



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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## **DISTRICT NEEDS STATEMENT FY/2009** **COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9**

Community Board No. 9 consists of four communities, Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill, Woodhaven and Ozone Park. Each has distinct characteristics.

**KEW GARDENS** is an enclave of tree-lined streets and large homes. The colonial and Tudor style homes are pre-World War II with plots generally 50' by 100' or larger. Mingling with the approximate 1000 private homes are Tudor style apartment buildings of the same vintage, with massive facades, enormous lobbies and inner court yards. There are six story apartment buildings built later. The community is a stable one but needs major street improvements as many streets are still privately owned.

**RICHMOND HILL** is a community with many multi-generational families. Grandparents, parents and children reside under one roof or within proximately to one another. This is a working class community with strong family and community ties. In the early 1900's, the area was mostly German, Italian and Irish. They are joined by new neighbors from Latin America, Asia and India. The area is rich in tradition and history.

Jahn's Ice Cream Parlor and many historic Victorian type homes give one the sensation of slipping back into time. The Richmond Hill community east of Lefferts Boulevard is in transition. A large Asian population, including Guyanese, Hindu and Indian groups have settled in Richmond Hill East. This area is in need of particular attention and assistance to aid in their assimilation into our culture.

**The WOODHAVEN** community can attribute its growth to Jamaica Avenue that in the early 1800's was a toll road. Many wealthy individuals had summer estates in Woodhaven. It was home to the Union Course Raceway. The area contains a well - maintained housing stock of one and two-family homes. Today, the Jamaica Avenue shopping strip is well known through out Queens.

**THE OZONE PARK** community is one of private homes that experienced major growth decades ago and settled into a longstanding period of stability. Those who settled were of Irish, Polish and Italian extraction. The 101st Avenue commercial strip has the several remaining Italian - American specialty shops, and the area surrounding St. Stanislaus Church still has many residents of Polish extraction.

The Ozone Park commercial strip is in need of assistance. The Woodhaven community has the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation and a Business Improvement District that are invaluable in upgrading and stabilizing the commercial strip. Both communities have experienced an influx of traffic and competition due to the Pathmark Mall. The Service Merchandise Mall located on Atlantic between 102nd and 104th will soon become home to a new Staples after lying fallow for five years.

## **LAND USE**

The Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill Community prepared and published a history, with landmark designation for both areas as their goal. We met with the Department of City Planning to facilitate the landmark request in whatever way possible. The Department of City Planning has combined these proposals and with community assistance, is moving forward. In Richmond Hill particularly, many of their Queen Anne homes are in danger as developers buy and demolish them to create attached row housing. The Board in conjunction with the Richmond Hill Historical Society proposed a portion of Richmond Hill for a down-zoning. The Department of City Planning incorporated the Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill requests and the rezoning was approved in March 2005. The Woodhaven/Ozone Park community's agreed to work with City Planning to accomplish a rezoning of both areas. They have solicited volunteered to perform several surveys.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

**Forest Park** The rehabilitation of Forest Park continues to be a priority of Community Board No 9. It is time for proposals put forth for Forest Park to come to fruition, e.g., security for Oak Ridge, correcting erosion along the Bridle Path. All can be completed with an insignificant outlay of funding. Consideration must be given to concessioning the Bridle Paths. Private for-profit riding stables use Park trails and complain that the trails are not maintained. Without the park to profit from, these stables would not exist. I am again recommending that the trails be operated through a concession agreement.

Continuation of the Forest Park renaissance is a priority. We cannot slide back to the devastation that occurred after the 1975 fiscal crisis. The renovation of Victory Field track is a necessity and we need a multi-use field as soon as possible. The facility is a sports complex and its services are for the ball players, runners, etc.

Oakridge, the former Golf House in Forest Park, built in 1905 and reconstructed at a cost of 2.5 million in 1993, is the headquarters of the Forest Park Administrator's Office is Home to Queen Council on the Arts. They work closely with the Forest Park Trust, Inc. The Trust is currently waiting for Mayor Bloomberg to approve the Trust becoming the Permittee of Oakridge. We urge Mayor Bloomberg to approve this as soon as possible.

