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## **STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS** **FISCAL YEAR 2009**

### **A Call for Action: Alleviating Gentrification and Displacement in El Barrio/East Harlem**

This Statement of District Needs describes the challenges and opportunities that Manhattan District Eleven will face in the coming years. Among those challenges are the gentrification of the District, lack of affordable housing for working families, lack of commercial and retail space for local entrepreneurs and the highest jobless rates in the City. Secondary challenges such as the second highest cumulative AIDS rate (4,682 per 100,000 adults) in the entire city and high levels of Asthma among the youth are issues that need a sound strategy from the Department of Health, as well as local elected officials to be alleviated and hopefully overcome.

Gentrification is an urban phenomenon affecting the entire City, but especially working class neighborhoods such as District 11. The median household income for District 11 was \$21,480 in 2000, which was 45.7% of the median income of Manhattan (\$47,030) (UTAP, 2003). The gap in incomes between the residents of District 11 and the rest of Manhattan put our residents at risk of displacement. New Town Houses developed by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) through Homework's and Third Party Programs require buyers to have annual income sufficient to qualify for mortgage financing, approximately \$52,607. These homes are not affordable for the working class residents that are the engine of this vibrant community. The disparity in incomes between the residents of District 11 and the proposed prices of new homes and apartments is the main reason for the negative ramifications of gentrification, such as the displacement of residents that create the social fabric of District 11. These same residents have fought over the years to improve the quality of life of the neighborhood and make it a safe haven for their families and children.

Manhattan Community Board 11 hopes that this Statement of District Needs will have the full consideration of Mayor Bloomberg, the Commissioners in charge of delivering City services to the residents of the District 11, the local elected officials, local not-for-profits serving the District, private developers looking for opportunities to invest in the District, and local activists interested in making a positive contribution to this community.

## **Brief Description of Community District Eleven**

Manhattan Community District Eleven includes the communities of East Harlem, Spanish Harlem, El Barrio, Wards and Randall Island, in Northern Manhattan. The geographical boundaries are East 96th Street on the South, East 142nd Street on the North, Fifth Avenue on the West and the Harlem River on the East. Although not contiguous with East Harlem, Wards and Randall Islands are a part of Community District Eleven. Geographically, the District is almost 1.5 square miles, with major transportation arteries including the FDR/Harlem River Drive, Tri-borough Bridge, three Harlem River Bridges to the Bronx, Metro-North Railway and the Lexington Avenue 4, 5, 6 Subway lines.

According to the 2000 Census, the population of Community District Eleven was 117,743 representing 7.6% of Manhattan's population and 1.5% of the total population of New York City. According to estimates by the INS, there are 500,000 illegal immigrants in New York City, or 5.9% of the population, which would translate to 6,947 illegal immigrants in Community District Eleven, for a total of 124,690. (There are most likely more illegal immigrants in Community District Eleven than other Districts considering the relatively large legal immigrant population.) The population of Community District Eleven is mostly low and moderate income, first and second generation Puerto Ricans, African-Americans, Italians and a growing population of Mexicans, West Indians, Dominicans, Asians and Central American immigrants. In the 2000 Census, 52.1 % District Eleven residents describe themselves as of Hispanic origin, 35.7% as Black Nonhispanic, 7.3% as White Nonhispanic, 2.7% as Asian and Pacific Islander Nonhispanic, 1.7% as Two or more races Nonhispanic and 0.5% as other.

Youth in East Harlem make up a larger than normal percentage of the population with 30.6% of residents age 19 or younger. The population age 20 to 64 years is 58%. The senior population of 65 years of age and older is 11.4%.

East Harlem is a "renter-occupied" community as 93.6% of housing units are renter occupied and only 6.4% of housing units are owner-occupied. In 2000, District 11 had 45,891 housing units.

There are 8 homeless shelters in the district, housing 196 adults and children in family shelters, 953 men and 144 women. Also, 3 privately operated Methadone clinics. There are also 37 drug and alcohol treatment facilities and 37 mental health treatment facilities in Community District Eleven, the HIGHEST concentration of shelters and facilities of any community in the entire Borough of Manhattan and the 2nd largest in the City. The district is overwhelmed with more than our "FAIR SHARE" of shelter and treatment facilities. Each District must bear its "fair share" of social service facilities. The City has violated the City Charter's "fair share" mandate that established that the City should take into account: fair distribution across communities of the burdens and benefits of facilities; community needs for services; efficient and cost-effective delivery of services; and social and economic impacts of facilities on surrounding area.

## **NYC DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The elements for the economic revitalization of Manhattan Community District 11 already exist. A planning assessment conducted by the Urban Technical Assistance Project (UTAP) at Columbia University discovered that the four major commercial corridors are capturing 19% of the consumer expenditures in the area. As was projected for 2003, the total expenditure potential for our community is over \$1.49 billion, while the actual total potential sales on the four major corridors

was only \$282 million. This analysis, coupled with the low percentage of vacant commercial space available on the four major commercial corridors, reveals that it is likely that the projected consumer expenditures are far exceeding the potential sales of the entire District.

Manhattan Community Board 11 recommends the creation of a partnership between us, the Department of Business Services, NYC Economic Development Corporation and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development that would develop a comprehensive economic development plan for Community District 11. The recommendations listed below provide a general guideline for such an approach.

***The goals of this comprehensive approach would be to:***

- 1) To support the efforts of local development organizations and micro-loan programs that provides low-interest loans, grants, free one-on-one business consultation to local entrepreneurs, business plan development and implementation, which would attract new businesses and services that are underrepresented in the District.
- 2) Strengthen and expedite existing economic development plans; create and develop new economic development projects that take into consideration the social fabric of the District residents for employment and business ownership opportunities.
- 3) Develop legislation and policy guidelines to strengthen City Agency power to negotiate with private developers for the creation of commercial, office, and retail space that is AFFORDABLE to local not-for-profit and entrepreneurs.

