



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

## STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS

### INTRODUCTION

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Community District 9 encompasses one of New York's first humanly inhabited areas. The area was once the home of the Mareckkawicks, a branch of the Canarsie tribal community, which occupied Kings County and parts of Jamaica. The area was colonized by Dutch farmers from the Netherlands (Holland) in the early 17th century. Lefferts Homestead, relocated to Prospect Park from its original location on Midwood Street and Flatbush Avenue, is a living reminder of this agricultural community which flourished in our district until the early 20th century.

Preliminary research has revealed that one of our neighborhood streets – Clove Road – played an important role in the Battle of Brooklyn on August 27, 1776. Preliminary data obtained from the research appears to indicate that our Clove Road is the "Bedford Pass" of the American Revolution. Research on this project continues and the Board has requested the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and New York State Department of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation to investigate the location for historic designation.

Present day Community District 9 includes a portion of the neighborhood known as Crown Heights, northern parts of Flatbush, Prospect Lefferts Gardens, and the northern portion of Midwood (Wingate). Bordered by Prospect Park, Eastern Parkway and Lincoln Terrace Park, the district includes such prestigious cultural institutions as the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Public Library and the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.

Other notable institutions include Kings County Hospital Center (one of the largest hospital complexes in the world), SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. Collectively, these institutions form the southern-most boundary of the district. Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, seven high, four intermediate, ten elementary, including new small schools and charter schools, make up the District's public educational system. A significant number of private and parochial schools complete the education picture.

Only minutes by car or public transportation from downtown Brooklyn, Community District 9 is home to numerous small and medium-sized businesses and the 104,014 residents (2000 census), who live along our multitude of tree-lined streets. Our many religious institutions include a number of the largest Catholic churches in the borough, a number of the oldest Protestant churches, and the world headquarters of the Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Movement.

Families and institutions have thrived in Community District 9 for generations. Over

the past five decades this largely middle class community has undergone extensive demographic changes. The ethnic make-up of the community has become a unique blend of people of American, Caribbean, European, Asian and Hispanic descent.

This continued growth has brought with it a concomitant escalation in the need for vital municipal services. Community Board 9 has taken a critical look at our community district's needs and has embarked upon a the formulation of a 197-a plan which sets out our vision for a better future for our community, the objectives of which are as follows:

**Objectives:**

To improve the quality of life for residents through:

- The promotion of community safety and the reduction of crime;
- Social and cultural development;
- Improved health and social services;
- Support for the preservation, expansion and physical integration of the public parks system and educational institutions;
- Promotion of employment and business opportunities through
  - the strengthening and expansion of existing retail commercial areas;
  - the improvement of local businesses and economic development;
  - a local hospital jobs program.
- The promotion of new low-density/contextual residential development to provide both a humanly sealed built form and increased opportunity for neighborly social interaction;
- The guiding of future physical and human development programs to enhance the lives of the residents;
- Neighborhood beautification and development of new open space resources.

We submit this "Statement of Community District needs" to document the Board's continued advocacy for the provision of acceptable levels of City services for the continued improvement in the quality of life for the people of this district. The restoration of services; the renovation and upgrading of school buildings and other public facilities; expanded economic/business opportunities, the acquisition of land for the creation and expansion of open space; and the implementation of a Traffic Calming plan; are all vital to our overall goal for the restoration of our neighborhoods.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION**

### **Relocation of Community District 9's Sanitation Garage**

With the relocation of Community District 14's Sanitation Garage, we are looking forward to the next phase in this process: the relocation of Community District 9's sanitation garage. Our experience with the process for the relocation of CD 14's garage has show us that the process for relocating Community District 9's sanitation garage will be a difficult one. However, this board strongly believes, that just as the relocation of CD14 was accomplished by working together, so too will the relocation of CD9's sanitation garage be accomplished.

It has been acknowledged for many, many years, by all concerned – city agencies, elected officials, et al - that 356 Winthrop Street is just not a suitable location for a sanitation garage. The reasons are obvious, situated as it is, in close proximity to Kings County Hospital Center, SUNY

Downstate University Medical Center and SUNY Downstate Biotechnology Incubator Project, a multimillion dollar facility.

