-district. We would like to prevent medical facilities from being as-of right in these districts. Our residential communities are inundated with medical facilities opening up next to private homes. These facilities are destroying the character of our community.

We are also requesting a change to the uses of a C-district on Boston Road to prevent motels, (which often become hot sheet motels) from being as-of right.

4. Transportation

Community Board 11 is in support of the following capital projects:

- HW-116 - Esplanade
- HW-691 - Astor Avenue
- HW-870 - Williamsbridge Road

Our Board also supports an increase in funding for the in-house resurfacing program and the contract resurfacing and milling programs, as well as additional Traffic Device Maintainers (TDMs).

We urge the Department of Transportation to increase its use of the Engineered Resurfacing Program, which can eliminate the need for major reconstruction of streets that need more than an in-house resurfacing job.

The NYC Division of Traffic and Planning is in need of additional inspectors to conduct traffic surveys, which we request on an almost regular basis.

We are also requesting that Kingsland Avenue, Seymour Avenue and Tiemann Avenue between Allerton Avenue and Pelham Parkway North be reconstructed. Before this is done

we are requesting that “core borings” be done to determine if there are streams or any other problems below these three streets.

The Community Board supports implementation of the recommendations of *Sustainable Communities in the Bronx: Leveraging Regional Rail for Access Growth and Opportunity*. This important study was developed with input from across the Bronx and presents a vision designed to capitalize on the borough’s Metro-North Corridors to strengthen Bronx connections to the region, connect Bronx residents to regional job centers, and help grow the borough’s economy and population. The study supports the MTA’s plans to develop four new stations in the Bronx along the Hellgate Line. The recommended strategies seek to spur investment in lively, sustainable, mixed-use neighborhoods with new mixed-income housing, improved station visibility, pedestrian access and intermodal connections around six existing and two proposed Metro-North Stations. The Department of City Planning worked extensively with community members in each station area to build a constituency around the recommendations. The recommendations include improvements to transportation and transit, parks and open space, mixed income housing options, as well as land use actions implemented through City Planning. The implementation of this plan will require an interagency effort that includes the Department of City Planning, the City Department of Transportation, the Department of Parks and Recreation, New York City Housing Authority, Department of Small Business Services, and MTA/Metro-North Railroad in cooperation with community stakeholders.

5. Parks and Open Space

The Parks Department has never rebound from the budget problems of the 1980s when they saw their budget slashed. Community Board 11 is still feeling the pain from the loss of maintenance, forestry and recreation workers.

Personnel for fixed-post in playgrounds are vital to maintaining safe, clean and healthy playgrounds for our children and seniors. By staffing our playgrounds, the incidents of vandalism and misuse of park property drastically declines, saving maintenance needs. This is especially necessary in parks such as Matthews and Muliner Playground. Without park personnel assigned to this park vandalism will occur and the money spent would be wasted. We were pleased when we heard the news that the Parks Department hired 207 CPW’s this year. We were dismayed that the Bronx, with the largest park in the City, only received 35 of those CPW’s. To make matters worse for Community Board 11, of that 35, we only received one additional CPW. Funding is vital for additional CPW’s for our parks in Community Board 11 or a reallocation of the new CPW’s is necessary.

Additional personnel in PEP are needed to combat the destruction of parks and playgrounds both in the day and in the evening. With such a low number of PEP officers assigned to the Bronx our parks are not patrolled and secured during the day or the evening.

The Forestry unit needs to be increased in order to assure that the many trees in our district are safe and being maintained. Currently, it takes years to have a tree pruned in our district.

During storms, these trees when not properly maintained create a dangerous situation for our community. Additional funding is necessary for the removal of tree stumps that currently take months to be removed.

Proper fencing and lighting is a major concern for our parks and playgrounds. Proper fencing will reduce the vandalism that usually occurs when a park is not secured. Proper lighting also reduces vandalism in our parks and playgrounds in addition to reducing criminal activity.

Community Board 11 supports the Following Parks projects:

- P-1034 - Pelham Parkway
- P-1033 - Bronx Park East
- P-963 - Bronx River Parklands

In addition, we urge that proper equipment and materials be purchased for the Parks Department's use, including a pick-up truck with a snowplow.