***Explore Options of Linking Jobs and Other Community Needs with Real Estate Development Projects Via Zoning and other Land Use Regulations:***

- 1) Use new re-zoning of East Harlem to link development benefits to developer's willingness to help meet community and city-wide needs.
- 2) Make sure linkages are mandatory in the case of higher density, more lucrative and more burdensome forms of development; provide adequate incentives to encourage linkage with all possible ranges of density.
- 3) Review the feasibility of using zoning to provide clearer incentives for the employment of local residents (both in construction and operation) and preserve and encourage the development of commercial and manufacturing land uses.

***Businesses are attracted to areas that have quality schools, clean streets and good parks. Therefore, an effort should be made to:***

- 1) Publicize the quality schools in East Harlem. Improve those schools where needed, develop partnerships with businesses to train youth for future employment opportunities.
- 2) Improve the northern end of Central Park, which never receives the same maintenance or repairs as the 61st Street through 90th Street area.
- 3) Develop a community pride awareness project to enlist community support with government cooperation on maintaining clean streets.

- 4) The Mayor's Community Assistant Unit should hire a contractor in Manhattan to clean graffiti in District 11 as is done in the outer boroughs.

### ***East Harlem: A Good Place to do Business***

The City must package and market the East Harlem area to a wide variety of existing and emerging industries that can develop existing resources and provide long-term benefits to the community. These industries may include:

- Health Care
- Tourism
- Professional Services
- Back Office Operations
- Property Management.
- Retail Business.
- Light Manufacturing.
- Domestic and Foreign Trade Opportunities.

### ***Job Development/Placement Programs***

- 1) Increased access to job training programs that have been successful in East Harlem.
- 2) The training of East Harlem's youth is a top priority.
- 3) For youth, an in-school job-training program should be developed that links youth, employers and schools, identifying employment opportunities.
- 4) Training programs should have services geared toward the specific needs of the East Harlem community, especially English as a Second Language programs and customer services development programs.
- 5) Require the N.Y. Department of Labor to publicize or develop a job placement program in East Harlem.
- 6) Link job placement with future capital investment projects in housing, infrastructure, and the private sector. This can be done by taking large-scaled capital investment projects aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of the decaying infrastructure and reassessing them in the context of community needs such as job placement.
- 7) All new or rehabilitated developments in Community District 11 must hire at least 65% of their employees from the East Harlem community.

### ***Minority and Women-Owned Business Entrepreneurs***

The fact that East Harlem has one of the highest populations of Latinos in N.Y.C. but only has less than 3% Latino and less than 1% of African-Americans owned businesses operating in District 11 indicated the need for the Department of Business Services (DBS) to promote M/WBE. The Bloomberg Administration should develop a pilot project to increase the participation of M/WBE businesses in the redevelopment of CD # 11.

## ***Second Avenue Corridor Streetscape Enhancement Framework***

We would like to request the support of DBS and EDC to fund the recommendations of the Second Avenue Corridor Streetscape Enhancement Framework. This report, which was developed by Community Board 11 and the Regional Plan Associations, provides specific recommendations to enhance Second Avenue's streetscape based on surveys of existing residents and businesses along the corridor and know best practices. We believe the recommendations, if implemented, can produce the sought after economic improvements along and around Second Avenue, from East 96th Street to East 128th Street.

### ***La Marqueta (Park Avenue between East 116th and 112th Streets)***

Manhattan Community Board Eleven has entertained the proposals presented by the East Harlem Business Capital Corporation (EHBCC), the organization selected by the City to redevelop La Marqueta. With plans to develop both sections above and below East 116th Street, underneath the MetroNorth Viaduct, Community Board Eleven looks forward to working with EHBCC and the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in the future to plan for the effective development of this historical market. We encourage EDC to expedite the process of establishing a lease and transfer property management to EHBCC. Local businesses and residents are looking forward to see and live the rebirth of La Marqueta as a driving market place.

### ***East 125th Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd***

The 125th Street Commercial Corridor accounts for 16.6% of all commercial activity in District 11. Food service and drinking places and personal and laundry service establishments comprise the largest portion of commercial activity on 125th Street. Food service and drinking places are primarily limited services restaurants. The majority of personal services are concentrated in beauty and barber shops. A focus on a wider variety of services will enhance the retail business establishment by serving, not only residents of the area, but also draw people from other areas to this commercial corridor (UTAP, Winter 2003-04).

It is time for EDC and DBS to work with Community Board 11 to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for this major commercial corridor, especially in light of the construction of the Potamkin Auto-mall and future development of Harlem Park.

We would also like the City to reassess the goals of the planned development of the area between East 125th Street and East 127th Street, from Third to Second Avenues. This predominantly City-owned property has been suggested for commercial development. We believe that if the site is to include more square footage of housing than commercial space, it should be disposed by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development through a new RFP. Any housing proposal on that site **MUST** include a majority of units which are affordable to the residents of our community.

### ***Business Improvement Districts (BIDS)***

The City must support and encourage the expansion of the 125th Street BID from 5th Avenue to 2nd Avenue.

## **TOURISM AND CULTURAL ARTS**

Rich in culture and arts, East Harlem has the potential to capitalize on its cultural identity and use it a driving force for local economic development. More effort and resources have to be put into nurturing and marketing East Harlem's cultural allure to the outside community. Just as Little Italy and Korea Town lure customers from all over the City, creating an image of El Barrio/East Harlem as an ethnically distinct and attractive neighborhood in which one can obtain a unique cultural experience can bolster a stagnant local economy.

