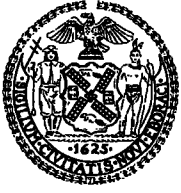


# Bronx Community Board #2



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## **SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION –HISTORY**

Community District #2 is located in the Southeast corner of the Bronx, bounded by the Bronx River on the East, the East River on the South, E. 149th Street and Prospect Avenue on the West and portions of E. 169th Street, E. 167th Street and Westchester Avenue on the North. It is comprised of the neighborhoods of **Hunt's Point, Longwood** and the southeastern portion of **Morrisania**.

The Europeans first settled Hunt's Point in 1663. At this time, Edward Jessup and John Richardson arrived on the peninsula and purchased the land from the Wekkguasegeek tribe indigenous to the area. After Jessup died, his widow, Elizabeth entrusted the land to Thomas Hunt Jr., her son in-law.

Once part of West Farms in lower Westchester County, the area was annexed to New York City in 1874 and began to develop after a subway line from Manhattan was extended in 1904. As more people moved to the area, the city's business owners began to realize the advantages of locating to Hunt's Point. Among them were the convenient access to the Tri-State region, the existing rail lines running through the Hunt's Point area and the abundance of space available for the development of industrial and commercial activity.

The population was predominantly Jewish along with a few German, Irish and Italian immigrants; later it became largely Puerto Rican and African-American. By the 1960's local housing was deteriorating and many white residents left for the suburbs. Hunt's Point was beset by poverty, drugs, and crime in the 1970's and early 1980's. Characterized by frequent arson and mass abandonment, this period was undoubtedly the low point in the area's rich and diverse history. Living conditions became so difficult that almost 60,000 residents, approximately two-thirds of the existing population left, or were forced out, of the neighborhood during the 1970's.

Conditions later vastly improved through the initiatives of SEBCO Development Corp., Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association, South Bronx Development Corp., The Bronx Borough President's Office, and The New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development which created new housing and rehabilitated existing housing. The success of their efforts are clearly evident. Between 1980 and 1990, the population of the district grew by 14.7 percent, the largest margin of growth of any community in the Bronx. From 1990 to 2000 the Growth rate was 18.7 percent, the second highest in the borough. Since 1992, we have seen the development of over 3,800 new housing units. Of the new units, two-thirds are located in what were once vacated buildings and one-third are newly created low-density housing. So thorough is the development and renovation of the District that no city owned apartment building in the community stands vacant.

## **SECTION TWO: PEOPLE AND HEALTH**

### **Some Facts about the Population:**

2000 Population	Black (Non-Hisp.)	Hispanic (Non-Hisp.)	White	Asian & Pacific Is	Other
<b>CD2: 46,824</b>	10,021 21.4%	35,507 75.8%	582 1.2%	207 0.47%	507 1.1%

The population and character of the neighborhoods that comprise CD2 are predominantly Hispanic and Black. Between 1990 and 2000, the number and percent of Asians & Pacific Islanders and Blacks has increased slightly, while the percent of Whites and Hispanics has decreased slightly.

Compared to NYC as a whole, in Hunt's Point /Mott Haven the percentage of the population that is Hispanic is substantially higher (73% vs. 27%), the percentage that is White is substantially lower (1% vs. 34%), the percentage that is African-American is nearly identical (24% vs. 25%), and the percentage that is Asian is substantially lower (0% vs. 10%).

Our population is growing both young and old at the same time. Overall, however, this community is young in comparison to other parts of New York City. The median age in CD2 is 26.9, the third lowest in the Bronx and significantly younger than the median age for the Borough and New York City as a whole. The increase in population occurred principally among children under 9 years (20.3%) and adults over 60 years of age (10%).

Families in CD2 households are more likely to have children living with them than in New York City as a whole. Single women head a majority of these households.

Our residents are among the least likely to have completed high school or equivalency degrees in New York City, both reflecting and exacerbating employment problems.

Compared to NYC as a whole, in Hunt's Point /Mott Haven the percentage of adults 25 years and older without a high school diploma (61% vs. 32%) and the percentage of linguistically isolated household (28% vs. 12%) are substantially higher.

Households in CD2 on average earn significantly less than the rest of NYC. In 2002, 45.0% of all residents received some sort of income support, a decrease of 26.6% from the 1994 high figure of 61.1%, but still the third highest in NYC. The percent of the population on income support for the entire city is 21.8; 31.6 for the Bronx.