Community Board 11 is pleased that Van Nest Playground (Five Corners Park) is in the process of being reconstructed to accommodate the large number of young people in the Van Nest Community.

The Community Board urges the reintroduction of the summer recreational programs sponsored by the agency, including the preschool and summer program at Zimmermann Playground and the Mobile Recreation Unit program.

6. Public Facilities

We continue to support the building of a mini-school at PS 76. We also support the various requests from schools within our district for improvements and additions to meet the increasing student population.

We also support the request of schools in our district for resurfacing, fencing and security lighting and cameras in its schoolyards. This is desperately needed in PS 108 which has been broken into and vandalized many times.

Community Board 11 supports necessary enhancements at Jacobi Medical Center.

Community Board 11 supports the New York Public Library Branches in our district. We are grateful that in the current budget our libraries will be open 6 days a week. Our residents depend on our branches being open and available to them. We also urge that funds be made available to fully renovate the Van Nest and Allerton Branches. These structures are in need are serious renovation and also need to be up-graded.

Security at libraries has become a serious problem in our district. Unruly children in our libraries have created a difficult situation for our residents to be able to sit and enjoy a good book. Additional security guards are necessary to keep libraries safe and enjoyable.

The continuing need for a Beacon Program is urged for the Community Board 11 area. This need arises with the increased number of at-risk youth in our area. It seems totally unfair that some community boards have two and three Beacons and our board continues to have none. Currently, there continues to be only one evening program for youth in our district operated by the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation.

There continues to be a need in Morris Park, Pelham Gardens and Van Nest communities to have a center open until 10:00 PM. This has been a need for the over 10 years. Without programs for young people, families will flee to the suburbs to raise their children. We need to keep families in our community and make them want to stay here and raised their children.

As stated in the past, community organizations used to receive their funding through Department of Youth Services now they receive their funding from Department of Youth and Community Development. However, our allocations are miniscule and very limited to meet the needs of our ever-increasing youth population. The allocation of "Out of School Time" funds is now decided by the Department of Education with no input from Community Board 11.

7. Public Safety

Community Board 11 is opposed to any cuts in Fire Department Personnel or units. Only after September 11, 2001 did everyone realize how much we depended upon them. Any cut in personnel increases the danger that these brave individuals face each day.

Community Board 11 supports an increase in Fire Marshals in the Borough of the Bronx. We need this investigative body to cut down on arson in the Borough. Their numbers are too few for the vital services they offer.

We also urge the Fire Department to remove all deactivated emergency call boxes in our district. They are full of garbage, pose environmental hazards and bring down the look of the community.

Community Board 11 continues to advocate for an increase in Police Department personnel for the 49th Police Precinct. We believe that the cop on the beat is a visible deterrent to crime.

Community Board 11 urges that additional police be hired and the equipment they require to perform their duties be procured in a timely manner.

The 49th Precinct is in need of scooters and three-wheeled vehicles to allow CPOP Officers to adequately patrol their beat areas and allow them quicker access to playgrounds and schoolyards. Presently, the 49th Precinct staffing is below the Safe City-Safe Streets

anticipated patrol level. The current level assigned to the 49th Precinct is 216 officers, which is under the required level. This need will become more prevalent when the new 911 Emergency Call Center opens. More officers are going to be needed to secure this facility as well as more traffic agents to handle the additional vehicle traffic. Over the last few years, Community Board 11 has had new schools constructed in our district. This heightens the need to fund additional school crossing guards for our district. However, I want to thank former Commissioner Ray Kelly and Borough Patrol Chief Carlos Gomez for the increase we have seen last year in police officers assigned to the 49th. We urge you to look at the 49th Precinct and have additional officers assigned to the precinct to meet the mandated patrol level.

The 49th Precinct also patrols our three New York City Housing Developments, Pelham Parkway Houses, Eastchester Gardens and Parkside Houses. They have taken over the responsibility from PSA 8 in 2004. Even though their numbers were increased to four additional officers, which is hardly enough to do an adequate job of patrolling these developments.

Community Board 11 is in serious need of Traffic Control Agents to be assigned to Pelham Parkway and Boston Road, Pelham Parkway and White Plains Road, Pelham Parkway and Eastchester Road, and Allerton Avenue and Bronx Park East. These intersections during the rush hours are gridlocked and dangerous.

