



# BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND **COMMUNITY BOARD 3**

655-218 Rossville Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. 10309

Telephone: (718) 356-7900, 7903

FAX: (718) 966-9013

## **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS FY 2009**

The population growth in Community Board 3 will continue and reach a peak by 2030, as per Mayor Bloomberg's PLANYC report. As residents stay longer and settle, the population will age dramatically. In 1970, Staten Island was the City's youngest borough; by 2030 it will be the oldest. The elderly population on Staten Island is expected to double with a median age of 40 years by 2030. Also, reports show that most of the new residents that moved to the south shore of Staten Island were immigrants from other countries.

The needs of our communities continue to grow for more public services and capital improvements. Our infrastructure system is already inadequate, antiquated and in need of improvements. Community Board 3 is one of the highest taxed districts in New York City. We should get our fair share of services on the south shore.

The following are Community Board 3 recommendations and priorities for FY2009:

### **Department of Transportation** **CAPITAL**

Traffic and transportation is the most important and serious issue to the residents in our district. We need improvements to help solve the traffic congestion throughout the south shore and Staten Island.

#### **Reconstruction of Arthur Kill Road**

Arthur Kill Road is a major arterial in our district. It is a narrow, two lane street on the west side of our district. It runs through manufacturing, commercial and residential areas, so the traffic on Arthur Kill Road is very high in volume. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Department of Design and Construction (DDC) must expedite this project and immediately start the acquisition process. The first phase of reconstruction should start at Richmond Avenue to Clarke Avenue along the Brookfield Landfill property.

#### **Reconstruction of Bloomingdale Road**

DOT has this project proposed for reconstruction from Arthur Kill Road to Amboy Road. For 20 years we have asked DOT to start this job. Now this project is not scheduled for years to come. Community Board 3 is requesting that a small portion of Bloomingdale Road, between Amboy Road and South Service/Drumgoole Road East be separated from the larger project. This is a primary road in a very busy, growing community.

The DOT and DDC should expedite the smaller section of Bloomingdale Road and immediately start the acquisition process.

### **Reconstruction of Tennyson Drive**

The section of roadway between Cleveland Avenue and Wiman Avenue needs to be open to traffic. A portion will be put in by a developer in the area. However, the City is responsible to put in part of Tennyson Drive along the waterfront of Great Kills. It would help alleviate some of the congestion on Hylan Boulevard.

Improvements have to be made at the corner of Nelson Avenue and Hylan Boulevard in Great Kills. It is one of the busiest intersections on Staten Island and the site of many accidents.

### **Reconstruction of Woodrow Road**

Again, this is another project Community Board 3 has requested for more than 20 years. This is a major roadway that crosses through many towns and residential neighborhoods. DOT must expedite this project.

### **Fresh Kills Park street system**

Before any plans are finalized for this park, the roads have to be planned on this site. We support the Borough President and Community Boards 1 and 2 request for 2 lanes in each direction from Richmond Avenue to the West Shore Expressway. DOT should start mapping this road as soon as possible. Park streets to the various sections of this park can be secondary roads but, we must have the 2 lanes in each direction for the main roadway.

### **Reconstruction of Huguenot Avenue**

Huguenot Avenue runs from the Raritan Bay to Arthur Kill Road and the West Shore Expressway. A major arterial on the south shore, it passes through the town of Huguenot, connects to the Korean War Veterans Parkway, Staten Island Railway and goes past 3 schools, churches and residential communities. A small portion needs to be reconstructed. Huguenot Avenue between Rathbun Avenue and Drumgoole Road West must be reconstructed with curbs and sidewalks.

### **Park and Ride at Staten Island Railway**

Park and Ride lots are needed at the Princes Bay, Pleasant Plains, Richmond Valley and Tottenville Staten Island Railway. Commuters need a site to park their cars without impacting on the local residents and businesses. DOT has to identify and work with SIR to acquire Park and Ride sites.

### **Sidewalks**

The need for sidewalks in our area is a priority of Community Board 3. There are several locations where the DOT must install sidewalks. The following are city-owned locations in need of sidewalks:

- Arden Avenue on the unbuilt section of Rensselaer Avenue (between 586 and 590 Arden Avenue.
- Hylan Boulevard between Page Avenue and Bedell Avenue, adjacent to the South Shore Little League fields
- Bloomingdale Road between Ramona Avenue and Drumgoole Road West
- Drumgoole Road West between Maguire Avenue and Bloomingdale Road
- Kingdom Avenue behind PS 5 between Hylan Boulevard and Eylandt Street

Many of our streets have jut-outs, no sidewalks or curbs and are very narrow. Unfortunately, the DOT and Building Department grant street waivers in some cases. One reason for this is because

the streets are not final mapped. We must allocate funds to final map our streets so they can be properly maintained and corrected where a jut-out problem exists. Also, DOT should start acquiring the areas where jut-outs create a traffic problem on our main streets.