Relocating Community District 9's sanitation garage from 356 Winthrop Street is an URGENT, URGENT matter. We desperately need all the stakeholders to see how this Biotechnology Park will have far-reaching benefits for all of Brooklyn. This biotech facility will make Brooklyn competitive with the likes of Long Island and New Jersey in the Biotechnology market. Not only that, but attracting giant pharmaceutical companies to Central Brooklyn's Biotechnology Park will bring thousands of jobs to Brooklyn, revitalize Brooklyn's economy and its neighborhoods.

A site has been identified at 757 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, for the relocation of Community District 9's sanitation garage. 757 Rockaway Parkway, Brooklyn, is a large rubble-strewn vacant lot with abandoned construction containers and gigantic chunks of cement. It is a veritable eyesore. The construction of a modern sanitation garage at this location will vastly improve the area and will be an asset to the community.

Community Board 9 cannot over emphasize the major economic benefits that the Biotech facility brings to the Borough of Brooklyn. Time is of the essence if we are to take advantage of funding that has previously been allocated to relocate the sanitation garage. Failure to act expeditiously will be detrimental. It is time to move this project forward. It is to everyone's advantage that we move swiftly to accomplish this. We therefore once again call on the Brooklyn Borough President and our City Council representatives to meet with the Community Board to resolve this issue.

### **Illegal Dumping/Lot Cleaning**

Illegal dumping is a matter that continues to require enforcement. An increase in the number of Sanitation Police personnel coupled with strict enforcement is needed to curb this blatant disregard for sanitation and environmental codes.

### **Litter Baskets and Illegal Postings**

An additional basket truck is needed to effectively service the litter baskets in the district, especially on busy commercial strips. Additional baskets are needed in several locations to decrease the instances of littering. The agency must enforce against those individuals using the litter baskets to dump household garbage and other debris.

There appears to be an increase in the proliferation of illegal postings on light poles, street trees and traffic signals in the district. The agency must be more aggressive in enforcing against this abuse that creates blight in our community.

### **Recycling**

Recycling continues to improve in the district however the Board feels that more educational outreach is needed especially in our schools to encourage good recycling habits among the children, thus extending these best practices to the families.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Facilities for Garaging Police Vehicles**

Community Board 9 again emphasizes the dire need for a facility to garage police vehicles and vouched cars. The current practice by agency personnel to overtake the streets around the local precinct with police cars, trucks and other equipment, including vehicles vouched by the precinct is unacceptable.

Double parked cars and sidewalk parking around the precinct force pedestrians including seniors, school children, and mothers with baby carriages, to navigate around these conditions, sometimes by walking into the street and into the danger of oncoming vehicles. In addition, the sidewalk which was only recently installed will eventually deteriorate from the continued parking of vehicles and will once again become the trip hazard it was before it was repaired. We don't want this to happen.

That is why the Board has done a search of the area around the 71 Precinct and has identified property suitable for garage facilities for the precinct's vehicles. Acquisition of these premises, whether by lease or purchase, will effectively eliminate the current congestion being experienced at Empire Boulevard and New York Avenue. We urge our elected officials to allocate funding so that this situation can be corrected since it concerns the safety and well being of the people we both serve.

### **Facilities/Equipment/Technology**

The Board believes that the Police Department has an obligation to bring all its precincts into the twenty-first century by upgrading facilities, equipment and technology. Studies have shown that the physical environment within which people work has a significant impact upon the manner in which they perform their jobs. The Board believes that this is vitally important for police personnel, given the nature of their job.

The 71 Precinct's physical plant continues to deteriorate. There is a definite need for a complete renovation of these facilities. Office furniture, including desks, chairs and cabinets are broken and dilapidated. Office equipment, including computers, is woefully out of date. A recent tour of the precinct by members of Community Board 9's Public Safety Committee revealed the need for expansion of space in the main desk area, the radio and computer rooms.