8. Water, Sewage and Sanitation

Community Board 11 recommends that additional personnel be provided to the Department of Environmental Protection. Additional field workers are needed to eliminate the existing backlog in sewer repairs and collapsed streets.

Community Board 11 is also requesting that we become a lock-down district. During the summer months, many of our hydrants are open by adults to cool off from the summer heat and to wash privately owned vehicles. This causes low water pressure throughout our district and brown water flowing from our taps.

We continue to support the construction and reconstruction of various sanitary and combined sewers in our district. In addition, funds for additional catch basins are needed to solve drainage problems in the district

In conjunction with our transportation requests (see page 7), Seymour Avenue, Tiemann Avenue and Westervelt Avenue have a serious flooding problem, which is caused by underground streams. We need to find a solution to this problem to prevent future damage to the homes on these streets.

For many years Community Board 11 has been requesting five-day pick-up at **all** the schools in our district. Currently, only public schools receive five-day pick-ups. This makes little sense. Private and religious schools all have feeding programs and generate the same amount of garbage each day as public schools. The garbage at the private and religious schools has to

linger there until the schedule pick-up date. Garbage being stored at a school, waiting to be picked up poses potential health and safety concerns to those children.

We are also requesting additional sanitation pick-ups at our NYCHA developments and other high-rise buildings in our district. It makes no sense that a one and two family house receives the same amount of pick-ups as a 1500 unit development. Storing of garbage does nothing but breed rodents and vermin.

Community Board 11 continues to request the restoration of the Clean Team and N.I.C.S. (Neighborhood Intensive Cleaning Squad) which were eliminated in prior years. These two programs are vital to maintaining the quality of life in our district. Reinstating this program would be helpful in regular cleaning of vacant lots. One such site would be the area on Waring Avenue between Kingsland Avenue and Westervelt Avenue. This is a closed off portion of Waring Avenue.

Community Board 11 strongly believes that the City of New York is going to have to deal with Amtrak and the MTA. These two agencies believe and for all intensive purposes are “above the law” when it comes to being responsible for maintaining their property and 18 inches into the curb. For years we have been demanding that both the MTA and Amtrak maintain their property, all in vain. Community Board 11 has the ability to call enforcement and get a tax paying citizen a summons for not maintaining their property but these two entities cannot be summons.

These same citizens that have the displeasure of living opposite one of these properties all have beautiful manicured lawns and when they look out their window or leave their house they have to look at a slum. This is not only unfair but it is also unethical. Community Board 11 is now looking to our Federal Elected Officials for a change in the law to hold them accountable.

Finally, Community Board 11 is requesting additional personnel for our Sanitation District. These personnel will allow us to maintain a high score card and leave our streets clean.

9. Economic Development

Community Board 11 continues to support various programs sponsored by Business Solutions and the Economic Development Corporation such as graffiti removal to enhance the business communities within our district.

Lack of parking continues to be a major problem for our business strips. Every year our stores lose more and more customers to Bay Plaza and other malls because of the lack of parking. Because of this problem, Community Board 11 is requesting that we allow angle parking on Morris Park Avenue. This will create 50% more parking spaces for this business strip. We also have to continue to look for ways to alleviate the parking problems in all our business strips. This has been a request for many years now and we believe that the City begin to think seriously about it. We are also requesting that the City construct an in-door

municipal parking facility at the current out-door facility at White Plains Road and Marin Place.

Community Board 11 will continue to work with our local merchants and neighborhood organizations to enhance the viability of the commercial strips in our district. We are also pleased with the work of the White Plains Road and Westchester Square BIDs and we support continued funding to keep them in operation. Although Allerton Avenue does not have a BID, we will continue to work with its merchants association to keep the area viable.

10. Resiliency and Sustainability

Additional Health Inspectors are needed for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, especially in the pest control division. The Health Department has been extremely helpful to us with neglected properties. The Community Board wants to ensure that this cooperation continues and be improved upon.

Conclusion

Community Board 11 stands ready and willing to cooperate with all the above mentioned agencies to achieve our desired and often mutual goals. Community Board 11 is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for the residents of our community.