### **Some Issues Regarding Health:**

Our residents face a variety of health, safety, and environmental problems. Relevant issues include poor use of prenatal care services and consequent high infant mortality rate, high rates of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, high prevalence and

exposure risk for HIV and AIDS, high rates of tuberculosis, asthma, chronic substance abuse and obesity/diabetes.

### **Asthma:**

It is generally agreed that asthma is most likely a product of both housing conditions and overall environmental health.

Compared to New York City as a whole, in **Hunt's Point/Mott Haven** the rates of hospitalization for asthma among children aged 9 and younger (1,160 vs. 720/100,00), among adults aged 18 to 24 (246 vs. 117/100,000), and among adults aged 25 to 64 (917 vs. 262/100,00) are substantially higher. The rate of hospitalization for acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis among children aged 9 and younger is also substantially higher (695 vs. 408/100,000).

In the Bronx, the rate for children with asthma is double the national rate. The Bronx, in fact, has the highest asthma hospitalization rate in the city and **Hunt's Point** has the highest rate of any neighborhood in the borough. Despite this the NYC Department of Health chose to close our community asthma clinic, operated through The Childhood Asthma Initiative for the past four years, on July 1, 2002. This clinic was long regarded as one of the most successful asthma outreach programs in the City. Health Force, a non-profit group that runs The Department Of Health's asthma outreach services in other sections of the South Bronx, will get increased funding to service our district but workshops and some other functions once handled in Hunt's Point will be held in East Harlem.

We feel that we need and deserve an asthma outreach program located physically in our district to continue the beneficial results in our children's health, which just recently started to become evident.

Dr. Irwin Redlener, president of the Children's Health Fund, has stated that areas like the Bronx should be targeted for extra attention by public health and medical organizations in order to combat the disease. To facilitate this effort, legislators in New York are attempting to make asthma a "reportable" disease that would call for mandatory tracking and reporting of cases. This process would effectively pinpoint high incidence areas that would allow for more effective allocation of resources for combating the disease. We are very much in favor of this proposal.

### **Pre-Natal and Infant Care:**

This area has the third highest rate of infant mortality in The Bronx as well as the highest rate of teen pregnancy. Over 18% of all infants born in the **Hunt's Point/Mott Haven** District are to mothers under the age of 20 years, and over 48% of all expectant mothers receive no prenatal care during their first trimester. The percent of children born at low birth weight (less than 5 lb. 5 oz.) is 25% more, and infant mortality is 25.4% higher than the city as a whole. The rate of hospitalization for pregnancy and related conditions among adolescents aged 10 to 17 years old (1,751 vs.. 1,070/100,000) is substantially higher in Hunt's Point /Mott Haven compared to NYC as a whole. A majority of the births in Hunt's Point/Mott Haven were to unmarried women. Nationally, children born to mothers who have never married are five times more likely to live below the poverty line than children in two-parent families.

## **HIV/AIDS\***

The latest statistics available indicate that the AIDS epidemic had affected Hunt's Point/Mott Haven with startling intensity. With only 9% of the population, these neighborhoods have 14% of individuals living with AIDS in the Bronx. Moreover, the vast majority (41.3%) of People Living With Aids in **Hunt's Point/Mott Haven** incurred the virus via intravenous drug use. Compared to NYC as a whole, in Hunt's Point /Mott Haven the rates of hospitalization for drug abuse and dependence among adults 18 to 24 (1,193 vs. 775/100,000) and adults aged 25 to 64 (2,159 vs. 461/100,000) are substantially higher. At the end of December 2001, **Hunt's Point/ Mott Haven** had a cumulative AIDS case rate of 3,829 per 100,000 - 2nd in the Bronx and 6th in NYC; this rate being 70% higher than that of city as whole. **Hunt's Point/Mott Haven** has more residents diagnosed with AIDS than the state of Arkansas and eighteen other states!