### **Police Visibility**

Visibility of police officers in reassuring numbers is lacking in the district. The Board continues to recommend the employment of civilian staff to carry out those clerical and related duties that would release police officers to do the job for which they have been trained. The combination of improved facilities, technology and increased civilian clerical support would allow more presence on neighborhood streets.

Enforcement is needed at Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue. The large numbers of passenger vans and gypsy cabs – legal and illegal, competing for passengers exiting the Utica Avenue subway station creates a bottle neck at this location that is hazardous to all road users. These vans and cars, park in the bus stops and Double Park on the service road. Added to this is the proliferation

of unlicensed vendors, plying their goods on the south side Eastern Parkway Mall at this location. This all adds up to utter chaos all day long, increasing tremendously during the morning and evening rush hours.

Numerous improvements have been made by the Department of Transportation at this location, yet the chaos continues. There must be continuous enforcement by the Police Department. Occasional enforcement forays at this location will not suffice. Action must be taken on a sustained, continuous basis that will send a message that these activities are inappropriate for this landmarked street and are unwanted at this location.

Despite numbers showing a reduction in the main crime related areas, this district is far from being "one of the safest in the city." Community Board 9 continues to receive numerous complaints from residents regarding the sale of drugs on street corners and in apartments in their buildings. We encourage an expansion of the F-TAP program to include all apartment buildings in the district. Community Board 9 stands ready to assist with this effort and to encourage building owners to work with the local precinct to implement this program. The Board recognizes that more needs to be done. We urge the agency to work with the Board to accomplish the task of providing safe and secure neighborhoods for our residents.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Land Acquisition for Open Space**

Most recent statistics show that approximately 30% of our population is under the age of 18 years, while less than 6% of the district is dedicated to open space. Community Board 9, through its 197-a Planning Committee, has identified several possible locations in the district for the expansion of open space. In addition to identifying available land on the grounds of Kingsboro Psychiatric Center for a park, the Board has also identified property adjacent to Wingate Park for the expansion of this heavily utilized park.

Community Board 9 strongly urges the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services to work with us for the acquisition of land for the expansion and development of vitally needed open space in the district.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**Park Reconstruction Projects**

**Hamilton Metz Park**

The Board and community are extremely thankful to our Council Member for the progress being made with the reconstruction of Hamilton Metz Park. Phase I has been completed and we are now embarking upon Phase II. The Parks Department's capital projects team has done an excellent job and we look forward to the successful completion of this phase of the project.

## **Mount Prospect Park**

With the exception of a playground and new paths and stairs, funded by the late Councilmember Mary Pinkett, this park is an open canvass waiting to be developed. Currently, on rainy days, torrents of rainwater rush down the park's Eastern Parkway steps, flooding the sidewalk and the street, forcing pedestrians to walk in the street and placing them in grave danger from oncoming traffic. Overgrown vegetation obscures the park from view and makes it foreboding and unsafe.

For the past eight years Community Board 9 has been requesting funding for a preliminary design investigation for the upgrade and reconstruction of Mount Prospect Park. We have not been successful with this request. However, being a resilient Board, we were able to obtain, pro bono from faculty and graduate students at the University of Virginia, a wonderfully interesting and innovative design for this park. This proposed design has been shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation, elected officials, community residents, and other stakeholders. The response to the design has been overwhelmingly positive

We have taken this bold step to help ourselves and the people of our community to begin the process for the complete reconstruction of this park. We plan to use the proposed design as a catalyst to spark ideas for the design of the park from the community and the Department of Parks.

This park can no longer be used primarily for walking dogs. It needs to be reconstructed for use by the community. We call on our elected officials to provide the funding for the complete reconstruction of this park, beginning with funding for a preliminary design.

## **Park Maintenance**

The adequate maintenance of our neighborhood parks, playgrounds and malls has been severely hampered by budget cutbacks. A more sustained, consistent effort at weekly maintenance is needed, especially during the spring, summer and early fall, when more people are outdoors utilizing these facilities.