The Forest Park Band Shell's 3.4 million dollar reconstruction is complete. We have a new state-of-the-art facility with capricious storage, bath and dressing room. The Band Shell is used throughout the summer for concerts and special events and the benches are in deteriorated condition. Attendees are constantly complaining that they are scratched and scraped on the broken benches. We need new benches desperately. The cost estimate last year was \$750,000.

Programs at the Bandshell include the Seuffert Concerts and programs sponsored by The Forest Park Trust, Inc. The appeal to all of these programs, introduces many newcomers to the amenities offered at Forest Park. Drastic cuts in programs for the Arts make it difficult to recruit entertainment. We urge restoration of funding to Cultural and Art programs particularly to those whose cuts exceed fifty percent. An increase in funding is requested. A community without art and culture is a dead community.

During the past year the once vibrant, lively Tennis Court area has seen a drastic declined in use. This is due to the deterioration of all the facilities. The Tennis Courts need resurfacing, new netting and plantings. We are witnessing a decline in our parks facilities that we have not seen since the early 1980's. These issues must be addressed immediately if we are to recover at all.

One of our Parks priorities is Funding to restore the one hundred-year old greenhouse for use as a science curriculum education center. The Forest Park Greenhouse is a unique facility within the

543-acre park. The nursery propagates 450,000 plants annually for use throughout the city. Built in the early 1900's, the antiquated houses need to be refurbished. A modernized facility would allow us to offer school and senior groups "hands-on" educational programs. The Greenhouse provides a safe environment for learning to take place. The Program includes growing and planting in Forest Park. This year 1.1 million dollars was allocated through Borough President Marshall and Councilmen Joseph Addabbo and John Liu. Rebuilding of the existing facility insures a secure and structurally safe learning environment and restores the historic value of the greenhouse.

Forest Park needs a sustainable landscape management program to rehabilitate park entrances, maintain landscaped areas, restore woodlands, and nature trails and supervise a volunteer program. Funds are sporadically available for this program. To secure this investment and continue to restore Forest Park's 543 acres, the Administrator's office recommends continued support for the Landscape Management Program. The program will address the major natural resource problems, maintain and create formal landscaped areas. It will consist of a crew chief, foreperson, and candidates from the Parks Job Training Program. The Forest Park Trust is committed to this project and will continue to raise private monies to help support it. WE REQUEST FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

The Sobelson Playground, Jackson Pond Basketball courts and Playground, and Buddy Monument rehabilitations are all complete. The Rehabilitation of Jackson Pond/Buddy Monument was completed. Phase II of this rehabilitation should move ahead quickly. The path and stairs around Sgt. Schaeffer Bullet needs funding for restoration.

Rehabilitation of The Marco Giovanelli Playground located on Park Lane South and 102nd Street is needed. The park has only received routine maintenance and requires a full rehabilitation. Both Mary Whalan and Marco Giovanelli playgrounds are listed in the top ten priorities of our Capital and Expense Budget for five years. The importance of playgrounds to a community cannot be overestimated. A deteriorated playground suggests and contributes to the deterioration of the surrounding neighborhoods. Conversely, a new, clean, modern playground that provides activities for children and adults, or simply an esthetic place to sit and rest, enhances the entire community. These two playgrounds reflect horribly on our community. They are safety and health hazards safety because they are in need of paving to correct trip hazards; health, because they both lack basic toilet facilities. Children are forced to relieve themselves by using the park area. Monies must be made available at once to correct this disgusting situation. Consideration should be given to the use of the Street Furniture Franchise that includes 20 Automatic Public Toilets. The APT's could be utilized in Mary Whalan and Marco Giovanelli Playgrounds and would be more feasible financially.