East Harlem is rich in cultural institutions: (El Museo Del Barrio, the Museum of the City of New York, the Salsa Museum, the National Black Theater and Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center). Harlem's East Side is home to several landmarks (official and unofficial): the Islamic Cultural Center, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Cecily Tyson's House, Holy Agony R.C. Church, Mt. Carmel R.C. Church, the Greek Orthodox Church of St. George and St. Demetrios, St. Cecilia's R.C. Church, St. Ann's R.C. Church, St. Paul's R.C. Church, First Spanish Baptist Church, First Sharon Baptist Church, Chamber's Memorial Baptist Church and La Marqueta. Also, the Mount Morris Bank, (Corn Exchange) Harlem Court House, Elmendorf Reformed Church, Holy Rosary Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Langston Hughes' House, Marcus Garvey Park-Watch Tower Bell, All Saint's R.C. Church, I.S. 201 (the windowless School) and Kelly Temple Church of God in Christ. Famous restaurants include: Rao's and Pasty's. Bakeries: Valencia and Marrone. Parade/Festivals: Three Kings Day Parade, Good Friday Procession, The Cinco de Mayo Mexican Festival, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Festival, St. Ann's Festival and the 116th Street Pre-Puerto Rican Day Parade Festival. El Barrio/East Harlem is an untapped resource for tourism in NYC.

The development of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone's Cultural Industry Plan and \$25 million Cultural Investment plan concluded that the creation of Destination and Heritage Tourism Initiatives will generate tourism in Upper Manhattan. The financial stability of cultural organizations are mixed and basic capacity issues need to be addressed for groups and communities like El Barrio to participate in a major tourism initiative. Capital improvement recommendations include the development of facilities, performance spaces, visitor service networks, themed streetscapes and signage, new lampposts, the creation of visitor amenities like restaurants and hotels and neighborhood centers. Earned income projects developed must reflect the rich cultural identity of the community and promote accessibility for tourist and community residents.

Specific to the East Harlem community, efforts must be developed to assist the community in building capacity to identify and access cultural assets and stabilize programs for emerging and existing cultural programs. The designation of El Barrio as an Arts District is the strategy for tying together fragmented cultural programs, events, and activities, into a larger critical mass that can promote development and revitalization. The transformation of El Barrio requires the coordination of public art projects and marketing efforts to target audiences.

The coordination and organization has started with the East Harlem Tourism Board, which has just completed its inaugural year. Including members of local arts organizations and government agencies, the Tourism Board has organized efforts to promote East Harlem as a tourist destination. With an active seat on the Tourism Board, Community Board Eleven has been an active participant in future planning of the tourism industry of East Harlem.

The following initiatives should be considered by the State and City agencies which provide funding to the East Harlem Tourism Board:

- Streetscape improvements
- Artist incubator
- Artist Housing
- Restaurant District
- Theater Development
- Production Facilities
- Landmarking and Preservation efforts

## **NYC DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

The Julia De Burgos Cultural Center must be categorized in the Institutional Group and not in the N.Y.C. Cultural Affairs Programs budget. This institution must receive this designation to attract ongoing philanthropic funding. The NYC City Council and the Mayor's Office must increase the annual funding for the project.

The City must sell these community facilities currently managed by non-profits to these groups. Community facilities, such as Julia De Burgos and El Museo del Barrio operate their services within these large City-owned community facilities.

We support and request increased funding for El Museo Del Barrio, the Museum of the City of New York, the National Black Theatre and other cultural institutions in our community.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD)**

HPD needs to redefine there mission of creating affordable housing in working class neighborhoods such as District 11. HPD has missed opportunities for creating affordable housing in District 11. Every remaining City-owned lot must be developed in a manner which creates real affordable housing opportunities for the people of our community. The proposed Housing Plan by Mayor Bloomberg needs to take into consideration Household's Median Income by DISTRICT in order to provide real opportunities for working class families such the ones living in District 11.

There is a need for homeownership opportunities in District 11. We request HPD to set aside a greater percentage of future development possibilities for homeownership. The homeownerships initiative should be directed to working class families looking to upgrade their housing needs and to stay in the community. Among these residents are teachers, firefighters, police officers, social workers, local artists, government employees and small business owners.

Community Board 11 has created and approved our own Affordable Housing Development Guidelines which we request ALL future housing developments in our District to adhere to (see attached Manhattan Community Board 11 Affordable Housing Development Guidelines). We must make sure we develop the type of housing our community needs, and we **MUST** get it right 100% of the time from now on.

### ***Vacant Buildings***

Vacant buildings are a continuing problem in the community. Not only are they an untapped housing resource, they eventually become health and safety hazards. Deterioration, squatters, illegal dumping and vermin are all problems at these sites. Though it is said that these buildings will

eventually be rehabilitated, they usually end up demolished or forgotten. In addition HPD and the Department of Buildings (DOB) need to create a partnership to encourage private landlords to rehabilitate vacant buildings in District 11. Private landlords on Third Avenue have denied this community the necessary housing units our residents have needed for years. HPD and DOB should be a catalyst force in encouraging landlords on Third Avenue to redevelop their housing stock.

Maintaining these structures is critical to the quality of life in District 11. The City should identify and renovate all vacant City-owned buildings through programs such as NEP, NRP, 2 and 3 family homes. The Homework's buildings are beyond the financial reach of the community. The average Homework's building's sells for \$400,000.00. HPD needs to find developers willing to rehabilitate City-owned buildings (including the 203 (K) buildings) and sell those buildings for a price that takes into consideration the Household Median Income of District 11.

### ***Preservation Programs***

- 1) Develop an Energy Conservation Pilot Project that could save the City funds which will be used to upgrade heating systems thus reducing the breakdown of boilers in the winter, as well as for new exterior doors, roofs, windows, etc.
- 2) Maintain the ratio of staff needed to effectively manage and upgrade In-Rem occupied tenements.
- 3) Increase Maintenance Mechanics.