The intersection of Arthur Kill Road and Arden Avenue has to be improved. Studies by State DOT report 53 accidents during the last two years at this site. The State DOT is looking at this problem area. However, we cannot wait ten or more years before something is done. New York City DOT should expedite a project under H.E.E.P. to correct this very busy intersection.

#### **EXPENSE**

Many of our streets are in disrepair with potholes. The DOT should allocate funding for additional pot-hole crews. We also need more traffic enforcement. One of our biggest complaints is regarding speeders and cars illegally parked. Especially around schools. Enforcement should be present at release time.

### **Department of Environmental Protection**

#### **CAPITAL**

The most successful program ever initiated in the Community Board 3 District is the Bluebelt Program. The DEP and the Bluebelt staff have done an outstanding job developing and maintaining our valuable streams and culverts. The money that the City has saved by not having to install storm sewers, more than justifies the expansion of the Bluebelt Program. We at Community Board 3 feel so strongly about the Bluebelt Program that we continue to ask for funding for this program for additional manpower and staff. Also for equipment needed for maintenance.

The Oakwood Creek should be incorporated as part of a Bluebelt project. The Oakwood community needs these wetlands protected and maintained to prevent flooding in the area. At the same time, DOT should open Medina Street and Tarrytown Avenue over the culvert to connect to Guyon Avenue.

DEP should start planning for a pump station and sanitary sewers in the Charleston area. DOT should work on getting title to many of the streets in Charleston. Also, the acquisition process should start. There are many new developments under construction and proposed in this area. It is important that sewers are installed in Charleston.

There are still many areas on the south shore without storm and sanitary sewers. Funding is needed to expedite these projects:

Richard Avenue	Second Court
Vespa Avenue	Tottenville Place
Radigan Avenue	Dahlia Street
Woodrow and Rossville Avenue	
Buffalo Street	Monticello Terrace

### **Department of Education**

#### **CAPITAL**

Schools are a top priority of Community Board 3. There are sixteen (16) acres of city-owned property land banked on the south shore Charleston site for an educational complex. The rapidly growing population on the south shore of Staten Island calls for schools in all levels; elementary, intermediate and high schools.

## **New York Public Library**

### **CAPITAL**

#### **Rossville Library**

Our request for a Regional Library in Rossville is a top priority in our Capital Budget. The Rossville/Woodrow area consists of several large and small scale housing developments. There is a complete lack of library service in this area. A site has been identified for the regional library that is only a few blocks away from PS 56. The site is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. However, the need for a library is overwhelming. Everyone, including children and senior citizens would have easy access to this proposed library site. The libraries also play a strong role in education. It is important that funding for libraries and a new facility in Rossville, be allocated to the south shore.

#### **Huguenot Library**

The NY Public Library should immediately secure the city-owned site at Kingdom Avenue and Eylandt Street for a future Huguenot Library. The present location is inadequate for the needs of the community.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **CAPITAL**

#### **Fairview Park**

This park was promised to the community years ago and was supposed to be built before Bricktown was completed. We are still waiting for the Parks Department to build this park with ballfields, soccer fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, etc.

#### **Fallen Hero Park**

We are very anxious to have this park developed. It is sited in the middle of a residential community and would be an ideal park for all the young families in the area. The property is under the jurisdiction of the DEP. We are waiting for DEP to do a survey to split the property for the Parks Department to use as an active neighborhood park.

#### **Kingdom Avenue**

We are still waiting for the Parks Department to develop a plan for this site. Community Board 3 recommends tennis courts and a playground. This is located behind a public elementary school and surrounded by new homes. This is also an ideal site for young families to enjoy.

#### **Great Kills Seaside Nature Park and Pier**

The Parks Department must develop the twenty (20) acres of waterfront property in Great Kills. A portion at Nelson Avenue is developed with flower gardens and paths. The larger portion still needs to be developed including the pier. We are waiting for the Parks Department to finish this project.

