



The City of New York

COMMUNITY BOARD 17

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STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS

Sherif Fraser
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OVERVIEW

Community District 17 (CD17) hereby submits the following Statement of Community District Needs in accordance with §2800-d (10) of the Charter of the City of New York for Fiscal Year 2015. The contents of the statement result from local citizen complaints and testimony given at public hearings, as well as long-standing and, yet unmet needs and priorities.

CD17 is comprised of the following neighborhoods: East Flatbush, Northeast East Flatbush, Rugby, Farragut/Hyde Park, Remsen Village, Ditmas Village and the Erasmus area. The geographic district encompasses East New York Avenue from East 98 Street to Utica Avenue, south on Utica Avenue to Clarkson Avenue, West on Clarkson Avenue to Bedford Avenue, South on Bedford Avenue, to the Long Island Railroad/Glenwood Road East along the Long Island Railroad to East 98 Street, then North on East 98 Street to East New York Avenue.

With 3.4 Square miles, the District consist of 44.7% of 1-2 Family Residential, 24.2% of Multi-Family Residential, 4.9% mixed Resid./Commercial, 3.7% Commercial/Office, 3.6% Industrial, 2.8% Transportation/Utility, 7.1% Institutions, 5.7% Open Space/Recreation, 1.9% Parking Facilities, 0.9% Vacant Land and 0.6% miscellaneous. The industrial area is located adjacent to the Bay Ridge line of the Long Island Railroad but threatens to spill over onto abutting property. The commercial strips consist primarily of small shops, fruits and vegetable stores, medical offices, few large dry goods stores, used car dealerships, one senior day care center, private day care and pre-school centers, restaurants and auto repair shops.

CD17 is a culturally diverse community. Between 2000 and 2010 there was a -6.3% change in total population. According to the 2010 U.S. Census the total population in 2000 was 165,753 compared to 155,252 in 2010 which includes White Nonhispanic -14.5%, Black/African American Nonhispanic – 6.3%, Asian or Pacific Islander Nonhispanic 4.5%,

American Indian and Alaska Native Nonhispanic 33.2%, Other Race Nonhispanic -23.0%, Nonhispanic of Two or More Races -46.3%, and Hispanic Origin 13.7%. 33.2%, Other Race Nonhispanic -23.0%, Nonhispanic of Two or More Races -46.3%, and Hispanic Origin 13.7%.

The census count also highlights a decrease in our total population under 18 Years, compared to 44,792 in 2000 and 35,611 in 2010, and also a slightly lower percentage of -1.1% in the 18 Years and Over category with a population of 120,961 in 2000 and 119,641 in 2010. We strongly believe that we have many undocumented residents who, if counted, would probably increase the total population in District 17.

The rapid acquisition of property of real property of multiple dwelling, strategically in CD17 and CD15 to the East, and the construction of large apartment buildings for ethnic and religious constituents, continues. During the past year, CD17 have had an unprecedented increase in the construction of multiple dwelling houses and mini malls throughout the community, which have not contributed to a reduction in home prices except the reduction caused by the current economic recession.

Additionally, the new construction and the ongoing conversion of rental property to condominium and coops have resulted in the continuous displacement of those who cannot afford to purchase or pay higher rents. Community Board 17 (CB17) strives for balance to ensure newly developed properties include permanent affordable and Rent-Regulated Rental Housing for its residents. According to the last data available on the median Household Income in CD17, during the year 2007 to 2009 the median income was between \$43,182 and \$44,264 which is slightly up based on the median income in the borough (\$43,755).

The dedication, determination and contribution of the residents of our district, combined with the viability of our commercial strips, housing stock, schools, access to transportation, all makes the neighborhood a great place to live.

Community Board 17 continue to advocate for the preservation and strengthening of our community's stability by working collaboratively with our elected officials, petitioning service agencies for improvement of municipal services to our district and continue our civic engagement with resident of our community. The district needs additional resources and services from all city agencies, individually and collectively, to satisfy the needs of its residents.