In June 2000, Seroprevalence HIV status became a mandated reportable condition in NYS but statistics are still preliminary and are an understatement of the total number of People living with HIV in NYC. HIV surveillance data are incomplete because diagnosed People Living With HIV are not reportable under existing law: undiagnosed People Living With Aids are not reportable, and laboratory and provider reporting may be incomplete. The NYC Department of Health reports that there were about 725 People Living in **Hunt's Point /Mott Haven** by August 2002.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) NYC DOH annually compiles a summary of reported STDs including the case rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia (females only) and primary and secondary syphilis (P&S Syphilis). In 2001, the rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia increased in **Hunt's Point/Mott Haven** while the P&S Syphilis rate decreased. The rate of gonorrhea increased by 29% and the rate of chlamydia by 1.5% while the rate of P&S Syphilis decreased by 29% from 3.1 to 2.4/100,000 - still remaining the highest rate in the Bronx and 7th in NYC.

\*Information obtained from the Brooklyn Aids Task Force Newsletter.

### **Some facts About Health:**

Compared to NYC as a whole, in Hunt's Point/Mott Haven....

- Hepatitis A is substantially higher (14 vs. 6.7/100,000)
- Hepatitis B is substantially higher (16 vs. 7.1/100,000)
- The rate of lung cancer in adults aged 65 and older is somewhat lower (186 vs. 280/100,000)
- The rate of colorectal cancer in adults aged 45-64 is somewhat higher (74 vs. 57/100,000) and the rate in adults aged 65 and older is somewhat lower (234 vs. 313/100,000)
- The rates of breast cancer in women aged 45 to 64 (161 vs. 200/100,000) and women aged 65 and older (215 vs. 373/100,000) are somewhat lower
- The rates of prostate cancer in men aged 45-64 (118 vs. 130/100,000) and men aged 65 and older (736 vs. 805/100,000) are somewhat lower

- The rates of hospitalization for mental disorders among adolescents aged 18 to 24 (1,193 vs. 775/100,000) and adults aged 25 to 64 (2,159 vs. 1,127/100,000) are substantially higher
- The rates of hospitalization for injuries and poisoning among adults aged 25 to 64 is substantially higher (1,030 vs. 652/100,000)
- The death rate for isochheim heart disease among adults 65 and older is substantially higher (4,098 vs. 2,599/100,000)
- The death rates from psychoactive substance use and accidental drug poisoning among adults aged 25 to 64 is substantially higher (51 vs. 17/100,000)

## **SECTION THREE: THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **Housing:**

In CD2, housing is predominantly medium density apartment buildings and row houses. The Hunts Point peninsula, to the east of the Bruckner Expressway, is a 20 block residential community of approximately 14,000 residents surrounded by manufacturing and other mixed uses.

Community Board #2 has historically placed housing redevelopment and new construction among its highest priorities. The housing initiative is one in which both the Community Board and local organizations have been extremely successful. The impetus for this advocacy developed as a result of the need to restore a massive decline in the area's housing stock which occurred during the 1970's and early 1980's.

Those few small private homes already in the district were a rock of stability during the seventies when many of the multiple dwellings succumbed to the plague of abandonment. During that same period only 10% of our small home stock was lost and continues to be strong to the present.

Community District#2 is still undergoing a significant increase in housing redevelopment that is welcomed in the area. The new housing removes vacant buildings as a blighting element, encourages rejuvenation of existing properties and provides customers far businesses which further strengthens the economic fabric of the community.

Over 3,800 new units of housing were developed between F.Y. 91 and the present. This new housing has resulted in an increased population of over 7,000, approximately half of which were formerly homeless, one quarter low income and the final quarter private homeowners. This population increase represents a 18.7% rise in the district's population.

The development of housing in the district has been consistent with the Community Board's plan to develop a mixture of housing forms. Two thirds of the newly developed units are made up of formerly vacant structures which have been renovated, one third

represent low-density housing. These new homes will guarantee the community a mixed income character far into the future.

Through the past 15 years, Community Board #2 has made great strides toward its goal of developing a mixture of housing types that provide all too scarce opportunities for its long-time residents and newcomers seeking needed housing. At one end of that increasingly broad housing spectrum are private homes in the century-old Longwood Historic District and townhouses just one or two decades old. At the other end are rental units for formerly homeless and low-income individuals and families who have found stable homes in rehabilitated and new structures throughout the district. In all, the district's population has officially grown by 7,381 residents representing a 18.7% increase since FY91 the second highest in the borough.