Hopefully we can expect completely rebuilt playgrounds and a lovely new Forest Park. The question than arises how will we maintain them. Maintenance and recreation personnel are minimal. Unless new personnel are hired soon, all the rebuilding will have been for nothing. We no longer have RD's and Parks M&O personnel are in short supply. Additional personnel must be hired.

Forest Park sponsors a Free Sports Clinic twice a week. It also provides instruction in, Karate, Basketball, Skating and a recently added, New Bike-Driver Education Program. To participate kindly bring your skateboard, and Helmet. For further information on dates and times call 718-235-4100.

Policing of parks to preserve and protect citizens and equipment requires the hiring of Park Enforcement Officers. When they are on the job our parks are safe and secure. We request additional officers and consideration of peace officer status for their title.

PEP Officers patrol Forest Park on a limited basis. Vandalism, graffiti and illegal dumping occur

regularly. We need 2 PEP Officers year round to prevent these problems. We must have at least two additional officers to work along with the 102 Pct. in patrolling the park.

This Board boasts some of the oldest and largest trees in New York City. Tree lined streets are an attractive amenity to any community but not properly cared for and maintained they become deteriorating relics. Funds must be allocated for tree pruning and removal of dead trees.

Forestry Division cannot perform the monumental task of tending to our district's trees without the manpower and equipment needed. The reduction of the climbers and pruners is devastating. We urge funding, equipment and manpower to enable them to tackle the growing backlog.

**BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT** -The computerization of the Department of Buildings has eliminated an enormous amount of paperwork. The Community Boards' access to information is as close as the BIS system. The policy established to inspect sites with a District Manager or staff member, once a month is working. Hot spots for each Community Board are personally addressed by an individual who is aware of the circumstance. The program needs expansion. The follow-up on The Department of Building Safety violations is non-existent.. We need a system of follow-up that does not only issue fines and violations, but a one that corrects and cures them. Illegal conversions severely and adversely impact all city services. Single family homes on a residential block of fifty homes converted illegally to three family houses result in three times the amount of garbage, a serious lack of on street parking facilities, and overcrowded schools that cannot provide the proper services to their students. Public transportation problems escalate and most importantly, close living conditions create animosity , adversity and additional problems for the police. This all occurs without the city's knowledge. From 2000-2003 the Queens Department of Buildings issued 4,860 permits for new two family Privately owned residential buildings, and 3,424 permits for three and four family buildings. Our Borough continues to grow at an alarming rate. These numbers are for legal construction. The Board continues to seek out and report illegal construction. Stop work orders on illegal construction must be diligently enforced and acted upon.

### **COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION**

In 1990 this Board tried desperately to fight the renewal of the twenty-year lease for the Boundary Fence Company. They lease 50,000 square feet of prime space on Jamaica Avenue between 131st and 132nd Street in Richmond Hill. They have spread like a cancer throughout the community polluting and disrupting as they go.

The Reconstruction of Jamaica Avenue provided new streets, curbs, sidewalks and trees. Until we can remove this blight known as Boundary Fence, development of the Commercial strip is stymied. Their pollutants continues to permeate the community endangering health and fouling the air. I was informed that they are currently seeking to purchase the property. This cannot occur. The Jamaica Hospital Medical Center has worked hand and hand with this Board to build up Jamaica Avenue. They constructed a Women's Center in the abandoned post office and rehabilitated several abandoned buildings for use as office space. All this was accomplished cooperatively with the Community Board. The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce under contract with Department of Business Services undertook an audit of the area to from 143rd Street to 126th Street on Jamaica Avenue to determine the feasibility of attracting pharmaceutical, medical and support related business to the area. Certainly a medical related business or a High School for students interested in either is a more productive and appropriate use for the site currently occupied by Boundary Fence.

Boundary Fence sits in the middle of the Avenue, never participating or contacting the Community Board, only trying to circumvent the process as often as they can. They contacted several legislators and the

Borough President's economic development personnel in an attempt to purchase the property secretly. They pay an unprecedented \$0.72 a square foot for the privilege of destroying the surrounding area.