#### **Fresh Kills Landfill**

Community Board 3 strongly recommends that the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation acquire over 2,000 acres of the Fresh Kills Landfill for parkland. The site is appropriate for future recreational uses, i.e. golf, motorcross, trails, ballfields, boating and, especially, a golf course.

#### **Arden Woods Park**

A playground around the perimeter of the park would be a wonderful addition and greatly used by thousands of young families living around this park.

### **Wolfes Pond Park**

The Parks Department and DOT should look into another access into the park. Many outdoor events take place at Wolfes Pond Park. An additional route in and out of the park would be very helpful and good to have in the event of an emergency.

### **Comfort Stations**

We are developing our parks and attracting many people from throughout Staten Island, New Jersey and other boroughs. However, there is a serious lack of bathroom facilities in our parks. This creates an unacceptable and unhealthy condition in our parks and playgrounds. Funds must be allocated and construction expedited to provide comfort stations at Wolfes Pond Park, Lemon Creek, the fishing pier at Sharrotts Avenue, conference House Park and other park locations where people congregate.

### **Indoor Pool**

Residents on the south shore have expressed an interest in a public indoor pool in our community. We recommend a site at the corner of Eylandt Street and Luten Avenue which is part of Wolfes Pond Park. Tottenville High School is directly across the street from this site. We request funding for a study and design for an indoor pool in Huguenot. The Councilman has allocated funds to initiate a study.

### **Sidewalks along Park Land**

The Parks Department should coordinate with DOT to have sidewalks installed at various areas along their property:

- a. Arden Avenue between Arthur Kill Road and Correll Avenue, the Arden Woods Park
- b. Bloomingdale Road between Drumgoole Road West and Ramona Avenue and Drumgoole Road West between Lenevar Avenue and Bloomingdale Road

### **Playground Equipment**

Mayor Bloomberg's PKNY2030 report recommends all New Yorkers live within a 10 minute walk to a park. We have many undeveloped parkland areas, especially along the West side of Staten Island. We ask that playground equipment be installed at:

- Arden Woods Park at Arthur Kill Road next to Aspen Knoll development
- Arden Avenue between Forest Green and Dover Green
- Carlton Boulevard at Crown Avenue
- Carlton Boulevard at Drumgoole Road West

### **South shore beaches**

The beaches on the south shore of Staten Island need to be cleaned. We spend millions of dollars improving Conference House Park, Lemon Creek Park and Wolfes Pond Park, yet the waterfront is terribly neglected. We recommend the Parks Department purchase a Barber Surf Rake to filter and remove debris from the sand. Also a Cherrington Model 5000 model self-contained beach cleaner. People want to enjoy the waterfront – walking, playing and just sitting on the beach.

## **EXPENSE**

Personnel:

The Parks Department needs more personnel for pruning and climbers.

Also:

Vehicles are needed to help maintain our parks.

## **Department of Sanitation**

### **CAPITAL**

With all the new housing developments and new streets opening up it is almost impossible for the district to service this large area. The Department of Sanitation (DOS) has projected a 33% increase in tonnage within the next decade in Community Board 3. This increased demand will require additional collection trucks and sanitation workers. It will also require another garage on the south shore of Staten Island. Community Board 3's recommendation is to site the garage on the southern most portion of the Fresh Kills Landfill on DOS property. We strongly disagree with siting a garage near any residential community.

The Household Self Help Facility dump site at the Fresh Kills Landfill should be open to the public. DOS should allocate funding for manpower at the household dump site. Also, more enforcement personnel is needed to help prevent illegal dumping.

"Pick up After Dog" signs should be made available again. Many of our complaints deal with neighbors not picking up after dogs.

## **Fire Department**

### **CAPITAL**

In case of high producing accidents; i.e. the Staten Island Ferry incident of October 2003, we need a Mobile Emergency Response Vehicle (MERV). Borough President Molinaro will fund this vehicle and we fully support his effort. This MERV would help save lives in a large emergency situation.

### **Firehouse Renovations**

Many firehouses are turn-of-the-last century buildings that need upgrades such as new roofs, apparatus floor replacements, waterproofing, pointing, electrical upgrades, as well as new kitchens and bathrooms. The City needs to fund these upgrades.

### **Fire Safety Education Outreach**

Funding is requested to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to the public throughout the year in all five boroughs. This budget allocation would cover the cost of 10,000 smoke detectors and 10,000 carbon monoxide detectors.