The current phase of Community Board #2-approved new and rehabilitated housing units continues to advance its mission of developing a truly diverse, mixed-income community by emphasizing two demographics currently under-represented in the district's housing pool: moderate income homeowners and seniors. During FY06 and continuing in FY07, the CB2 Housing and Land Use committee has put its support behind new construction projects to create cooperative apartments for moderate-income individuals and families in the Longwood neighborhood. Similarly the Committee has endorsed new construction projects to create housing for individual seniors and senior-head-of-household families (typically seniors with custody of minor grandchildren) elsewhere in Longwood and the district's Morrisania neighborhood.

The district's steady population increases have fostered business growth, an array of charter schools, additional medical facilities, and greater community involvement throughout CB2. With the crisis of sheer housing volume easing, CB2 is looking to the future and moving previously secondary housing priorities up on the CB2 housing agenda. As a result, the CB2 Housing and Land Use Committee has identified and the full Board has formally resolved to pursue a short list of housing priorities during FY07:

1. A comprehensive housing and land-use inventory: With dozens of private and public development projects continuing to change the district's streetscape, CB2 would create a comprehensive inventory of existing and developing housing stock throughout its neighborhoods. Benefit: This inventory would serve as a baseline from which to create a new needs assessment and draft guidelines for future development.

### **Appropriated**

2. Statements of long- and short-term housing needs: The district's anticipated needs assessment would categorize perceived housing issues by Short-Term and Long-Term Goals. Benefit: Solve acute problems and address chronic issues.

3. A standardized application process for subsidized and special-needs housing: The number of buildings in the district providing new low-income and special-needs housing units have introduced a like number of application forms and procedures to the community. Variations in application forms and eligibility rules have proven to be a barrier to many community members despite sincere efforts at outreach to intended beneficiaries. CB2 sees a solution in creating a uniform application form to be distributed by participating

building management offices and the CB2 office. In coordinating this effort, CB2 would also explore ways in which applicants can receive counseling regarding their eligibility for specific housing units. Benefit: Guide more current residents out of substandard housing into decent affordable housing for which they are eligible.

4. A template and guidelines for presentations to the CB2 Housing and Land-Use Committee: Anticipating the continuing redevelopment of existing housing units and construction of new units, CB2 perceives a need to codify its presentation guidelines. These guidelines will be published and readily available to developers wishing to gain the Community Board's endorsement of their project. These guidelines would anticipate frequently asked questions and -- after pre-presentation review by the CB2 staff -- ensure that only fully prepared presenters come before the Housing and Land Use Committee. Benefit: Ensure a streamlined, efficient review process for both the Committee/Board and developers.

5. New initiatives for development of housing to meet needs within CB2 as stated by CB2: The district has historically responded to housing development proposals originated by agencies from outside the community. In large part, those initiatives have served the needs of CB2 to rebuild its badly decimated housing stock. They have successfully changed the district's housing profile while sweeping changes in the city's real estate market over the past decade have brought new residents to the community. As both factors continue to change the district's housing and demographics, CB2 perceives a need for new initiatives that will reflect trends revealed in its proposed needs assessment. Benefits: CB2 would take a more pro-active role in designing and promoting new housing initiatives to advance its goal of creating an economically diverse and stable community.

6. A policy statement for clear and clean public spaces: With greater population density comes increased use of public spaces. Ironically, such increased use presents a risk to the maintenance and cleanliness of such spaces perhaps equivalent to the consequences of previous abandonment and disuse. CB2 would take a leadership role in establishing and enforcing responsibility and accountability for clear and clean public spaces throughout the district. Benefit: Clean, safe common areas promote community pride and individual dignity for all residents.

7. A means to connect local employees with local housing options: Which comes first, the housing or the local labor pool? CB2 would forge a stronger connection between its increased pool of affordable housing and the sizable existing pool of low wage earners employed by area employers. Benefits: Further stabilize the district's economic base by keeping steadily employed workers in the district after work. Improve the lives of such workers through decent housing and lower commutation expenses. Foster a healthier, more reliable local work force for area employers.

8. Initiatives for job creation: Through its proposed guidelines for housing developers' presentations, CB2 would encourage the hiring of local residents and locally-based companies on construction and renovation sites in the district. CB2 is also in a unique position to build a bridge between area employers and agencies working in the arena of job training. That bridge could connect under-employed residents to appropriate training and ultimately to jobs close to home. Benefits: Local laborers and contractors *would take*



and encourage enduring pride in community improvements. Employers would gain a local labor pool with more reliable attendance and specific training. Resident employees would have steady employment accessible to affordable housing without high commutation expenses. The community would gain residential and industrial stability that generates more retail commerce for existing businesses and attracts new retailers.