The Company works twenty-four hours a day, uses noxious chemicals, constructed an oven that operates at night adding to the air contamination and pollution. The fumes permeate the air causing a health hazard to the surrounding community. Residents state the company hires illegal aliens who work under horrendous conditions. Complaints have come in regarding their trucks blocking the street, noise and a general disruption of community life.

There are many uses for this site that can uplift the economy of the surrounding Commercial strip and benefit the community. For instance, retail development, additional hospital use or more importantly as a site for an elementary school. District 28 is overcrowded with 100% capacity and is under a mandate to take students currently housed in District 27 which further demonstrates the desperate need for additional seats. A school is a positive and necessary addition to our community. With 50,000 square feet of space we could build a school and possible retail stores. The limited number of jobs provided by Boundary Fence can be replaced by those in retail or in the school.

On 60,000 square feet The Division of High Schools is constructing a School For Architecture and Urban Planning with 931 seats. We can certainly create a model school and a retail strip-mall on 50,000 square feet. The 2000 Census revealed a startling population growth of 50,000 in this area of Richmond Hill East. Much of that population is from India and Guyana with large families with extensive educational needs. We must address these needs. The Boundary Fence operation has outgrown its location. A site in an Industrial Park would benefit both the community and the fence company. It is outrageous to continue this noxious use in a residential/retail community.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION –**

Since welfare reform initiatives began, the City has had great success in moving people from welfare to work. Since Fiscal 1995, the number of public assistance recipients has decreased from nearly 1.2 million to 429,900 in June 2003. As more people find jobs, those remaining on public assistance have more barriers to employment. The percent of public assistance cases that are partially or fully unable to work rose from 54.7 percent in June 2002 to 56.4 percent in 2003. These hard core welfare recipients must be re-evaluated, re-categorized and placed in a work environment to become productive workers.

#### **DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING**

Community Boards Nos. 9 & 10 have a large senior population and four Senior Centers located in Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and Ozone Park serving 500 meals daily. Our homebound elderly population relies heavily on the "Meals on Wheels" Nutrition Program. This program delivers well-balanced meals to the frail elderly who are unable to prepare nutritional meals for themselves. The program must be increased to meet the demand of our ever growing senior population. We are in desperate need of additional vans and drivers to deliver these meals. There is a need to support the many churches, synagogues and private organizations that fund senior programs. The programs also provide recreation, social and educational programs to the senior population. Without these groups many seniors will spend lonely days shut-in at home with nothing to do. Funding must be made available for our seniors.

**CHILD CARE-** For years we searched in an effort to bring affordable Day Care to Board 9. We are still searching. There are several small programs and some Home Day Care slots but they are insufficient and cannot fill the need. At a time when two parents must work to care for the family, affordable day care is a necessity.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Queens continues to be short changed on several Fire Department programs, i.e. a dedicated Juvenile Fire setter Program and an Arson Task Force for Auto Crimes. Last year we noted that the Borough lagged far behind Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx in the installation of Emergency Reporting System Boxes.

Many of our 221 firehouses are turn of the century buildings that need upgrades such as new roofs; apparatus floor replacements, waterproofing, pointing, etc. We request specific consideration be given to these requests.

This Board has a large immigrant population, many living in illegal conversions ripe for fire. We need a Fire Prevention Task Force to deal with this. The task force should include Department of Buildings, Consumer Affairs, Police, etc.

