



The City of New York  
**Brooklyn Community Board 15**



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**DISTRICT NEEDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2013**

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(photo –Sheepshead Bay - Circa 1925)

## **Scope of District**

Brooklyn Community Board 15 is a local governmental body in the New York City Borough of Brooklyn. The District encompasses the neighborhoods of Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach, Kings Bay, Gerritsen Beach, Kings Highway, East Gravesend, Madison, Homecrest and Plumb Beach. The boundaries of Community Board 15 are: on the North, Coney Island Avenue and Avenue P, on the West, 86<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue U, on the South, Manhattan Beach and on the East, Gerritsen Avenue.



(photo – Community District 15 - Circa 2011)

This District has seen a continuous increase in population density, economic resurgence and ever-changing demographics. Community Board 15 is still a top choice to those seeking to buy a home. The Community is considered a prime location to raise a family.

It is the policy of Community Board 15 to see to the needs of the local residents it serves and ensure the delivery of services to the District. Open communication between residents and the Community Board is an essential part of maintaining public safety, development and prosperity for all.

### *POPULATION*

As of the last U.S. Census, 2000, the Community Board has a population of 160,319 up from 143,477 in 1990 and 149,570 in 1980. Of them (as of 2000), 121,052 (75.5%) white, non-Hispanic, 4,823 (3.0%) African American, 20,229 (12.6%) Asian or Pacific Islander, 123 (0.1%) American Indian or Native Alaskan, 340 (0.2%) of some other race, 3,506 (2.2%) of 2 or more race, 10,246 (6.4%) of Hispanic Origins.

## *LAND USE*

The District has a land area of 3166.9 acres or 4.9 sq. miles. According to the Department of City Planning (2008), the District includes: one and two-family residential units (51.1%), multi-family residential units (18%) and mixed residential-commercial units (3%). Non-residential land use in the District includes: commercial-and-office units (6.1%), industrial regions (0.5%), transportation/facility (2.7%), institutions (8.0%), open-space recreation (2.8%), parking facilities (1%) and vacant land (6.5%).

In the decade, birth-rate remained almost constant, death-rate dropped slightly and infant mortality dropped drastically. The largest percentage change occurred in the District population receiving income support either by Social Security or Medicaid. 26.6 % of the population benefit from Public Assistance as of 2004. Up from 16.1% in 2000.

The District is ethnically diverse including but not limited to: African, Chinese, Hispanic, Irish, Italian, Israeli, Japanese, Korean, Pakistani, Russian and Turkish.

### **Assisted Living/Affordable Housing**

In recent years, Medicaid subscribers in this District tripled. This is indicative of the increase of our aging population. This District is in need of Affordable Assisted Living Residences.

The Community today is serviced by an Assisted Living Residence called “Sunrise Assisted Living” which caters only to the affluent members of the community. As many of our residents are in need of assisted living, they are either left to fend for themselves with periodic visits from aides or are placed in a nursing home at a much higher cost to the City. Community Board 15 believes if assisted living residences are more affordable then more area residents would opt for these living quarters as opposed to a nursing home.

### **Aging**

With a large senior population, programs must be implemented to educate our seniors as to what services are available for them. Many seniors are struggling unaware of services that they are entitled to receive and are not utilizing.

As we approach the implementation of the new Healthcare Package, materials must be available as well as contact services to answer questions prior to the implementation of the new Healthcare initiatives.

Over recent years, large numbers of immigrants chose to settle in our District and we believe that translators should be available at all Senior Centers to help them maneuver the bureaucratic system of New York.

Funding must be made available to all of the Senior Centers throughout the District. To ensure the Mental Health of our seniors we must foster both, educational and social skills which can only be achieved while attending Senior Center activities.

Volunteer Mentor Programs can be formed between local senior centers and local schools. This will allow our seniors the opportunity to give back to their Community with their vast wisdom.

### **Department of Buildings**

With the economy on a downturn, construction in the community has slowed. Although, the problems created from years of overdevelopment persist throughout the community.

Many locations where a single family home once stood are now occupied by multi-family dwellings. A severe strain has been put on an already burdened infrastructure and because of the lack of parking spaces many homeowners have resorted to illegal parking pads in front of their homes. These illegal parking pads have created less green space in our Community and violations should be strictly enforced.

Due to the desirability of this neighborhood, developers have used every open lot and spot of green space for more and more construction of residential units.

The Department of Buildings must have an adequate amount of Plan Examiners to speed the permitting process. In addition, Field Inspectors are needed for follow up inspections. These Inspectors must have the equipment and the clerical support needed to carry out their duties. Funding must be made available for evening and weekend inspectors.

Community Board 15 has seen a surge in complaints and violations issued. With added personnel each issue could be handled more expediently. The Department of Buildings must be given the ability to criminally charge violators who

chronically ignore Zoning ordinances. This Community Board will be working closely with the City Council to try to enact legislation to give the Department of Buildings Inspectors entrée to any construction site in question. There are too many instances where access is denied and developers continue to blatantly break the law. In the end, the project is completed and the developer files for a legalization.

### **City Planning**

Community Board 15 is urging a change in the uses allowed in Residential Districts. The Department of City Planning must review the allowable Community Facilities throughout the Residential Zones.

We are trying to prevent Medical Facilities from being “as of right” in these areas. Our residential communities are inundated with Medical Facilities opening adjacent to private homes. These facilities are destroying the character of our Community. What once was a quiet residential block with narrow one way streets are congested with ambulettes creating obstacles beyond tolerance.