### ***Tenant Interim Lease Program (TIL)***

There are numerous East Harlem buildings in the HPD TIL Program. Several buildings are being rehabilitated via the capital repair program, which we support and encourage increased funding for. Sadly, the lack of supervision by HPD coordinators in the daily operation and management of these buildings results in poor management, poorly attended tenant meetings, illegal election of officers, incomplete financial reports and unlicensed contractors who are not supervised. UHAB, the contracted group who is supposed to provide technical assistance, creates divisions among the tenants and fails to provide the technical assistance they are contracted to provide to TIL buildings.

The concept of the TIL program that results in low-income cooperatives is commendable and encouraged, however the lack of support by HPD and UHAB will result in the failure of the TIL Program in East Harlem. HPD needs to increase its supervision of TIL building operations.

We request that HPD re-evaluate the system of the relocation of tenants during capital repairs which cause disruption in tenant lives, particularly the elderly. We challenge HPD to work with us in correcting and improving the TIL Program in East Harlem through cooperation.

### ***Code Enforcement***

Hire additional inspectors to record building violations, respond to heat/hot water complaints and lead paint complaints.



## **DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS**

The City must increase inspections of hazardous building facades and vacant buildings that have an open roof and exposed to the elements. The City should also do random inspections of elevators, particularly in hi-rise developments (NYCHA) and boiler inspections beyond the required annual inspection.

DOB must monitor buildings being rehabilitated or constructed for safety hazards. The Building must be secure and safe and include fences, security personnel, scaffolding (as well as better lighting underneath the scaffolding), visible D.O.B. work permits and the required D.O.B. signage.

Conduct routine inspection of buildings with UB orders after one year.

Manhattan Community Board Eleven would like to encourage the DOB Manhattan Borough Commissioner to improve communications with the Community Board and play a more active role in our Community. While Community Board Eleven often receives paper notification from DOB, they usually provide very little information. Correspondences must be accompanied with verbal conversations regarding building constructions and development in Community Board Eleven (as the number of new constructions in our community increase every year).

Construction sites MUST adhere to DOB's Noise Ordinances. After hours construction is very common in Community Board 11. DOB must make sure all construction in Community Board 11 on Saturday's is done with the appropriate permits.

### ***New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)***

We would like to commend the work that the Bloomberg Administration is doing in the rehabilitation and capital improvement in Johnson Houses, Jefferson Houses and Taft Houses in District 11. In addition we want to thank the Bloomberg Administration for listening to the community and changing the management company at the Metro North Houses. There are 23,028 Public Housing (NYCHA) units in District 11, the highest number of units in the City of New York. We request additional capital improvements, maintenance, personnel and security equipment on all doors and improved lighting. The improvement of lighting would help the Police Department to better patrol the developments and the surrounding areas.

Garbage needs to be collected more frequently around NYCHA developments, as they are often among the worst offenders in our community, leaving garbage on the curb for days.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (DPR)**

A demographic analysis of 2000 census data shows that District 11's population is unusually young. The youth population aged 20 and younger is 30.6%. This is a strong indication that there is a need for additional parks, playgrounds and recreational activities. There are approximately 28 parks and playgrounds in our district that require daily maintenance as well as the repair of benches and playground equipment. An increase in park personnel will keep our playgrounds clean and safe for our children and families. More parks security/enforcement is needed, from NYPD and Park Rangers. The City should consider developing parks and other open spaces as close to youth-oriented institutions as possible, such as schools, day care centers, youth community centers and large housing developments.

We look forward to the construction of Ron McNair Park. The monies have been allocated and construction is expected to begin Fall 2005. We expect construction to be complete in one year. Our community eagerly anticipates using the park for many years to come.

The Thomas Jefferson Park Recreation Center is in need of a functioning Air Conditioning system, as temperatures inside regularly reach unhealthy levels.

The City needs to increase funding for tree pruning, dead tree removal and the installation of new trees in parks and on the streets. We hope the City embraces the findings of the Trees for Public Health Initiative which has selected East Harlem as a community that is in desperate need of new trees to increase the quality of life and health of our residents. We request the city FULLY FUND the recommendations of the upcoming report and not waste this effort to beautify and improve our community's health.

DPR must assign PEP officers and Rangers to patrol Marcus Garvey and Thomas Jefferson Parks regularly, especially during the summer evening hours. DPR must enforce City laws regarding noise and other illegal activities.

The Marcus Garvey Park bell tower (the last in Manhattan) needs to be rehabilitated; it is in despair and in danger of becoming a safety hazard. The loss of this historical bell tower due to the City's neglect would be criminal. We also request the renovation of the Marcus Garvey Park Amphitheatre, which could serve as a vital resource for art and entertainment in our community.

Thomas Jefferson Park Recreation Center is currently over-utilized; we request a second floor addition to the current building to accommodate the increased usage.

Additional pools in the district must be considered and incorporated into DPR's capital budget. DPR must work closely with the community in the proposed developments at Randall's and Wards Islands. We request the Parks Department increase the number of Comfort Stations on Randall's and Ward's Islands.

### ***Greenthumb Program***

There needs to be more enforcement from the NYCHPD/Operation Greenthumb regarding the use of their gardens for what appears to be private use by tenants. Many Greenthumb lots are being used as private property, not available for public use. Many are closed and have vicious dogs and cars on their lots. Additional enforcement personnel should be hired to be responsible for working with local law enforcement entities in vacating a lot that has been canceled. Operation Greenthumb needs to make available more resources for their lots like gravel, trees, plants and wood.

Many greenthumbs are without minimal resources and could be greatly improved with additional resources. We believe the Parks Department should inventory all the Greenthumbs twice a year and inform the Community Board's Parks Committee of their results by May and November each year. We would like to be able track those organizations and individuals that manage Greenthumbs and hold them responsible to their duties of keeping up the gardens.