PRIORITIES

AGING

Community Board 17 would like to once again applaud The Department For the Aging, for approving a Senior Center in the community. The center has been in operation since 2007, and the seniors are extremely grateful and ecstatic to return to their community. The Board continues to advocate for a **bus and driver to transport the seniors who are experiencing difficulties utilizing public transportation and those that do not have the means of transportation to get to and from the center.** We ask that you use your good office and make this request possible for the seniors in District 17.

Our population continues to age like the rest of the country; the frail and elderly are growing more numerous. Our population age 65 and older stands at 11.1% according to the American Community Survey, therefore, we need the services provided by the programs funded by the Department for the Aging more than ever. There is a desperate need for C2 housing to meet the needs of our community's aging population namely: assisted living, independent living and dependent living.

There remains a great need for additional senior centers throughout Community District 17 to meet this growing population. **It is to be noted that there were four senior centers in this district and currently there is only one.** Additional funding is needed to continue the current programs and to expand where current and additional senior services can be provided. Sincere efforts must be made to promote greater outreach to the shut-ins who depend on the Meals on Wheels program. We are requesting that the Commissioner address these concerns of our seniors.

BUILDINGS

There has been an increase in the amount of commercial activities taking place in residential properties, such as, restaurants, churches, bakeries, car repair shops operating out of private garages and retail store. Efforts must be made by this agency to enforce all buildings and zoning codes. Building code violations make tenants and neighbors justifiably angry and concerned for their safety and quality of life.

The Department of Buildings in the past Twenty years or more has not met its responsibility of inspecting multiple dwelling buildings and new construction at all phases. It is incumbent upon this agency, that, given the unabated increase of the illegal renovations/apartments throughout the city, that the Buildings Department make a concerted effort to hire more inspectors and re-institute inspection of multiple dwelling houses. The lack of inspection and code enforcement has indeed created a clear and present danger in our community and other communities resulting in displacement of residents and insurmountable personal losses.

The Department of Buildings and New York City Government must recognize that self-inspection of new construction and violation removal is not a workable solution to the agency's responsibilities of "Building Inspections." In the past, New York City has experienced more than its fair share of collapsed buildings, new in-progress construction and falling debris. Massive bi-annual and timely inspections of multiple dwellings and commercial properties must continue, including timely inspections due to complaints. Additionally, some non-offending renovations should be Grand Fathered in as done in DUMBO years ago.

We are requesting that the Buildings Department inspect all commercial enterprises operating with variances for violations and all new construction from excavation to first occupancy. Prior acceptable conditions of building codes must never be fined and grand-fathered as is the rule currently. The Board request that the Department of Buildings step up enforcement of illegal curb cuts, evident all over Brooklyn.

RE- ZONING

Community Board 17 received numerous complaints regarding overdevelopment in certain areas of the district, a trend that has contributed to the change in the aesthetic composition of the neighborhood. In an effort to preserve and maintain the character of the neighborhood, the Board has embarked on a contextual zoning change, to re-zone all R-6 and R-7 areas of Real Property throughout the district to R6B. The re-zoning change will prevent predatory developers from demolishing smaller structures and replacing them with taller building that do not conform to the height and scope of surrounding structures. We continue to advocate on behalf of the residents and work with the New York City Department of City Planning and our elected officials on this project.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Nothing has been done in the District's industrial commercial areas, primarily along the Long Island Railroad and the commercial strips. CD17 has great potential for a flourishing industrial park-like development.

We also ask for agency outreach to businesses in the district. It is becoming impossible for proprietors to keep their businesses due to high real property taxes, high water and electric bill, unreasonable fees and surcharges. The small businesses in CD17 need immediate assistance that will address the everyday challenges of operating and promoting a small business.

The Board also request that the New York City Work Force One (1) Career Centers be expanded to the various communities. In these difficult economic times, there is a greater need for more centers to provide jobseekers with a full array of employment services including career advisement, job search counseling, skills training and job placement.

COMMUNITY BOARDS

The role of the Community Boards has expanded throughout the years which requires more staffing to satisfy the needs of the office and assist with the required service delivery needs of the community. Adequate funding is requested to fulfill the Charter-mandated responsibilities of the Board.