A very serious situation exists on the south side Eastern Parkway malls, specifically at Utica Avenue. Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux, the Landmarked Eastern Parkway Malls are being desecrated by unlicensed vendors who appear to ply their trade with impunity while this portion of the mall continues its downward spiral into blight and deterioration. Has the Parks Department issued permits for vending at this location? If not, then park enforcement, as well as enforcement by the New York Police Department is urgently needed at this location

Community Board #9 has long been an advocate for restoration of funding to provide the much needed upkeep of our parks and playgrounds. We continue to advocate for this funding as we strive for the improvement of park facilities within our district.

## **Tree Planting/Pruning Stump Removal**

The greening of our district is an important aspect of our community beautification plan. The greening of traffic triangles and city-owned vacant lots to create vest-pocket parks are all components of this plan. Beautifying our neighborhood streets with the planting of street trees is a top

priority. So is tree pruning. We urge the provision of adequate funds for the pruning of trees; and the removal of dead trees and tree stumps. These are important quality of life issues which must be addressed to avoid possible loss of life and property damage.

### **Prospect Park Projects**

Families in Community District 9 take advantage of this oasis in our midst and use Prospect Park all the time – from the playgrounds, to the picnic areas, the wildlife center to the lake, this park is a frequent destination for our residents. Community Board 9 supports the ongoing efforts to restore the structures and facilities in Prospect Park. We continue to encourage all of Brooklyn's elected officials to contribute funding for the restoration and on-going preventive maintenance in the park. Among the many important projects within the park in need of restoration are: the Oriental Pavilion – it has been nineteen years since this structure has had any work done on it and it is in dire need of renovation. The Concert Grove is another important area within the park that needs to be restored, but which has not received any funding. As we all know Prospect Park is this structure was last done. We urge all of Brooklyn's elected officials to provide the funding for these projects to completion.

### **DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING**

The senior population in Community District 9 continues to be under-served. In the face of this glaring reality, more outreach must be conducted in the community to reach seniors in order to provide them with the services that they need. Meals-on-wheels, home care, transportation and other vital services to seniors must be expanded to meet the growing senior population.

### **DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community Board 9 views the agency's plans to provide services to our youth that covers all out-of-school time as a move in the right direction. This effort will hopefully provide the opportunity to diversify the types of programming that will be available to the city's (and our district's) substantial youth population.

Community Board 9 envisions the establishment of a community youth center, a place where our neighborhood children can go to participate in healthy, clean and safe activities. We call on our City Council representatives to work with the Board to identify a site and to jointly fund the establishment of this facility in our community that will serve all of our youth. Providing constructive activities for our youth will go along way to prepare them for the future.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

In Community District 9, classroom overcrowding, deteriorating buildings, and violence, are some of the negatives that are hampering our children in their efforts to obtain the benefits of a quality education. Our children must be afforded an environment that is conducive to learning. With the exception of M.S. 2 and Middle College High School, which are new schools which were constructed in response to the overwhelming overcrowding in the district, the school buildings in Community District 9 (Community School District 17 – Region 6, Brooklyn), are in serious disrepair.

Two of these buildings – P.S. 91 and P.S. 92 – are over 100 years old and are in the worst condition. In addition to the physical deficiencies, the ancient plumbing, heating and electrical systems in all of the school building in the district, subject the students, faculty and staff to endure inhumane conditions year round. We urge the Department of Education to move swiftly to rehabilitate all of our deteriorated school buildings, with priority being given to P.S. 91 and P.S. 92.

The buildings that housed the now defunct Wingate and Prospect Heights High Schools and buildings that are in dire need of renovation. There are now eight (8) new “small schools” housed in these two buildings. The concept of smaller schools that provide individualized and improved education to our children is a valuable one. However, it is defeating the purpose to house these schools in buildings with numerous and sundry deficiencies. Community Board 9 urges the Department of Education to urgently address these matters to allow the children an opportunity to thrive in their new school environment.