### ***Waterfront***

Pedestrian access is limited to the waterfront because of the limited number of pedestrian overpasses. We encourage and request that the City build additional pedestrian overpasses at East

106th Street and East 116th Street to increase waterfront use. We request the full development of the Harlem River Esplanade from East 123rd Street to 142nd Street. We wish to acquire the pilings with intent to reconstruct the pier at 118th Street in the East River.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP)**

DEP needs to strictly enforce noise complaints and prosecute violators. There is a need to carefully monitor the infrastructure problems in our district that occur because of improper maintenance and repairs. Many catch-basins in our district are in poor conditions and need regular and routine maintenance. Catch-basins that are not routinely cleaned cause hazardous conditions when it rains on major thoroughfares in the district. There are an increasing number of catch-basin "cave-ins" that requires immediate attention.

DEP needs to evaluate the existing aging water and sewer mains for replacement to avoid breaks in the system.

### ***Randall's/Ward's Island DEP Facilities***

A tour and review of the Randall's/Ward's Island DEP facilities should occur annually with Community Board No.11 members and the area's elected officials.

DEP must regularly monitor the Ward's Island Water Treatment Plan for adequate and efficient operations. DEP must keep the community informed of any problems, including the leakages of toxic liquid, "down-time", etc.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)**

### ***Automatic Traffic Light System***

Community District 11 experiences large fluctuations in traffic every weekday, primarily as a result of the morning and evening rush hours, as commuters from New Jersey and Westchester County pass through our District, either to avoid the FDR or cross the Harlem River Bridges. The worst traffic occurs on Third and First Avenues during the evening rush hour, which makes travel for our local residents a nightmare. We recommend that D.O.T. implement an Adaptive Traffic System, also know as "smart traffic lights". Such systems are used all over the world, from small cities to major urban areas such as Shanghai, Hong Kong, Toronto, Sao Paulo, and in the U.S., Minneapolis and Oakland. An Adaptive Traffic System could assess traffic flows in real time and adjust traffic lights to compensate for the fluctuations in volume. Implementation of these systems have resulted 20% decreases in travel time, 40% reduction in stoppages and fuel savings averaging 12% (Taneerananon, 1998). Such a system on First and Third Avenues in our District could reduce travel time for commuters as well as make intra-community travel more tolerable for our residents. Our District also suffers from high rates of Asthma and other medical conditions caused by car traffic and the resulting air pollution. Reducing traffic is not only a matter of convenience and economics but also health and quality of life.

### ***Street and Sidewalk Maintenance***

We request the resurfacing of the following specific avenues and streets: East 115th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues, East 128th Street between Lexington and Second Avenues,

East 124th Street between Madison and Second Avenues and East 110th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues.

In addition, most of our side streets, off the avenues, are in need of major paving work. Extensive patching of potholes, especially inside blocks where the catch-basins are flooding with water, are in need of repair. A survey of all side streets is needed to determine the order of priority for repairing those streets that have been neglected for many years. The maintenance and repair of sidewalks in our district is also a high priority. Because of a large concentration of vacant land and the demolition of vacant deteriorated buildings, which require the use of heavy machinery and equipment, our district has experienced an increase in the number of cracked sidewalks. The contractors should immediately correct these repairs.

DOT must regularly maintain the street lighting under the Metro-North Railway on Park Avenue, between 99th and 132nd Streets.

## **DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION (DOS)**

### ***Collection of Garbage and Street Cleaning***

The City should continue to promote educational programs to encourage recycling. It is clear that the three-day collection of residential garbage is not sufficient; five-day service must be restored. Our district has the largest concentration of public housing units in the City of New York and requires a five-day collection schedule. Community Board 11 continues to advocate for more trucks, mechanical brooms, Sanitation personnel and equipment. We request the provision of additional litter baskets throughout the district and no litter signs. DOS must increase litter basket collection to twice a day on commercial strips (116th Street, 125th Street, Third Avenue, etc) especially during the time slot from 4:00pm to 12:00am. A survey conducted by the District Manager confirmed that District 11 received less services during these hours compared with others Districts in Manhattan.

DOS must vigorously issue violations to those who fail to remove ice and snow in the winter.

The City must relocate the Community Board 10 Sanitation Garage, currently at 130th-131st Streets and Park Avenue, to Community Board 10! A site is currently under evaluation and construction must proceed immediately! The site selected at 155th Street and Bradhurst Street is ideal for location Community Board 10 garage. The MCB11 garage can then relocate to 130th -131st Streets.

## **POLICE DEPARMENT**

There are two precincts within the jurisdiction of Community District 11 the 23rd and the 25th Precincts. The 23rd Pct. covers the geographical area of 96th street (north) to 115th street (south) from East of 5th Avenue to the FDR. The 25th Pct. covers the geographical area of 115th (north) to 142nd street, East of 5th Avenue to the River including Ward's and Randall's Islands. There is a need to hire more civilian employees to allow the uniform officers to patrol our streets.

C-POP Officers should be provided scooters during evening tours to cover more area. The Police Resource Van assigned to the 23rd Precinct should be stationed in different locations throughout the district to enable the larger community to benefit from the services and information provided

by the Resource Van. The Resource Van should be situated, on a routine basis, in locations where there is heavy drug dealing activities, including 101st, 103rd and 110th Streets at Lexington Avenue and 115th Street at First Avenue.

Community Board 11 continues to support the efforts of the 23rd and 25th Precincts and their many programs/units. Community Board 11 continues to advocate for more police officers, civilian personnel and equipment for our precincts. We specifically request the addition of 5 new officers to each Precinct's Conditions Unit to fight the many quality of life infractions in our community.

The combined efforts of HPD and both Precincts need to be coordinated and strengthened, regarding the use of City-owned buildings for drug sales.