EDUCATION

In CD17, enrollment in public schools has increased. Public enrollment in 2009 for preschool was 32.2%, for grades K-5, 91.3%, grades 6-8, 98.5% and grades 9-12, 96.9. The average graduation rate is 54.4%, drop-out rate at 14.5% and college ready at 6.1%, Community Board 17 continue to advocate for smaller classrooms, resource availability for teachers and all the amenities to ensure a positive educational outcome for our students. **There should be more accountability from teachers regarding those children who are missing classes and those that appear to be experiencing difficulties at home. Additionally, more school counselors should be hired to assist those students experiencing academic and behavioral issues that impact on their ability to learn.**

Our school buildings, though old, are cherished by all. The replacement of missing floor tiles, broken window panes, leaking roofs and other minor repairs should never be classified as Capital Improvement Projects and placed on the

Department of Education's ten year plan. It cost very little to make the minor repairs versus what it usually costs to renovate or close down school buildings and then lease and renovate private property. The Board is requesting that the needs in CD17 be given serious consideration and be expeditiously addressed.

The Board is extremely concerned about the educational needs of our children and would appreciate the opportunity of being notified in advance of any future school closing and modification and/or configuration. We are also requesting that the Board's office be apprise of all future planning for new schools and to be involved in the pre-proposal process. **There remains an on-going conflict with the co-existence of Charter Schools and Public Schools. Guidelines must be put in place and there must be adherence to those guidelines.**

We are encouraged to learn that the Department of Education now has new accountability tools that will enable parents, teachers, principals elected officials and Community Board members access to the progress report and quality review of our schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Problems related to water meter billing continue to plague CD17. Many residents who had meters installed have received very high water bills, which are subsequently found to be in error. It is often difficult for them to have these bills rectified. They are understandable confused. The self-metered and installation cost reimbursed by the agency is unfair and punitive to homeowners. Homeowners have paid for meters over a decade through special rate increases for this purpose. Additionally, DEP must modify its procedures for informing customers of inoperable meters and Remote Meter Readers and the process must be simplified to facilitate repairs. DEP must ensure that their customer service employers have the proper information to give to customers who calls for specific problems and services.

There is a long delay in answering complaints about clogged catch basins. Many basins are imploding due to lack of repairs. The Board implores the agency to address these unhealthy conditions and be pro active in maintaining catch basins throughout the District

Our District is saturated with auto repair shops which discharge large amounts of volatile organic solvents and volatile organic compounds into the air which contributes to respiratory diseases. DEP must do a study and provide Community Board 17 with a corrective action plan to address these dangerous and increasing

health issues. These health issues have been ignored over the past years and needs to be expeditiously addressed.

Based on the last statistics available, NYC Department of Environmental Protection's My Neighborhood Statistics, there were 5.2% air and 8.0% noise complaints per 10,000 people. More air/noise inspectors are needed to adequately respond to these complaints.

FIRE

The long awaited renovation at Engine 310 Ladder 174 has finally been completed. While we are pleased with the completion of this project the Board is disappointed funding for an emergency generator was not included in the allocation for the project. **Emergency generators off-set that critical need that comes with the loss of electricity during a power outage.**

The rear yard at Engine 248 is badly in need of repairs in addition to the repaving of the sidewalk in front of the fire house. The City and the Fire Department should make these request a top priority to avoid a crisis at the locations. CB17 is overly concerned about on-going neglect of and avoidance of addressing these issues, and once again reiterates the importance of prioritizing these projects.

We have received many allegations of homes occupied illegally, often in rooms with flimsy dividers, crowded conditions with overloaded electrical wiring that creates fire hazards. In 1998 we requested a pilot program to permit the NYC Fire Department to inspect multiple dwellings as they inspect places of business for violations. This may be done in conjunction with the Buildings Department which usually cannot gain entry without a warrant and have to discontinue multiple dwelling inspections for many, many years.