Another major complaint is the lack of text books for children in our schools, including the new small schools. How does anyone expect children to be educated without the proper equipment? This is an unacceptable situation and must be corrected. Our State elected officials must ensure that New York City gets the funding mandated to address the critical needs in our school system.

#### **AGENCY FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES AGENCY FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

With our significantly new and large immigrant population and a probable Census 2000 undercount, the Board strongly believes that the actual need for day care and head start services in Community District 9 is far greater than is currently estimated. There continues to be long waiting lists for placement of children at all of our existing day care centers. The demand continues to rise. An increase in the number of day care slots and vouchers and the establishment of at least one head start center will begin to address this need. Another possible solution to this major shortage of adequate day care would be to allow vouchers to be accepted at private day care centers.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

An on-site nurse should staff each public school. This would establish the first line of defense should our children become ill while at school. The health and well-being of our children should not be left to chance.

Again, with our growing immigrant population, the need for outreach within the community is vital. Education is needed so parents would understand the importance of immunization for childhood diseases. Education regarding the importance of prenatal care to reduce the infant death rate, and education for the prevention of teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among young people, is also vitally important.

Our community is infested with rats. A surge in building construction, capital construction projects, dirty vacant lots, alleyways, sewers and subway tracks, all contribute to this scourge. These conditions create serious health problems for the community. In addition, the West Nile Virus threat creates another level of concern for the community. There is a significant lack of resources to address this problem; therefore, the City must provide the additional funding that is necessary to arrest this problem.



## **HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION**

### **Reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center**

Community Board 9 continues to support the reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center. This institution is the primary health care facility not only for District 9 but for Central Brooklyn as well. We are pleased that low cost, quality health care will continue to be available to the hard working families who rely on this hospital for their health care needs.

#### **Dr Susan Smith McKinney Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Therapeutic Horticultural Center**

Dr. Susan Smith Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (DSSM) is one of only two skilled nursing facilities in Brooklyn which are Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredited. This facility has been providing excellent inpatient rehabilitation for consumers requiring the highest quality of care following surgery, acute health problems, accidents or injury.

The nursing home industry is experiencing a cultural change, moving from a medical mode to a cultural one, creating a more home-like environment for the residents. Renowned programs such as the Eden Alternative are leading the way toward this cultural change. The 2nd principle of the Eden Alternative is that Life in a truly human community revolves around close and continuing contact with children, plants and animals. In the garden, healing occurs as a result of a direct connection between the patient and the physical/natural environment.

Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is committed to making a culture change what will benefit residents for years to come. DSSM is seeking to expand the scope of therapies provided by the facility with the establishment of a Therapeutic Horticultural Center. Horticultural Therapy is a process which uses plants, horticultural activities, and the natural world to promote awareness and well-being by improving the body, mind and spirit.

Horticultural Therapy is universal, adaptable, and validated by research. Community Board 9 urges our elected officials to fully fund the establishment of the Therapeutic Horticultural Center at DSSM. The benefits of this therapy to the residents are immense.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Traffic Calming**

Approximately eight (8) years ago Community Board 9 requested the Department of Transportation to conduct a study for Community District 9, to determine how traffic calming principles could be implemented within this residential district to address the Board's and community's concerns for a safer district. The study by DOT was undertaken and completed some years ago, but the Board has yet to see the results. Answers from the agency to ongoing queries regarding the progress of this study have ranged from "the study was completed, but it has some flaws" to "the agency will submit the study to the Board in six months."

This has been going on for at least seven years. Community Board 9 is once again calling for a

traffic calming study for the district. The practice of installing speed humps as a “cure all” for traffic calming is not acceptable to the Board. Speed humps have a negative impact upon emergency response vehicles, including ambulances transporting sick and injured people, and fire trucks seeking to respond to fire alarms without delay.

This is another appeal to the agency to initiate a traffic calming study for Community District 9.

### **Street Resurfacing**

Community Board 9 is pleased with the recent resurfacing of six streets in the district, encompassing approximately 63 blocks. Residents and motorists alike are pleased with the results. However, many other streets in the district continue to deteriorate and remain prime candidates for resurfacing.