Special attention should be given to community outreach, targeting residents, Community Based Organizations, local businesses, the clergy, etc, informing them of the Precinct's sensitivity training program. The Precincts should consider taking the training outside of the Precincts into the schools, churches and recreations centers such as Thomas Jefferson and Marcus Garvey.

The City needs to increase the number of officers assigned to the Precinct's SNEU Unit to combat the continued sale of illegal drugs and drug related crimes in District 11.

### ***Transit Police***

There are five subway stations in our district on the No. 4, 5, 6 IRT line, in Transit District Four. These stations are located on 96th, 103rd, 110th, 116th and 125th Streets along Lexington Avenue. A regular schedule of police patrol in all five stations should be assigned monthly to our community district. An increase in the surveillance and patrol of these subway stations is requested and needed, including uniform and undercover personnel. The transit police should patrol the surrounding areas of the subway stations in coordination with the 23rd and 25th Police Precincts in order to decrease incident response times.

Transit must especially step up patrols of uniformed police officers at the 125th Street Station to deter gang violence which has been on the rise recently.

### ***Housing Police Bureau***

Police Service Area 5 (PSA5) services our community. We support their efforts for additional officers, civilian personnel and new equipment. The Bureau needs to increase vertical patrols, enforcement of illegal activities on the grounds of NYCHA developments and drug surveillance.

### ***Traffic Control Agents***

East Harlem is a major thoroughfare for vehicular traffic traveling northbound on First Avenue crossing the Willis Avenue Bridge that connects to the Major Deegan Expressway and the Borough of the Bronx. During rush hours, the intersection on 125th Street and First Avenue is congested with vehicles going east to the FDR Drive and vehicles going north to the bridge. These highly congested intersections need traffic agents during rush hours at 135th Street and Madison Avenue, 97th Street and 1st Avenue, 125th Street and 3rd Avenue and 125th Street and First Avenue. It is extremely important that traffic at these intersections steadily flow because the toxic fumes emanating from chartered buses, trucks and other idling vehicles is a serious health concern to the residents who live along these busy intersections.

## ***School Crossing Guards***

Identify specific locations close to schools, especially busy intersections. School Crossing Guards are essential to the safety of our children; the Department needs to hire additional guards.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS**

Community District No. 11 has a population of senior citizens who are in need of affordable housing, comprehensive health care coverage and escort service to shopping centers, clinics, etc. There are hundreds of senior citizens who are doubled-up and in need of housing. Every new housing development in our district should set aside at least five units for seniors who are homeless or doubled-up. These units should be located on the ground floors or the lower floors of renovated walk-up tenements.

Proactive efforts must be made to educate seniors on the recent Federal Medicare reforms and how they might impact them. Specifically, the complicated drug card program must be simplified and explained to seniors at senior centers throughout the community.

More funding must be made available to support programs for all senior citizen services in our district. Funding should also be provided for programs to help grandparents cope with raising their children, or grandchildren that have contracted AIDS.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The closing of Engine Company 36 on 125th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues is a major concern for District 11. We would like the Fire Department to provide an analysis of the resulting responses times in the area formerly covered by Engine Company 36. Please take into consideration the 4000 new housing units that are CURRENTLY under construction in our community. They will undoubtedly put an additional strain on the remaining Engines in our District.

The Fire Department must test and maintain all "Fire Alarm" boxes in the district. The Fire Department must also increase building inspections for fire hazards and violations. Educational programs about fire safety and prevention should be expanded in the district schools, youth centers, community facilities and churches. Expand and increase the outreach of the free "Smoke Detector Program".

## **YOUTH**

Community Board No. 11 has 36,078 youth under the age of 20, which is equivalent to 30.6% of our total population. Teenage pregnancy continues to force young mothers to seek public assistance. The East Harlem Income Maintenance Center has the second largest caseload in the City. Efforts to become independent of public assistance are lacking because of limited resources. Employment and educational opportunities and day care waiting lists are limited for young mothers. Funding for day care and afterschool programs are at minimal levels.

East Harlem has a large youth population that warrant's evening youth recreation programs throughout the district. There is currently only one Beacon school in our district, which is inadequate for

our teenage population. We need and request two (2) additional Beacon centers to cover the entire district. After school and evening programs for older youth are alternatives that can compete with the allure of drug trafficking. There is a need to expand evening programming (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.). After school programs should be introduced which connect youth with jobs and internship, focusing on soft skill development and college preparation.

### ***Youth and School Choices in East Harlem***

One third of East Harlem youth are unemployed. Community School Board #4 is part of Community District 11 and boasts some best mini-school educational programs in the New York City's public school system. Parents throughout the city have grabbed a hold of this; students of other neighborhoods crowd the Schools of Choice Program in East Harlem and thus leave waiting lists for children who are East Harlem residents.

Some of the specialized schools require tests for admissions, making East Harlem students enter into a city-wide competition. Within the School of Choice Program system, it is believed that almost half of the student population is from other districts. East Harlem students must be given first priority.

The drop out rate for African-Americans and Hispanics has reached overwhelming proportions. Recent statistics show only one third of the total population in the district has a high school education (less than 10% are college graduates). We need to devote more resources to ensuring more residents of our community not only finish high school but are given the opportunity to attend college.

While there are three high schools in East Harlem, (1-Urban Peace Academy; 2-Manhattan Center and 3-Central Park East Secondary School) they are either alternative high schools or specialized schools requiring an exam to qualify. Therefore, East Harlem requests an additional high school be built; open to youth in the community.

### ***Youth and Drug Trafficking***

The crime prevention programs established in the last three years have reduced the amount of youth involved in drug related activities. We need to reinforce these successful programs, creating partnerships between local police precincts (25, 23), Police Service Area 5, the Parks Department and local non-profits that provide after-school programming.