## **Police Department**

### **CAPITAL**

Staten Island, being the fastest growing district in New York State, needs a fourth precinct. We ask the Police Department to expedite this request. We believe our growth and development more than justifies another precinct. The fourth precinct should also house the Borough Command in case of displacement from the Homeport.

A Highway Emergency Patrol should be constructed on Staten Island. Along the West Shore Expressway, Korean War Veteran's and Martin Luther King Parkways. The large geographic size of Staten Island and the volume of traffic on our highways justify this facility. Each year, over 16 million vehicles cross over the Outerbridge alone. Motorists use our highways as a corridor to other boroughs, Long Island and northeastern states. We need to select a site and construct a Highway Emergency Patrol as soon as possible.

The 122nd Precinct has the largest geographic area to cover in New York City. The precinct building is overcrowded and needs to be improved. Funding should be allocated for the cleanup and renovation of the 122nd Precinct basement. Additional parking is also needed for the precinct.

## **EXPENSE**

Due to our large geographic area the Staten Island precincts must cover, their vehicles are on the road 24/7 clocking hundreds of thousands of miles. The life span of a police vehicle on Staten Island is much shorter than other boroughs. We ask for additional police marked vehicles and vans for our precincts on Staten Island.

We need more police officers assigned to the 122 and 123 Precincts. The number of officers at these precincts has remained just about the same for the last 30 years. Yet our population has grown tremendously in those 30 years. We need the additional officers immediately.

Our Police officers need 2 wheel motor bikes and quads to cover our rural areas and open spaces. The scooters are needed around schools and commercial districts.

Civilian cleaners are needed on Staten Island to clean and maintain our precincts.

Police Officers should be assigned to every Staten Island ferryboat and around our train stations to provide a safe environment for our students, commuters, visitors, etc. More school crossing guards are needed around our schools. All the vacancies should be filled.

Special Traffic Enforcement Agents should be assigned to control traffic during rush hours and help keep traffic moving, especially around schools.

The NYC Police Department should receive their fair share of funding from Homeland Security.

## **Department of Aging** **CAPITAL**

Along with the rapid growth of the population on the south shore, the senior citizen population is the fastest growing segment in this district. There is truly a need for senior citizen housing on the south shore. The senior citizen community requests a site for senior citizen housing where they can still remain on Staten Island near their family and friends. As per PLANET 2030, Staten Island will be the oldest borough in New York City with the median age being 40 and up.

## **EXPENSE**

### **Access-a-Ride**

The south shore of Staten Island lacks public transportation. We have limited bus service. Our older adults rely on car service which can be more expensive. We need to increase transportation service in our district. More Access-a-Ride service has to be provided. Also more buses to our senior citizens centers.

### **Social Adult Day Care – Respite Services**

Our elderly who require this service must travel to other parts of Staten Island, many times sitting on a van or bus for over an hour. There should be a site on the south shore where our elderly can receive compassionate care within their own district. Respite allows caregivers and/or family members the occasional relief from the ongoing responsibility of caring for an elderly family member with peace of mind.

### **Home Care**

This program must be expanded. More service from medical professionals, on a full or part time bases is essential. We believe home care services will be in very high demand as more patients

are sent home from the hospital at a faster pace. These elderly patients require home health care and services.

**Building Department**  
**EXPENSE**

Community Board 3 is requesting more inspectors to monitor all the building construction on the south shore of Staten Island. We are also requesting a night emergency squad to prevent illegal work on weekends and evenings.

**Law Department – Office of the Corporation Council**

Many of our Capital projects with DOT and DEP are being held up during the acquisition process. It is our understanding that DEP and DDC allocated funds to have another person in your department to work on these acquisitions.

We ask that the Law Department hire or assign attorneys to work on the workload of acquisitions in New York City. We cannot continue to push back projects for years just because the acquisition process moves so slowly. It is in the best interest of everyone to have more personnel working on acquisitions.

**Department of Design and Construction**

Again, we wish to thank the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) for all their work and success on the south shore of Staten Island. We look forward to continued cooperation and achievements in the community.

Community Board 3 recommends that the DDC establish a budget line for Community Liaison as permanent personnel.

We must again thank all the City agencies for their help and cooperation for providing funding for much needed projects. They have been supportive and informative by keeping open communications with the Community Board.

In conclusion, we wish to thank our elected officials for recognizing our needs and supporting our requests by providing funds to initiate many of our projects on the south shore of Staten Island.

*Frank Morano*

Frank Morano  
Chairman of the Board

*Marie Bodnar*

Marie Bodnar  
District Manager