CB17 reaffirm our support for the Fire Prevention Inspection Program, Fire Prevention Inspection Team and the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention program. We also support funding for carbon monoxide and smoke detectors for distribution to seniors and other population unable to afford the purchase. **We also emphasize the importance of having a fifth person on the apparatus.**

HOUSING

The households in CD17 total 46,776 between 2007/09 with 32.3% owners and 67.7% renters. The U.S. Census 2000; 2007/09 American Community Survey list 28.4% of renters paying 50% or more of their income in rent and 25.8% of

owners paying 50% or more of their income on housing. The Foreclosure Rate per 1,000 for one to four Family Properties total 33.5% in 2010. Community Board 17 recommends funding for non-for-profit organizations engaged in Foreclosure Prevention, Financial Literacy and Mortgage Modification. It is imperative that funding be provided for the current calendar year and beyond.

Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush must be funded for Foreclosure Prevention through HPD's Neighborhood Preservation Consultant Contract. Also, such contracts should be awarded to organizations with the most experience and record of actual accomplishments that are engaged in the communities where their needs are.

We are requesting that the New York City Housing Preservation and Development re-institute and prioritize the inspection of apartments and multiple dwelling buildings to enforce owner compliance with their State Multiple Dwelling Law, the State Housing Maintenance Code and the City administrative Code.

We have asked for a feasibility study and after years of gentle persuasion demanded an urban renewal program and development of land near the LIRR. There is currently a salvage yard directly behind a new school. This yard, and an abandoned car lot with car parts and other debris creates an unhealthy surrounding and are harmful to the health of our children. Please include this request as an emergency item in the fiscal year 2015 Budget.

CB 17 supports Flatbush East Community Development Corporation, Neighborhood Housing Services of East Flatbush Inc. and Erasmus Neighborhood Federation in their request for funding to implement some much needed programs in our district. We hope they will be designated recipients. This community needs all the help it can receive to improve and maintain its housing stock. Also, there is a need to work more closely with the community to facilitate community needs/goals.

We are requesting annual funding to support East Flatbush Foreclosure Prevention Programs. With the present state of the economy, these programs are necessary to assist homeowners who are experiencing financial difficulties.

We also support additional funds for Code Enforcement, the Narcotics Control Unit where applicable, and to assist renters who face eviction due to foreclosures.

The community is in desperate need of C2 Housing for our aging population. In Central Brooklyn 27.6% of our population are 65 years and over, which is a very

large population concentration in the State of New York. The lack of affordable housing for our senior population and the community at large presents a very serious problem. CB17 asks that NYC provide funding for Housing Vouchers to prevent homelessness and foreclosure. It makes sense to use funds for housing for those who need a home, than development bonds and tax abatement for developers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services (HRA/DSS) is charged with the responsibility of providing services to eligible individuals and families with social service and economic needs. We encourage the continuance of those services that assist families in achieving and sustaining their maximum degree of self –sufficiency.

The Board supports HRA’s effort to bring increased awareness to clients by posting multi-lingual signs at their sites advising clients of free interpretation services, also the distribution of revised multi-lingual cards at sites that provides first-contact language support to clients.

All programs funded by HRA are sorely needed in CD17. HIV/AIDS Services Administration (HASA), Office of Domestic Violence & Emergency Intervention Services (ODVESIS), Family Independence Administration (FIA) Home Care Service Program (HCSP), Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) Medical Assistance Programs (MAP) and Adult Protective Services (APS). **Funding must be continuously increased and expanded where needed.**

LANDMARKS

In 2006, Community Board 17 submitted a letter to the Landmarks Preservation Commission requesting an evaluation of the property at 5224 Tilden Avenue, the house where the great baseball legend, Jackie Robinson resided between 1947 and 1949. Even though this property was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, it was never designated an official New York City Historical Landmark.

Community Board 17 would like to thank our elected officials for moving this request forward and the numerous community residents, organizations and businesses in CD17 for their support.



5224 Tilden Avenue - Home of baseball legend, the Great Jackie Robinson - 1947-1949

The Board once again endorses the designation of 5224 Tilden Avenue, the residence of a civil rights and baseball legend, as an official New York City Historical Landmark to preserve the aesthetics of the building and bolster our community pride.

LIBRARY

The Board supports increased funding for the Brooklyn Public Library's to provide the much needed services, supplies and equipments for our Branch libraries so that the needs of our students and adult population can be met. The three branches in CD 17, Rugby Branch, Clarendon Branch and East Flatbush Branch offer programs such as Homework help, Tutoring, Computer Classes and Games, Internet/Email Classes among other.