9. A means of regular communication with adjacent community board housing and land-use committees: CB2 is in part a peninsula, not an island. What impacts its residents resonates in contiguous Community Board districts and vice versa. While an informal “grapevine” links city neighborhoods across district lines, CB2 and its neighbors would benefit by regular communication. Benefit: Engender greater cooperation when appropriate and broker solutions when interests diverge.

### **Waterfront:**

Similar to the Bronx, the Hunt’s Point peninsula is surrounded on three sides by water. It is not surprising therefore, that the waterfront is playing an increasingly important part in our planning for the future. The Port Morris and Hunt’s Point waterfronts are considered “working waterfronts” in the City’s Comprehensive Waterfront Plan and are designated as Significant Maritime Industrial Areas. This status protects existing uses, a source of consternation for community residents desperate for waterfront access and more green space.

As was noted in the 2003 Bronx Waterfront Taskforce Executive Summary, “the Bronx shoreline offers tremendous opportunities for new recreational venues, valuable ecological restoration, quality neighborhood development and a vibrant working waterfront”.

Highlights of the Taskforce’s recommendations for Hunt’s Point and the Bronx River include:

- Remove the prison barge
- Reuse the marine transfer station (maritime or other economic development or recreational use)
- Develop maritime activities in Hunt’s Point including possible freight ferries, water shuttles between the Bronx and Queens, fishing fleets and recreation boats
- Maximize recreational opportunities on the Bronx and East Rivers; complete the Bronx River Greenway and, where feasible, develop a greenway around Hunt’s Point industrial waterfront

In the South Bronx, the Taskforce supports bolstering the working waterfront in Hunt’s Point and Port Morris, where its ownership is private as well as public, for the food market and for other industries, especially those that utilize waterborne transportation. **However, the shoreline should not be squandered on garbage transfer stations and other noxious uses that are not water dependent.**

The Committee on Hunt’s Point believes, and we concur, that it is feasible and indeed essential to establish public access to the waterfront while protecting its natural resources

and enhancing its employment resources. Implementation of these recommendations will require further research and planning efforts. Two crucial projects that will determine the character of Hunt's Point Water front should be addressed in the very near future: removal of the prison barge and reuse of the marine transfer station.

We also agree with the sentiments expressed in Carter Craft's 2003 Gotham Gazette Article which states in part, "Fredrick Law Olmsted supposedly took the lessons from creating Central Park and applied them in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, and what he viewed as his greatest innovation had nothing to do with the park itself, but with the parkways leading to the park - Eastern Parkway, and then Ocean Parkway, which connects to Coney Island.

In the 130 years since Prospect Park was created, we still have not demonstrated that we can create the connectivity to parks that we need to. The construction of Hudson Park shows what happens when designers don't deal with the access issues related to getting across highways..... what the South Bronx may need most is a connection to Randall's Island to help create the feeling that you are a part of something, rather than just stuck in the middle of a neighbor characterized by dead- end streets.

This year, the reauthorization of the federal Transportation Bill known as TEA-21 create a great opportunity for all of these transportation innovations and investments to get the funding they deserve: clean fuels, water transit, bikeways and greenways. There is perhaps no better way to honor the memory of the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, whose landmark legislation 12 years ago woke us up from the "highway haze" that ruled transportation policy since the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956.

Growing up on 42nd Street young Moynihan was 12 years old before he knew the Hudson River flowed just a few blocks west of his apartment. Let's hope 60 years after Moynihan's awakening to the Hudson that today's generation of city leaders, civil servants and urban planners can make these connections through the great wall along the waterfront of the Bronx. Thousands of 12-year-olds must live along this stretch of waterfront suffering the same detachment. Whether aspiring salsa musician or eventual senator, or simply would-be recreational rower, the East River belongs to all of them."

#### **Parks:**

Community Board #2, unfortunately, has the least amount of park acreage in the borough both in number and per capital. We are therefore very supportive of the proposed South Bronx Greenway. The Point CDC, Sustainable South Bronx and other Community groups, including this board, are working with the NYC Economic Development Corporation to secure a portion of the greenway through the Hunt's Point market, other adjacent EDC properties, and through the Fulton Fish market property. DEP, meanwhile, will need some encouragement to open up part of its Water Pollution Control Plant property so that the greenway can reach the Tiffany Street pier and the newly opened 5 acre Barretto Point Park.