The following strategies should be pursued to reduce drug traffic around youth:

- 1) A coordinated youth and police project should be developed for youth in large housing developments. Many youth congregate along First Avenue between 98th and 106th Streets resulting in public safety concerns. A youth-peer involvement program for Puerto Rican/Latino and African-American young people should be developed.
- 2) The reinstatement and refunding of the Community Board 11 Youth coordinator position should occur.
- 3) A coordinated youth project geared toward AIDS education and prevention is needed. Youth are increasingly becoming infected with the AIDS virus. AIDS education programs should maintain a culturally sensitive approach.

## ***LIBRARIES (Aguilar 110th Street and 125th Street Branches)***

We request the installation of additional computers, printers and access to the Internet. Our branches need additional books, staff, expanded service hours, security, and maintenance and handicap accessibility.

Funding should be increased for Aguilar Library and our 125th Street Branch. We also request a complete gut-rehab of the 125th Street Branch, including the installation of public bathrooms.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

### ***Asthma***

We request the Department of Health conduct an environmental study on the high incidence of Asthma in Community District 11. Asthma is one of the major health problems facing women and their children. Community District 11's Asthma rate is 5 times the national average. A multi-agency initiative is needed to reduce the causes of Asthma including: less automobile and truck traffic, relocating one of the two Sanitation Garages in Community Board 11, relocating an MTA bus garage and pest control initiatives to minimize airborne fecal matter.

### ***Aids in East Harlem***

East Harlem has one of the highest populations of Adult AIDS cases in Manhattan and the City of New York. A coordinated system to assist this population is needed.

As of April 2002, there were 4,853 cumulative AIDS cases in East Harlem; 3,424 (70.5%) were males and 1,429 (29.5%) were females. The ethnic breakdown of this total is 2,089 Latinos, 2,469 Black, 280 White and 15 listed as Other. Overall, this represents an increase of 227 new cases since 2001. The pace of cumulative AIDS rate was clearly evident in the periods between April 3 and April 20, 2002 when the cumulative total went from 4,839 to 4,853. Ostensibly, this was an increase of 14 new cases, or one new case every two days! This becomes even more alarming when we consider that the CDC estimated that every cases of AIDS represents 3-5 HIV infections and that one out of every three HIV infected people are not even aware of his or her HIV status! A total of 3,094 East Harlem residents have died of AIDS. Of the surviving 1,759 persons living with AIDS (PLWAs) in East Harlem, 1,190 (68%) are male and 569 (32%) are female (NYCDOH/OAS, 2002).

Intravenous drug use (IVDU) stands as the leading risk behavior in the spread of HIV in East Harlem and accounts for nearly 60% of adult AIDS cases in East Harlem. We request the expansion of staff and services at the existing District Health Center on East 115th Street. Outreach must be expanded in the community. The Community Board requests a concerted effort that increases early access to HIV care and prevention. Identified funding priorities and gaps in HIV/AIDS include the following:

- 1) Substantial funding is needed to support substance abuse programs.
- 2) Services for female substance abusers, particularly for those who are mothers and are, or maybe, pregnant at the time they seek care, are seriously needed.
- 3) More HIV prevention education programs - particularly for adolescents - and funding for such is a major priority.
- 4) More housing for people who are living with HIV/AIDS.



- 5) Case management and a working referral system.
- 6) Psychiatric and mental health services, where needed.
- 7) Workshops, seminars, literature in our schools to help educate our youth and adults about HIV/AIDS.

### ***Heart Disease and Diabetes***

Greater funding for projects to reduce smoking, monitor blood pressure, lower cholesterol and monitor diabetes is essential. More attention and resources have to be devoted to outreach and educational programs that teach healthy living and nutrition. Such programs help prevent a multitude of disease and are cheaper than the countless dollars spent on treatment.

### ***Pest Control***

We look forward to continuing our work with the Department of Health and their Rodent Initiative Program. With high concentrations of infestation, Community Board 11 needs the continued support of the Department of Health in identifying and destroying rodents throughout the District.

## **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA)**

### ***Metro North Commuter Railroad***

The Metro North Police Department patrols must extend beyond the station, to the "dark spots" behind the station and at each exterior exit to and from the station daily. The safety of the area needs to be improved in order to make commuters more willing to transfer from Metro North to the Subways and Buses serving the area.

Efforts must be made to beautify the area immediately in front of the station, including better lighting and the creation of a kiosk/magazine stand across the street from the station.

### ***NYC Transit***

We would like to commend the MTA for taking the recommendations of Community Board 11 and the community at large into consideration and including the 116th Street Station in the plans for the proposed Second Avenue Subway. NYC Transit has proposed the completion of the Second Avenue Subway, from 125th Street to Hanover Square, which we encourage and support. We strongly urge the MTA to continue construction of the second segment of the Second Avenue Subway at 125th Street and proceed to 96th Street.

Due to the completion of the new bus depot on 100th Street and Lexington Avenue, we recommend the MTA not locate any new bus depots in District 11. We encourage the MTA to remove the buses parked on the parking lot across from the bus depot on the West Side of Second Avenue between 126th Street and 127th Street. We believe the space can be more effectively used with a combination of housing and a commercial hub, including retail and office space that will complement the new Potamkin Auto-mall development directly north of the site.

## CONCLUSION

El Barrio/East Harlem is a dynamic and multicultural community that has the potential to create an economically balanced agenda that provides opportunities for all the residents. The economic development and growth of District 11 depends on Mayor Bloomberg's Administration and Local Elected Officials' willingness and commitment to work with the community in planning for its own future. The objectives and goals of any plan must be:

- To alleviate the negative effects that the gentrification process is creating, such as the displacement of long-term residents and local businesses, through the development of affordable housing, especially homeownership opportunities.
- To encourage private landlords along the Third Avenue, 125th Street, 116th Street, and 106th Street Commercial Corridors to work with the community to create the necessary physical infrastructure changes to develop attractive and vibrant commercial corridors.
- To develop a strong local economic base that includes residents as assets to support growth in the community.
- To coordinate City, State and Federal governments resources to support the betterment of our community's quality of life.
- To better coordinate NYPD strategies to prevent and fight crime. NYPD must plan their strategies taking into consideration the cultural heritage and diversity of the residents living in District 11.