Capital requirement to complete the renovation at the Rugby Branch for furnishing and equipment cannot be postponed. **Adequate arrangement to serve the public during the renovation period must be a top priority.** CB17 will continue to advocate for all of the Branch Libraries in CD 17 be considered for Capital improvement to avoid further deterioration of the physical structures, additionally the number of computers and books at our Branch office must be dramatically increased to avoid long wait time.

PARKS AND RECREATION

In CD17, 63.1% of residential housing units are within a ¼ mile of a park which is far less than the 86% borough-wide. Community Board 17 is pleased that funding has been allocated to complete the rehabilitation of Paerdegat Park. The Project Goals includes the completion of the perimeter sidewalk repair, lighting, basket ball court restoration and erosion control, new play equipment and Tot Lot, benches, and a Christmas Tree Garden are all welcome news for the residents. We

also request total renovation of the Comfort Station at Paerdegat Park and the upkeep of all parks and playgrounds in the district.

We thank the WEP workers for their efforts in helping to keep the park clean and request the deployment of more to our District in FY'15 and beyond.

During the past ten years, the Department of Park's Greening Project had limited success with tree pruning. Therefore, we are requesting that our schedules for pruning and planting be prioritized due to the years of neglect. Our waiting list for tree planting and pruning has increased. Tree pruning and planting must be given top priority for Calendar Year 2015 and beyond. The greening of our community is very important in lowering the rates of respiratory diseases.

The Parks Department and the New York City 311 Service Center must address the difficulty in addressing serious complaints for dangerous trees to be pruned and removed. It is virtually impossible to lodge a complaint and get a response to these issues expedited. Reports to 311 regarding dangerous trees must be prioritized for immediate attention. The Mayor's initiative to plant one million trees mandates that a specific budget be in place for this project. It is necessary to have adequate guaranteed funding for the tree pruning now and thereafter.

CD17 has made multiple requests to the Parks Department and the Parks Commissioner for Tennis Court permits for off-hours usage by our community youths at no charge. The district has fewer parks and/or recreational areas in New York City. The issuance of free permits will cost the Parks Department zero dollars. However, they will provide an hour of meaningful recreational time for our community youths. Please arrange for easy access to these permits through our local Community Board 17.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Board 17 is deeply concern that the 67th Precinct despite reports of increased in shootings and felonies in certain areas throughout the district, receives less officers from the Academy. According to the Crime Rates per 1,000 population, during 2010 there were, 86.2% Stop and Frisk, 15.0% Felony Crime, 8.5% Property Crime and 6.5% Violent Crime, this according to the NYPD, Center for Constitutional Rights. Community Board 17 commends the Commissioner for the Impact Zone initiative in the 67th Precinct and support the continuation of this initiative. Additional officers and increase visibility deters criminal activities. **We implore the Police Commissioner, the Mayor and all elected officials to do more to keep firearms out of our community.**

We applaud the 67th Precinct for its community involvement. There is a direct relationship between the absence of police officers patrolling our community and crime in the community. The 67th Police Precinct needs to respond to (radio run) calls to 911 plus calls to 311. **We are also in dire need of more manpower and vehicles in the 67th Precinct.** We believe it is impossible for the 67th Precinct to respond to all the calls made by the community with the resources available. Deployment of officers after training must adequately address the safety needs in our District especially on the Merchant Strips where day time crime has increased. **The 67th Precinct is also in desperate need of additional detectives to help solve crimes in the community, more marked and unmarked cars and three wheeled scooters.**

Based on numerous complaints from residents, we are requesting that the police department step up enforcement efforts to address truck traffic on residential streets and overnight parking. **There is a blatant disregard to this rule and enforcement of such needs to be prioritized.**

Civilian Observation Patrol (COP)

COP is a new initiative undertaken by Community Board 17, with the assistance of our elected official and the 67th Precinct. The purpose of this initiative is to improve the quality of life, ensure the protection of the residents of our community and assist our law enforcement officials to secure our neighborhood. We request full cooperation and assistance from the NYPD in the form of a vehicle and the equipment/items necessary to move this program forward.