Proposed bike and pedestrian paths can help move area employees to local businesses in an environmentally-sound manner, while this green necklace around the peninsula will help employers provide a much-needed amenity for the estimated 16,000 employees who work in the area. Green space, a bike-ped path, designated fishing spots, and

picnics areas will all help employers attract and retain qualified employees and furnish much needed recreation space to residents and workers alike. We are hopeful that the greenway will hug the coastline as closely as possible.

We are happy to report that completion will take place in 2007 for the Lafayette/Hunt's Point Riverside Park. This small site (70' x 190) is on the de-mapped street of Lafayette Avenue just north of Edgewater Road and its natural slope into the river can be utilized for water-based sporting activities such as canoeing. The Point CDC, located in Hunt's Point, is proposing that a Boathouse and a Cultural Center be built on the site. This facility could become a new destination for school groups, families and visitors to the area that celebrates the resurgence of the Bronx River, teaches about its history and inculcates respect for the environment.

#### **Industry and Commercial Areas:**

Over 30 percent of the land in CD2, approximately 416 acres, is designated industrial and manufacturing as compared to just 10 percent for NYC as a whole.

## **SECTION FOUR: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### **Major Concerns:**

Fortunately, CD2 is home to many community-based organizations concerned with environmental conditions. They have made links between perceived noxious land use and high rates of disease and discomfort in the community. Among the complaints and concerns are:

A) Brownfield sites in Hunt's Point are both burdens and potential opportunities for the area. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection should play a pro-active role in identifying, remediating, and bringing new life to the many non-contiguous acres of industrial brownfields in Hunt's Point. To date, DEP has done little to facilitate clean-ups in the community or work with the Community Board to identify contaminated sites. We believe that DEP should partner with eligible community development organizations to seek out and remediate brownfield sites rather than simply fulfilling its enforcement duties. Further, we feel that more sites would be acquired and successfully remediated if DEP re-oriented its priorities on brownfields--from watchdog to technical assistance provider. The lack of positive DEP involvement and cooperation on this end of the process has, we feel, resulted in many sites remaining untouched and off the market, festering environmental wounds in our community.

B) City-sponsored capital projects totaling close to \$ 1 billion are currently underway in Hunts Point. The construction of the Fulton Fishmarket (\$ 83+ million), the upgrade and expansion of the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$ 750+ million), improvements to road and rail in the industrial area (\$ 5+ million), and enhancements to the Produce Market taken together, with the construction of the Iroquois Natural Gas Pipeline, have created a climate of explosive growth and change in Hunts Point. These projects have been undertaken with little coordination between agencies and with very little attention to community planning issues, the short-and long-term implications of them taken together, or their cumulative impact on the local environment.

We believe that a significant role exists for DCAS or DCP to coordinate multiple

projects and prepare overall impact statements when these projects occur simultaneously. Further, we believe that the scale and scope of these projects justify the engagement of a skilled urban planner who could assist, the community in drafting its own master plan for the area and help integrate these new initiatives into an overall land use plan for Hunt's Point. This planner could be based at the office of the Community Board and accountable to its members.

C) The larger number of heavy manufacturing industries and commercial traffic in close proximity to residential areas. Nearly 40% of the city's sludge and a large amount of Manhattan's commercial waste is processed and transported through Hunt's Point. Wind blown trash, foul and acrid odors, waste spills, illegal dumping and rodent infestation are daily facts of life in this community. These environmental stresses affect a wide range of economic and quality of life indicators including employee job performance, local school attendance, and the overall health of community residents.

D) The high volume of diesel truck traffic and its concomitant air pollution and safety hazards. The childhood asthma rate in Hunts Point is many times the national average, and the presence of noxious odors has been positively correlated with the incidence of asthmatic episodes in children.

E) The numerous solid and putrid waste transfer facilities and the concern that with the closing of the New York City Fresh Kills landfill, a greater reliance upon these transfer stations will ensue. By any objective measure, the Hunt's Point peninsula is over saturated with transfer stations and other waste handling facilities. It is host to a sludge de-watering facility, a DEP Water Pollution Control Plant, a sludge processing plant, and over eighteen waste processing sites. Hunt's Paint has borne far more than its fair share of the city's private and public waste management facilities.