Funding is requested to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to the public throughout the year. Also, the Fire Department has developed a CPR Training course for the public. This is a life-saving program offered free of charge. We support the FDNY requests for funding to purchase 10,000 "CPR Kits" to be given to each individual taking the course. Use of the kits will enable the fire Department to "train the trainer" as the kits can be used by the public to teach CPR as well.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Board seeks a change in the allocation formula for the assignment of Police Officers. The current allocation is based upon an analysis of statistics that excludes many Quality of Life complaints. Pocket problem areas in the 102 Pct. require special attention. Jamaica Avenue, 85th Street to the City Line 101 Avenue, 75th Street to City line and are areas that have drug activity and Quality of Life issues. The 2002 Annual Report on Social Indicators shows the 102nd Pct. Ranking 18th out of 123 Precincts, Citywide in crimes against properties and persons. We have a total of 3876 major crime index for the year ending 2003. We finished the year with a 3.2% reduction in crime vs. 8% in 1998. We require the assignment of a sufficient number of officers to the 102 Precinct Detective squad to investigate Robberies. Despite the decrease in crime, the 102 Pct. recorded 136 Robberies just six months into 2006. If the trend continues by December of this year we will have a record of 672 robberies. Due to this large case load additional Detectives are required to investigate and further reduce crime.

Allocation of radio cars for supervisors and police officers is a necessity. The supervisors do not have supervisory capabilities without autos. An increase of eight vehicles is required in order to maintain a running fleet for patrol. Currently the 102 Pct. has 13 RMPS assigned. The 102 Pct. receives one of the lowest allocations of RMP'S (radio motor patrol vehicles). The precinct requires unmarked vehicles for special operations i.e. prostitution, surveillance, etc. One additional van is needed to transport Youth truants and an unmarked nondescript vehicle for undercover officers. In order to curb Grand larceny auto a vehicle equipped with Lo-jack is needed to track and arrest the perpetrators.

The two youth officers and the 3 Domestic Violence Officers, and one Domestic violence Sgt. share one vehicle. We need two additional vehicle to better serve the community. The Community Policing Unit needs two additional Officers and one for the Domestic Violence Unit. We again request additional scooters for the 102nd Precinct. Currently we have only 2 Two-wheel, (one out of service) and 8 three-wheel scooters assigned. Our regular patrol had four but one is out of service. The Precinct is responsible for patrolling 543 acres of Forest Park. Three wheel-scooters are required for this patrol. Scooters are effective during the school year at Franklin K Lane High School and JHS 210. These vehicles add to the effectiveness of crime prevention on our commer-

cial strips; Jamaica Avenue, 101st Avenue, Queens Boulevard and Lefferts Boulevard. We request A minimum of nine scooters . Three for summonses, three for traffic and three for Forest Park.

Bicycle patrols of Forest Park help the Police fight crime in areas inaccessible to scooters, horses and cars. The Bike Patrol increased to everyday from 8 am to 4 pm and 4 pm to 12am. Increase in patrol brings a need for additional equipment. We require twenty-three Marked Bikes for patrol access and visibility. Our Civilian Patrols throughout the precinct brought about a 30.10% reduction in Grand Larceny and Grand Larceny Auto last month. We request four (4) radios to assist the volunteers in providing information during surveillance. This saves precious time by not calling 911 but calling the Precinct direct. With the Narcotics Initiate in the 103rd on our eastern border and the 75th on our western border the 102nd Precinct shows a demonstrable increase in drug trafficking. Our borders are under siege and we need to fight back. We must have the Narcotics initiative now.

### **Quality of Life Enforcement**

The number of Quality-of-life enforcement complaints increased over the years. Complaints given to the local Police Precinct are assigned a "Low Priority" and the complaint is not responded to. The result is that many illegal actions remain uncorrected and unchallenged which encourages the proliferation of these violations. To resolve the problem, I recommend expanded traffic control and enforcement.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

C.B.#9 students deserve the same amenities and services extended to other students in the City of New York. They deserve education in a building that is at least up to minimum standards. We continue to advocate for monies to be allocated for construction & maintenance of Schools. In District #27 we have more than 37,000 students who are attending schools in overcrowded & run down school facilities. Over crowded conditions have forced families to have one child in a neighborhood school and another to be traveling long distances( not to mention that the children could be as young as 5 years old). The Youth & Education Committee is concerned with the impact continued budget cuts have on the districts ability to provide basic services to our students.