Off Street Parking

Community Board 17 has been advocating for and continue to advocate for the 67th Precinct Off-Street parking. It is our hope that NYPD will follow through with NYC Office of Management and Budget to acquire the space at 2913, 2917 and 2919 Snyder Avenue for Off-street Parking. Community Board 17 has done the due diligence and the NYPD have reassured us that the Department have signed off on the proposal and forwarded same to Office of Management and Budget. We request that the department re-visit this important issue to ease parking congestion at this location where two City agencies (FDNY Engine 248 and the NYPD 67 Police Precinct) are located adjacent to each other. The Board has received numerous complaints regarding parking congestion at the location.

SANITATION

In 2011, the New York City Department of Sanitation, via My Neighborhood Statistics recorded an average of 2.4 pounds of garbage and recycling collected per person each day in CD17. The District's average of 12.8% of recycling and 87.2% garbage is equivalent to approximately 174 Tons of Garbage and recycling collected per day for disposal. The District needs all the necessary tools to ensure the cleanliness of our neighborhood.

Daily complaints regarding dumping on streets and street sweeping remain constant. Monthly reports of the cleanliness of our streets and sidewalks continue to show some areas with low cleanliness rating. These areas need to be monitored and improved. The Sanitation Department has the ability to effect positive changes. Also, enforcement efforts needed to be continued to address blocked sidewalks by businesses. Sanitation should coalesce with the Department of Consumer Affairs to improve cleanliness compliance by businesses and to also address sidewalk clutter.

While it is important to remove the dump-out promptly, we believe it would be more cost effective to prevent this illegal activity through police patrol and installing surveillance cameras to apprehend the perpetrators and confiscate the vehicles used for illegal dumping.

Illegal posting continues to be a problem. During Fiscal Years 2009, through 2012, this activity has increased more than 100%. Illegal posting is being done with impunity. In addition to the large posters, construction advertisements are often nailed to trees and poles. Smaller signs are glued to poles, street signs, walls and all available areas, even painted on sidewalk creating an eyesore. The Sanitation Inspectors who perform daily inspections, Sanitation Enforcement and the citywide posting team must make a concerted and consistent effort to reverse this trend.

Five day collection at public and private schools must remain a high priority, especially at those schools with a breakfast program and several lunch hours. Collections must be made around schools that put out garbage on Friday past the regular pickup. Also, the Sanitation department must clean-up debris spilled when pick-ups are made especially at public schools on the weekend.

On weeks when there are holidays, a regular two-day a week pickup becomes a one day scheduled pick-up. This diminution of service is even worse for recyclable materials and the problems of vermin and rodent infestation multiplies.

TRANSIT

Every effort must be made by this agency, to provide adequate transportation for community residents. More than 65.3% of the population takes public transportation. We reiterate the need for more rush hour buses for Remsen Village which is serviced mainly by dollar/commuter vans and the B46 and B17 Buses. Additionally, more local buses must be added to the **B46, B8, B12 and B17 bus route during rush hours.**

The Transit Authority must extend the daily hours of use of all buses and subway passes for all high school students. Additionally, Community Board #17 is requesting a fair consideration for an additional bus to service the students at PS/IS 109 located at 1001 East 45 Street. We are requesting that the students in CD17 receive equal distribution of extended bus and subway passes.

The Board urges the MTA to revisit the study of the Franklin Avenue Subway Station to address the numerous complaints regarding the infrequency of trains

TRANSPORTATION

The Department of Transportation (DOT) must erect **“Local Traffic Only” signs throughout Community District 17 in areas that are illegally utilized by commercial vehicles, as there are too many pass through commercial traffic in District 17.** There is a need for additional enforcement to curtail the abuse of large trucks using local residential streets as Interstate highways and parking garages. These large oversized tractor trailers, because of their gross weight including freight, do considerable damage to our residential streets and homes.

We are pleased that the reconstruction project on Church Avenue from Flatbush to Rogers Avenues has begun. This project which began in the Fall of 2012 is anticipated to be completed in the Fall of 2013. The general scope of work included, sub-surface and street level improvements and replacement of existing infrastructure, (combined sewer, catch basins and manholes/chambers). The completion of this project will ease congestion and dangerous traffic conditions namely on those streets.