As a result of these environmental concerns, Community Board #2 has adopted a policy of zero tolerance for any proposed new waste transfer stations in this district.

#### **Rail Service:**

Hopefully, the restoration of rail service to Hunt's Point along the former NY-New Haven rail line of Metro North will become a reality. As part of the Penn Station Corridor Study, Metro North is examining opportunities for resuming commuter rail service along this line for the first time in over 60 years. A proposed commuter line would run from Penn Station through Astoria, over the Hell Gate Bridge and make stops in the Bronx at Hunt's Point, Parkchester, and Co-op City, linking these East Bronx destinations, facilitating reverse commuting, and mitigating congestion on the Bruckner and I-95. This new stop would enable Board #2 residents to commute to jobs in lower Westchester and even Connecticut. It would also encourage new investment in Hunt's Point and create a mass transit rail stop on the peninsula side of the Bruckner Expressway.

## **SECTION FIVE: YOUTH CONCERNS**

Focus groups with young people, parents, and other residents have identified a number of innovative ideas for enhancing youth services and the quality of life for families in our community. This includes the following:

A. Establish a peer youth health awareness program, with particular emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention. Once every hour, two young people in the United States are infected with HIV, and about half of the new infections occur among youth between the ages of 15 and 24. Contrary to common belief, adolescents are a high-risk group. They are not only exploring their sexual identities, but also experimenting with drugs and alcohol, with little regard for risk and long-term consequences. Their judgment is often impaired by drugs, and not to mention peer pressure. Teens do not view HIV as a direct and immediate threat. They do not see outward signs of HIV among their peers, and they usually do not see their friends sick due to full-blown AIDS. This is what makes HIV, with its invisibility with its very long incubation period, a silent killer to teens.

Moreover, as statistics show from the U.S. Department and Human Services, approximately one-fifth of the AIDS cases in the United States occur in New York City alone. That is why peer-to-peer education is so important in metropolitan New York. Peer-to-peer education works because peers are much more effective at changing each other's behaviors than teachers and other's behaviors than teachers and other adults.

The reason can be explained by the social learning theory, which suggests that similarities in age and interest between those giving and those receiving educational messages will increase the believability of those messages. That is why peers are such good sources of information and support on AIDS-related concerns as well as other health issues.

B. Funding and incentives to create linkages between large, regional businesses (e.g. retailers) seeking part-time help and youth-servicing agencies in the area. These agencies in Board #2 would connect young people with firms needing workers by hosting job fairs, group interview sessions, and pre-screenings of teen jobseekers right in their own neighborhoods.

C. Incentives for local businesses to provide quality employment opportunities for young people from the community.

D. Local Pre-college programs for teens considering college as a career choice.

E. Expansion of Internet access; public funding for establishment and/or expansion of Neighborhood Internet Centers in Hunts Point/Longwood.

F. Waterfront park(s) for ecological education, leisure-time activity, and waterborne recreational activities for families.

G. Incentives for the private sector to create "positive" gathering places (i.e. movie theaters, sports facilities, and youth-oriented retail) for young people in the community.

## **SECTION SIX: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Because the economic future of Hunt's Point is tied to food-related industries, it is essential to foster the perception of the area as relatively clean and untainted by noxious

uses of land. The concentration of waste transfer stations in the area has created daily nuisances for the food industry, including windblown trash, foul odors, rodent infestations, and some major streets clogged with waste hauling vehicles.

Community Board #2 recognizes the importance of the Hunt's Point Food Distribution Center (HPFDC) to the district and to the City as a whole and has been supportive of the NYC Economic Development Corporation's plans to expand the food industry facilities. The Food Distribution Center has undergone numerous expansion projects including a 150,000-sq./ft. refrigerated warehouse constructed in the Hunt's Point Cooperative Market. This new state-of-the-art facility has created many new jobs.

The biggest expansion for the HPFDC is the opening of the Fulton Fish Market to Hunt's Point. The City, represented by the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Finance, constructed a 451,000 square foot two-story state-of-the-art wholesale seafood distribution facility at the HPFDC. The approximately 30-acre site is located south of Food Center Drive at Halleck Street and bounded by the East River to the south.