We continue to advocate for affordable Day Care ( which is non- existent in CB#9) and Pre-K programs in our public schools. We protest the existence of opening fees for the use of Public School buildings. Funded programs spend a substantial percentage of their budgets on opening fees which decreases the amount available for direct service. We request that the Department of Education provide enough money to open all schools in School District Nos. 27 and 28, that are located in CB#9 (after school and evening)as well as citywide.

These schools are P.S. 56, 60, 63, 64, 66, 90, 97 and JHS 210, all in District #27, Region 5, P.S. 54, 99 and 90 in District #28, Region 3. In addition, Richmond Hill High School and Franklin K. Lane High School should be available for community use on a full time basis.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/YOUTH SERVICES**

Recent Changes to the Department's funding streams and how funds are allocated are of major concern to Community Board #9. Particularly the Out of School Time Initiative (OST) which convened government officials, providers, and funders of youth services, in order to design a more coordinated and cost effective system of after school service delivery. DYCD claims its OST system will focus more attention on full service programming with accountability and quality, in lieu of spreading resources thinly to serve large numbers of children in one shot programs. The notion that resources are spread to thin is a farce.

It is not clear as to what system DYCD looked at before, but in CB#9 and many Communities in NYC; Community Based Organizations that were funded through the department were always accountable to DYCD. It is DYCD who has neglected their responsibility to monitor programs that they funded. Instead, Communities throughout the City are now suffering because DYCD feels that those programs funded in the past, are not in communities of need. How absurd!!!

We are concerned that the Community Board has been cut out of the Planning process and that we lost our Community Share/ YDDP allocations. In its recent OST RFP DYCD funded 95 YDDP programs as opposed to 256 YDDP programs in the previous RFP (released in FY 2003). Community Boards have been involved in comprehensive planning for youth services in their districts for over 20 years, and have worked closely with Community Based Organizations and DYCD.

One thing we must not lose sight of is that YDDP Funding was set up for all youth in NYS/NYC no matter what their income level may be, and is based on Community Based programming to meet the ever changing needs of that community, and to provide positive places for recreation, tutoring, cultural education, delinquency prevention, special needs populations, i.e. Immigrant youth, disabled youth, etc.

It is imperative that Community Boards and The Community Citywide retain a voice and role in this process. Community Boards know the needs of their communities and have a charter mandate to plan for youth services. Community Boards possess unique knowledge of its neighborhoods and have connections to community groups, civic organizations, schools, local government, hospitals, libraries, community based organizations, etc. There must be a place for the Community Boards and the Community in the planning of youth services that will after all, be serving the youth of our neighborhoods.

It is the Charter Mandate of the Community Board to assess the impact of local services in their districts, and it is The Department of Youth and Community Development's Charter Mandate (Section 733c- Powers and Duties) to plan and coordinate neighborhood services in conjunction with Community Boards and Youth Services Planning Committees.

Community Based Organizations have informed CB#9 that filling out the RFP was very difficult and technical. The youth funded groups in CB#9 are frustrated because they cannot afford professional grant writers. This has also caused many CBO'S to forgo the process altogether. We understand that technical assistance is available at the Department of Youth and Community Development, but many groups haven't the manpower nor the means to go to DYCD headquarters (as many of these groups are small volunteer organizations).

The Education & Youth Services Committee is encouraged by Commissioner Jeanne B. Mull-  
grav's reference to working to improve its partnership with the City's Community Boards and mention of Comprehensive planning efforts. Although recent changes to DYCD staff has been positive and communication between the Community Board and the department has improved, there have been many problems with DYCD'S administrative operations. Specifically as it relates to the release of RFP'S, implementation of special programs, namely the Summer Bus Program, or lack thereof. This year's summer bus program was changed as groups could only qualify for one bus trip per group. In previous years this was not the case.