*Robert Rodriguez*  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board Eleven

*George Sarkissian*  
District Manager  
Manhattan Community Board Eleven

## APPENDIX A

### Manhattan Community Board Eleven Income and Rent Ranges

Many developers often come before our City Properties and Land Use Committee and propose housing developments with a wide range of rents, however the projects do not reflect what is affordable to our community in relation to our own community's average income. Affordability is based on the national and international standard that your rent should be no more than 30% of your total income. For example, if your annual income is \$24,000, your before tax monthly income would be \$2000. Given that rent which is affordable is 30% of your monthly income, \$600/month in rent would be affordable for an individual making \$24,000 a year.

The following is a range of rents and the necessary annual household income to make the rent affordable for residents and families. The chart also indicates what percentage of our Community Board residents make the necessary household incomes listed below. For example, based on U.S. Census 2000 figures, 59.5% of households in Community Board Eleven make \$24,000 a year or less; in other words, more than half of our community's households make \$24,000 or less. The data was provided to our Board by the Urban Technical Assistance Project at Columbia University. The Community Board 11 Planning Assessment where this data is found recommended that we analyze the income distribution of our community and how that affects housing affordability.

Monthly Rent	Necessary Annual Household Income	Percentage of Community Board 11 Resident making Necessary Annual Income
\$375	\$15,000	59.5%
\$438	\$17,500	59.5%
\$500	\$20,000	59.5%
\$563	\$22,500	59.5%
\$625	\$25,000	45.1%
\$688	\$27,500	45.1%
\$750	\$30,000	45.1%
\$813	\$32,500	45.1%
\$875	\$35,000	32.4%
\$938	\$37,500	32.4%
\$1000	\$40,000	32.4%
\$1063	\$42,500	32.4%
\$1125	\$45,000	32.4%
\$1185	\$47,500	32.4%
\$1250	\$50,000	20.1%
\$1313	\$52,500	20.1%
\$1375	\$55,000	20.1%
\$1438	\$57,200	20.1%
\$1500	\$60,000	20.1%

\$1563	\$62,500	20.1%
\$1625	\$65,000	20.1%
\$1688	\$67,500	20.1%
\$1750	\$70,000	20.1%
\$1813	\$72,500	20.1%
\$1875	\$75,000	9.8%
\$1938	\$77,500	9.8%
\$2000	\$80,000	9.8%
\$2063	\$82,500	9.8%
\$2125	\$85,000	9.8%
\$2187	\$87,500	9.8%
\$2250	\$90,000	9.8%
\$2500	\$100,000	5.7%

Data Source: U.S. Census 2000

## APPENDIX B

### Manhattan Community Board 11 Affordable Housing Development Guidelines

June 27, 2005

Commissioner Shawn Donovan  
Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
100 Gold Street, Room 5-O  
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Donovan:

The following resolution details the Manhattan Community Board 11 Affordable Housing Development Guidelines, which were passed by our Full Board on June 21, 2005 and should be utilized by City Agencies and developers to design proposals that fit the housing needs of Manhattan Community Board 11:

Whereas, the negative effects of gentrification in Manhattan Community Board 11 have created a housing crisis to which City housing policy has not adequately responded, and

Whereas, current and past government programs to subsidize housing construction on City-owned properties have often produced housing which does not meet the needs of Manhattan Community Board 11 residents, and

Whereas, the need to clarify the specific housing needs of Manhattan Community Board 11 residents and encourage future housing proposals to meet those needs is paramount as the stock of City-owned land and opportunities to build truly affordable housing is diminishing.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Manhattan Community Board 11 will give priority to those proposals which seek Community Board approval and meet the following guidelines:

**1. *Income and Rent Schedule***

- Income requirements are based on the Area Median Income (AMI) of \$62,800 (determined by Federal, State and Local governments)
- Target mixed income development should have 40% Middle Income, 40% Moderate Income and 20% Low Income units.
  - Low Income is defined as 30%-60% of AMI (\$18,840-\$37,680)
  - Moderate Income is defined as 60%-100% of AMI (\$37,680-\$62,800)
  - Middle Income is defined as 100%-130% of AMI (\$62,800-\$80,600)

**2. *Target Population***

- East Harlem Residents
- Proposals should include units designed for both families and individuals

**3. *Design Elements***

- Large windows to maximize transparency
- Accessible to physically handicapped individuals that live independently
- Energy efficient (utilizing Federal and State government subsidies)
- Family friendly design

**4. *Ownership or Rental***

- 4 out of 10 new housing proposals should be affordable home ownership developments
- 70% community preference should be given for affordable home ownership developments

**5. *Density and Zoning***

- Will allow proposals to seek zoning changes that increase the height of a building by a recommended 40 feet or 3 stories in exchange for more affordable housing units which meet our income guidelines
- Proposals must adhere to standard setback rules

**6. *Characteristics of Developer***

- Developer must have an excellent track record of past work
- Preference will be given to those developers who most closely meet Manhattan Community Board 11's Affordable Housing Development Guidelines

**7. *Included Programming/Special Needs Housing***

- We will not entertain 100% special needs housing proposals
- Special needs units must be a minority percentage of the overall housing development, and be it further

Resolved, that we request all our local elected officials support these guidelines and promote them amongst their colleagues and developers seeking their support to ensure future housing proposals in Manhattan Community Board 11 will serve the housing needs of the residents of Manhattan Community Board 11, and be it further

Resolved, that Manhattan Community Board 11 encourages all other New York City Community Board's to pass similar housing guidelines.

Sincerely,

Lino Rios  
(Former Chair)