Traffic congestion and dangerous traffic conditions along other streets continues to be of major concern to the Board. The district now consist of approximately 4.5 miles of bike lanes and 5.4% of our resident walks or ride a bike, 28.4% drives and 65.3% takes public transportation. We continue to advocate for more

comprehensive traffic study to alleviate traffic congestions namely on Church Avenue, Bedford Avenue to East 98th Street; Nostrand Avenue/Empire Boulevard to Flatbush Avenue; Rogers Avenue/Glenwood Road to Empire Boulevard; Utica Avenue from Empire Boulevard to Glenwood; entering from both the southern and western side of Linden Boulevard from Kings Highway to Flatbush Avenue; Remsen Avenue from East New York Avenue to Foster Avenue. Most of our major intersections are choked with traffic. These conditions also contribute to asthma and other respiratory health problems due to huge amounts of auto exhaust caused by stalled traffic.

The Board welcomes the Utica Avenue Bus Priority and Safety Study aimed to improve pedestrian and driver safety, improve bus travel times while maintaining parking and curb access. Community Board 17 continues to work with DOT on this project.

The Nostrand Avenue Select Bus Service Project (SBS) was initiated by both the Department of Transportation and MTA/NYC Transit to convert the B44 limited bus route to SBS on Nostrand Avenue, Rogers Avenue and Bedford Avenue in our District. The goal is to provide riders with a faster and more efficient service than that on local or limited bus stop buses. Buses have dedicated bus lanes and transit signal priority allowing traffic signals to extend the green light or shorten the red light to keep buses moving. Riders will also be allowed to pay their bus fares at dedicated SBS stations prior to boarding the bus.

Since 2009, the Board has been in communication with the Department of Transportation regarding the Safe Streets for Senior Program, which focuses on the safety of senior pedestrians in New York City. One section in our district being considered for this project is the intersection of Utica Avenue, East New York Avenue, Remsen Avenue and Empire Boulevard. We look forward to working with DOT to bring this project to fruition.

We admire DOT's "School" signs, and CB17 again requests the erection of appropriate signage throughout the community, especially around our schools, both public and private. All non-confirming signs must be replaced as soon as possible.

We have requested construction of curb cuts throughout Community District 17. We need curb cuts throughout our district to meet the needs of our young children, seniors, the disabled and physically challenged. This is a top priority and one that will bring the city into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act passed by Congress.

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There is no more important priority for the future of our city than services for our youth. Our population 18 years and under currently stands at 35, 611. The need for youth services must be provided to the youth of CD17, whose needs are the same as those in every community throughout the city. The children in our district, some from one-parent families, most from families where both parents are wage-earners, and many for whom English is a second language, all need after school and serious meaningful year round youth and after school programs.

We are in dire need of Youth Centers and publicly funded recreational facilities. The City of New York and DYCD must double its funding and efforts to provide for more Adult Job Training, Youth Education, after school tutoring and Youth Job Training in Brooklyn District 17. We ask that this agency live up to its mandate to provide youth programming that will satisfy the needs of our youths mental, physical, educational and social needs and aid in raising the standards of our poorest constituents to above the Federal poverty level.

The Beacon Program at schools in the district is most welcome. We would like these programs to continue and expand. There is a need for additional funding to support and expand the Music Outreach Program in our community schools. These two programs are in dire need of continued funding.

The Youth Services Committee of Community Board 17 has been in the forefront developing extracurricular initiatives and workforce preparation for the youths in our district. The committee has coordinated workshops and seminar conferences on issues of concern to the youths and has collaborated with agencies and organizations on employment training.



CB17 Youth Committee Job Readiness Program



CB17 Youth Committee – Youth Happen'n

We hope that funding will be reinstated for Youth Delinquency Diversion Programs, Summer Youth Recreation Programs, and after school and evening programs in District 17. Employment programs for our young people are an indispensable necessity for Adults and Youths in our community not only during the summer but all year and in perpetuity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Gail Reed-Barnett
Chairperson

Sherif Fraser
District Manager