The Community Board and the Education & Youth Services Committee believes in the concept of Comprehensive Planning for Youth Services at the local level as mandated by the City Charter. We support the Comprehensive Planning Initiative, the Letter of Agreement and the prerogative



to hire a Youth Coordinator specific to each individual Community Board. This independence is necessary to preserve and ensure that each Community Board has the capability to plan for and coordinate youth services across agency lines. In turn it enables the youth and families in each community board to access their fair share of available services.

The Ozone Park Community is under served in the area of youth services. We need Head Start Programs. To date, there is one Program in the Northern portion of our community with limited numbers served. The District is overlooked again and again in children services; Head Start and Day Care. The situation needs to be rectified.

C.B.#9 requests an increase in both City and State funds to address the presence of drugs and violence among our youth. We need school programs to deliver preventive and educational services to address alcohol and substance abuse and violence prevention to our residents.

In July 1995, the Youth Coordinator line was cut from the city budget. We are a community with an ever growing and diverse population. This has impacted on the services in our communities. Our needs changed with our population. Although we were able to re-hire our Youth Coordinator she has additional responsibilities and we maintain that the Youth Coordinator position is a full time unique position.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

The Needs Assessment conducted by the Youth Coordinator among existing Youth Programs and services for youth in this district found that C.B.#9 receives no cultural workshops, exhibits or performances throughout the schools. Although there is an abundance of agencies throughout the City which perform at various schools, C.B.#9 is excluded year after year. The limited amount of Community Share allocation through the NYC Department of Youth Services does not allow the Community Board to fund all needed programs. We request the Department of Cultural Affairs arrange for C.B.#9 to be served within its City contracts with cultural service providers.

The Kew Gardens community is the only community in Board 9 that does not have a library. We request an inspection of the community with a view toward site selection.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

For several years we requested The Home Base Communication System for Sanitation District 9. I am happy to report that in November of last year it was provided to them. In an effort to help our Sanitation District into the age of technology we donated our old used equipment to them. Our antiquated copy machine somehow lasted a few more years at Sanitation thanks to several talented workers. Since its demise, the District's Route sheets are again regularly produced at our office. A worker takes time to travel, park and copy the sheets. A copier on premises permits this chore to be done in several minutes. Purchasing a copier is cost-effective, time-saving, and the efficient thing to do. The same applies to a fax machine. What office today exists without the ability to communicate quickly by fax? District 9 in Queens, that's who. A supervisor can be more effective, can spend more time supervising if given the proper communication tools. I can not understand why all city agencies, including The Department of Highway, Fire Department and the Police Department have this equipment but not The Department of Sanitation. Kindly provide those tools for our garage.

We request continuation of manpower and the basket truck seven days a week. Many commercial strips are open Saturday and Sunday. With the basket collection our scorecard rating remains about 93%. The Department has a need for a mechanical broom three times a week, in addition to the one we have, to maintain the industrial areas.

Department of Sanitation Enforcement is important to any community. The Department of Sanitation Police are effective in ensuring the cleanliness of the area. An increase in their numbers is requested.

This Board has malls that require year-round cleaning. Atlantic Avenue from the Brooklyn Queens Border to Van Wyck and Woodhaven Boulevard are cleaned an average of once a year. Mall Cleaners must be provided to QW9 on a regular basis for safety as well as beautification. During the spring and summer we need regular spraying of the Weeds that still spring up on the center mall on Atlantic Avenue, particularly between Lefferts Blvd. and the VanWyck Expressway.

District 9's Garage is home to all their personnel and equipment. The current garage, is in a state of disrepair and does not meet their needs. It is antiquated, falling apart, the garage door jams and the building is an eyesore to the surrounding community. After a five year search we located a suitable location for our garage. It is a large unutilized parcel of property on 121 Street between 89 Avenue and Atlantic Avenue, (entrance next to the Fire Department at 91-45 121 Street). We request an immediate survey of the site with a view toward purchase or condemnation. C.B.#9 looks forward to today's needs becoming tomorrow's reality.

Submitted by

*Mary Ann Carey*

District Manager