There are also numerous potholes in our streets from the aftermath of winter, as well as other depressions from street openings by various parties. Streets all over the district are being excavated by Cablevision, private home owners, and utility companies, leaving our streets desecrated. The allocation of adequate funding for a consistent street-repair/resurfacing policy will serve to effectively address the pothole repair/street resurfacing needs of the City.

### **Reconstruction of Empire Boulevard**

The Board calls upon the agency to allocate funding for HWK 779 – the Reconstruction of Empire Boulevard from Flatbush to Utica Avenues. In 1990, the agency opted to shelve this project for five years, due to fiscal constraints. Now, fifteen years later the project remains shelved.

Empire Boulevard is regarded as the “gateway” to our district. This major roadway leads to key cultural institutions including the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, and Prospect Park. Empire Boulevard also has severe flooding and drainage problems which affect traffic, homes and businesses here.

### **Reconstruction of Clove Road (the Bedford Pass of the American Revolution) and Malbone Street – HWK166**

The reconstruction of Clove Road and Malbone Street – HWK166 – is one of the most important roadway reconstruction projects in Community District 9. Clove Road has been identified by a NYC Department of Transportation preliminary archaeological study as the “Bedford Pass of the August 27, 1776 “Battle of Brooklyn”. The next phase of research for this location is the archaeological dig. The Board continues to request funding for this phase of the project the results of which will have significant ramifications, not only for the district but for the borough as well. We urge our elected official to provide the relatively small amount of funding needed for this archaeological dig so that this project can move forward.

Clove Road has been submitted to the City’s Landmark Preservation Commission and the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation for historic designation. It is extremely

important therefore, that these studies be completed to provide the necessary supporting documentation for the historic designation process. We look forward to working with the agency and our elected officials for the preservation of Clove Road, a block long colonial road that has been preserved almost as it was in 1776 when it was a route through the Bedford Pass and was garrisoned by Continental soldiers.

### **Reconstruction of Nostrand Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue**

Nostrand Avenue is one of the main thoroughfares in Brooklyn, running through several different neighborhoods. This street is heavily congested with city buses, delivery trucks, taxis, cars and other vehicles competing for passage all day long. The street is also in various stages of deterioration from harsh winters, numerous street openings by utility and various other private companies, and individuals. Nostrand Avenue needs to be reconstructed with attention being paid to alleviating traffic congestion, traffic calming, improved drainage and traffic flow.

### **Kingston Avenue**

Kingston Avenue has grown into a major commercial corridor, serving the needs of a growing District 9 population. The Board is requesting a capital reconstruction project for this street that will include sidewalks, street lighting, and sewer and water main reconstruction. We stand ready to discuss this matter with the agency.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Community Board 9 has repeatedly brought to the attention of the agency the problems with flooding in the district. We continue to request a catch basin reconstruction project for the district to correct capacity and other drainage problems in the district.

A trench restoration project should be implemented in the district to correct the depressions and roadway collapse on Ocean Avenue from Parkside Avenue to Empire Boulevard which resulted from poor restoration following emergency sewer/water main repairs. Fenimore Street between Bedford and Rogers Avenues and Hawthorne Street between Bedford and Rogers Avenues should also be included in a trench-restoration project.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The importance of an adequately trained and properly equipped Fire Department cannot be over-emphasized. Appropriate training and proper equipment help to provide that safety net that our fire fighters need in their life-saving efforts on our behalf. One lesson learned from the 2003 Blackout that crippled the city, is that firehouses should be equipped with power generators. We strongly urge the agency and our elected officials to fully fund the acquisition of power generators for all firehouses in the city.

The Board, however, is strongly opposed to the complete closing of our engine and fire companies for medical and training activities. Although units outside the district are assigned to respond to

Community District 9, any delay in the response time is potentially life threatening and consequently leaves our residents vulnerable in the interim.