The new Market accommodates approximately 55 businesses. Each selling stall has a freezer and refrigerator, a display and/or preparation area, storage capacity, ice making equipment and be located along a central delivery corridor. In the future, the building may also contain a restaurant, bank and public amenities. Parking for large and medium trucks, vans and cars are to be incorporated into the site plan, as well as loading docks, appropriate queuing space and track circulation. There will be approximately 1,400 loading and queuing spaces for suppliers and customers on site, and approximately 600 parking spaces for employees across Food Center Drive on a portion of another site.

The Market relocation is included in the New York State Economic Development Zone and New York City Empowerment Zone. The relocation, which is a use consistent with the objectives of these zones, will bring new jobs for local residents and increase the area's business profile. The Fish Market is compatible with adjacent uses at the HPFDC and consistent with the New York City Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. In addition, the Market complies with goals outlined by the City for the South Bronx Significant Maritime Industrial Area and In-Place Industrial Park designations. Finally, development of the site as a wholesale market follows NYCEDC's goal for site disposition within the HPFDC and allows further consolidation of food wholesaling activities.

We would like NYCEDC to facilitate the introduction of a retail economy to the Hunt's Point industrial area which would help diversify the area's mix of wholesaling and manufacturing businesses, and can serve as a powerful bulwark against further encroachments by the waste industry. Because area businesses now largely serve regional and national markets, they are seldom attentive to the harmful impacts their activities may have on the 12,000 people who live in the peninsula.

A retail economy can help make area businesses more cognizant of quality of life issues such as unnecessary truck idling, dirty sidewalks, foul odors, and windblown trash on roadways, since such environmental insults can negatively impact retail sales.

On a much smaller scale, the opening up of the Hunt's Point wholesale markets to retail customers from the South Bronx has been identified as a Community need. At

present, Board #2 residents bear all of the burdens of hosting the country's largest food distribution center but enjoy none of the benefits of living so close to some of the world's best produce, meat and dairy products. To address this, we are proposing a wholesale to-the-public market operated by local entrepreneurs who will vend tropical, specialty produce, meats, dairy products, and fish from the nearby wholesale markets in an effort to leverage the great bounty of fresh food that passes through Hunt's Point each day. Though the peninsula is home to the freshest produce in NYC, its residents have absolutely no access to any of these markets. There is no fish store in the Hunt's Point peninsula, no butcher shop and only one small produce operation.

The location for such a market is still under discussion.

#### **Hunts Point Economic Development Corporation:**

The Hunt's Point Economic Development Corporation (HPEDC) works to strengthen and solidify the relationship between businesses and the community. The EDC helps develop and coordinate business programs, assists with area maintenance and industrial park management and administers the New York State Economic Development Zone at Hunt's Point. The HPEDC has received some funding for an employment center in the Hunt's Point. New York City's Department of Small Business Service has partially funded a workforce demonstration project in Hunt's Point entitled the "Hunt's Point Work Center". The center connects residents seeking jobs and businesses seeking employees within Hunt's Point. Hunt's Point EDC manages and staff the center. The Center establishes a two-way referral system with the Bronx Workforce 1 Career Center.

The HPEDC's employment services program is one that can have a long term and extremely valuable impact on both the residential and business communities. A healthy and viable residential community, in such proximity to our industries, will inevitably serve to benefit not only the interests of local residents, but will also aid businesses, to the extent that they will have a readily available labor pool with the skills and training that industry requires.

The Hunt's Point Avenue commercial strip continues to suffer from worrisome vacancy rates and deteriorated storefronts. The HPEDC has proposed a feasibility study addressing the redesign of Hunt's Point Avenue. The goal is to make the shopping area more attractive and hopefully to improve the economy of the immediate community.

## **SECTION SEVEN: A NOTE ON CRIME**

The 41st Police Precinct has continued the positive trend of significantly decreasing crime in our community. Nonetheless, this community board continues to place increased law enforcement high on our list of community needs. Programs such as Operation Clean Sweep and SNAG (Street Narcotics and Guns), are applauded for their positive results but concerns over the level of staffing, both uniformed and administrative still exist within the community. Areas of concern include drug-related crimes, gang violence, burglary, rape, prostitution, and quality of life issues. We will continue to lobby for increased police personnel. Funding for crime and drug prevention programs will continue to be sought.