The Board sees a strong need for the provision of fire prevention and educational programs to be implemented for Community District 9, including the Child Fire Starter Program. This program, which provides early intervention services and has worked well in other areas, will help to reach those children who are at risk, thus saving valuable life and property. In addition, an increase in fire prevention programs will also help in the education of our citizens, thus reducing the risk of fire.

We strongly encourage continued funding for the Carbon Monoxide Detector distribution program, and continue to support the Fire Detector distribution program.

### **Fire Marshals**

The swift investigation of fires should be a priority. The lack of adequate numbers of Fire Marshals hampers the agency's ability to immediately begin the investigation as to the cause of a fire. Appropriate funding must be made available for the hiring of additional Fire Marshals to address this void. Not only will this lead to the apprehension of suspected arsonist(s), but will also help to curb the number of suspicious fires.

## **DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES**

The revitalization of our local commercial strips is one of our main priorities. We urge the agency to continue to work with us for the revitalization of the following commercial strips in Community District 9:

- Nostrand Avenue from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue;
- Utica Avenue from Empire Boulevard to Eastern Parkway;
- Bedford/Franklin/Rogers Avenues from Eastern Parkway to Parkside Avenue;
- Flatbush Avenue from Empire Boulevard to Clarkson Avenue;
- Empire Boulevard from Utica to Flatbush Avenues

Community Board 9 is particularly interested in immediate revitalization projects for Nostrand Avenue, Kingston Avenue, Utica Avenue and Flatbush Avenue. These are our main commercial strips. We see these strategic commercial locations as playing a vital role in the community's economy. The reconstruction of Kings County Hospital Center, the establishment of the Biotechnology Plaza, the expansion of Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York, opens up opportunities to attract viable businesses to the district to provide an array of consumer products and services, leading to the revitalizing not only the district's economy, but the quality of life as well.

## **NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

### **Subway Station Rehab**

Community District 9's residents and other commuters who use the Utica Avenue Subway Station are pleased with the completion of the reconstruction project at this station. Other subway stations in the District in need of rehabilitation include the President Street Station, Franklin Avenue Station,

Nostrand Avenue Station, Kingston Avenue, Sterling Street and Winthrop Street subway stations.

The Board is pleased that the MTA/NYCTA has finally recognized that the Eastern Parkway-Brooklyn Museum Station meets their criteria for stations to be ADA compliant. This subway station serves Community Districts 8 and 9 and the major cultural institutions in our district – the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Public Library.

Thousands of local residents, visitors from the five boroughs and tourists from across the country and the world use this station to visit our neighborhoods and cultural institutions. These are the lucky ones. The disabled and our senior citizens cannot visit these institutions if they do not have access to a personal vehicle. Although, this station is not slated for immediate ADA compliance, we are pleased that the station has been approved for the designation and will work hard to make it a reality.

### DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Response to complaints of building and zoning violations in the district by the Department of Buildings is poor. Follow-up to ensure compliance is even worse. To compound matters we have seen a rise in the numbers of unsafe buildings – bulging bricks, cracked exteriors, façade collapses, and other unsafe conditions. In addition, non-conformance with a building's Certificate of Occupancy provisions and commercial uses in residential zones are all on the rise in the district. A more effective and efficient code enforcement operation is needed to address the building and zoning violations that seriously hamper the safety and quality of life of our residents.

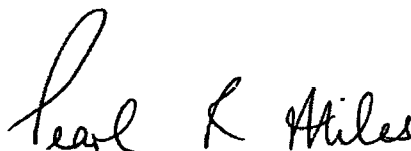
### CONCLUSION

It is Community Board 9's belief that quality of life begins with good health and the nurturing of a built environment, set in aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods and reinforced with educational and economic development.

We believe that there is much to be done to enhance the quality of life for current and future residents. Our goal is to revitalize our neighborhoods to provide a safe and healthful setting, a place of tranquility and respite from the tasks of assimilation and striving to succeed. In order to accomplish these goals, the Board will continue to work with the City's agencies, elected officials and community to address the needs identified here.



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