Also, Community Board 15 is urging the Department of City Planning to review and change the allowance of Religious Community Facilities on residential blocks. It is the belief of Community Board 15 that Religious Institutions must be located only on corner lots and ample parking must be supplied on site.

### **City University**

Kingsborough Community College, located in Manhattan Beach, continues its reputation as a premier institution of higher learning in the District and a leading provider of higher education for all New Yorkers.

Over the years, Kingsborough has also served residents by hosting numerous community events. Kingsborough needs support in its Capital and Expense Budget in order to keep pace with the continuing growth of the community it serves.

(Kingsborough Community College)



## **Community Boards**

Community Boards are the first line of local government. In recent years it has become apparent that the role of a Community Board has broadened. Community Boards have greater responsibilities and serve as an essential component of City Government. As per the Charter of the City of New York, certain responsibilities are mandated and are handled. In addition, Boards act as a catalyst between agencies and the community.

Community Board Budgets have not increased in any substantial way for many years. It is the belief of Community Board 15 that adequate funding should be made available so that we may be proactive and not only take care of today's issues but rather plan for tomorrow.

## **Consumer Affairs**

Many new establishments in the District have opened in recent years. The overwhelming majority of these establishments serve alcoholic beverages, offer music and must not be allowed to disturb the Quality of Life of the area residents.

Similar situations exist throughout the District with blocked sidewalks, unlicensed cafes, loud disturbing noise from both within the establishments and outside on the sidewalks by the hordes of people congregating smoking. Community Board 15 believes a compromise can be achieved by designating well ventilated smoking

areas in these establishments. It is also the feeling of this Board that Consumer Affairs should conduct periodic evening patrols of these known problematic areas to enforce regulations.

With major crime at an all time low, residents turn their attention to many of the Quality of Life issues such as loud music and congregating on sidewalks.

The sidewalks in the District are cluttered with both illegal and excessively large permitted sidewalk cafes. In most instances the licensed cafes/ restaurants leave a few feet of sidewalk space and the space is usually filled with planters, benches, signs and street furniture with bicycles chained to them.

Although violations are issued and sometime fines paid, most businesses consider these violations part of conducting business in the City of New York and proceed to conduct their illegal activities un-phased. A Sidewalk Café with a license to have 10 tables and 20 chairs realizes that by doubling his seating he could generate more revenue. Any business violating the law is infringing on the Quality of Life on all the area residents. The fines for such activities should be at a level where a violator faces both financial penalties and a possible loss of his license. This would take a multi agency approach and with agency networking this could be accomplished.

## **Economic Development**

### *NON-COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT*

Our District has seen a surge in recent years of residential development. Although in today's economic climate sales have slowed. These units are still drawing new residents to our District. A problem beginning to evolve, along many of the commercial strips throughout Community Board 15, is the development of residential units along many of the commercial corridors. On Avenue U, what once was a supermarket today stands as a 6-story condo development. The community's future economic development is dependent on new businesses coming to the area as opposed to more residential units being erected, killing our economy.

### *COMMERCIAL STRIPS*

The many Mom and Pop Shops are the backbone of our neighborhood. During these hard economic times, Community Board 15's many commercial areas (Kings Highway, Avenue U, Sheepshead Bay Road, Nostrand Avenue, Coney Island Avenue, McDonald Avenue, Avenue X, Emmons Ave and Gerritsen

Avenue) are showing more vacancies than in years gone by. These commercial areas are crucial to the economic vitality of Community Board 15, yet each shares similar problems (parking, sanitation issues and the high cost of conducting business in the City of New York.)

The available parking throughout the District is stressed both on our commercial strips as well as residential streets. The City must keep the few Municipal Parking Lots left in the District.

Many of our main commercial strips are serviced by major train lines and bus lines compounding the already traffic congested areas of Community Board 15. Blocked bus-stops and blocked fire hydrants are chronic problems in this District.

Double parking is an additional annoyance that greatly interferes with the constant flow of heavy traffic. Many two-lane Avenues are reduced to one lane by the proliferation of illegal parking.

The 61st Precinct has been attentive but does not have the man-power to police all of these areas. It is the feeling of Community Board 15 that, Traffic Enforcement Agents should be given the authority to issue summonses for any of the illegal parking infractions as well as certain moving violations to alleviate constant bottlenecks along our commercial avenues.

A well-manicured shopping area is both an excellent advertisement for both buyers and sellers alike. Department of Sanitation through enforcement must insist on storefront cleaning by merchants and should also implement crews of street-sweepers to further enhance the cleaning of our City streets. Trash receptacles must be strategically placed and regularly emptied along these commercial avenues. In heavily congested areas such as Avenue U, Kings Highway and Sheepshead Bay Road where both residential and business owners are utilizing these corner trash receptacles, enforcement and emptying should be further enhanced.

Although Community Board 15 understands Budgetary Cuts, reducing basket pick-ups along these viable commercial strips is interfering with the lives of both business owners and residents. The Department of Sanitation must review and find alternate means to save money and re-establish a basket truck for the District.

## **Education**

Within the confines of the District there are 27 Elementary Schools, 4 Junior High Schools, 11 High Schools and 1 College. Improvements to our schools physical



conditions and updating technology is vital to our communities future success. Therefore, we request the necessary modernization of all schools within our District.

## **Environmental Protection**

Community Board 15 has one of the highest numbers of 311 sewer backup complaints in the City. The response time to these complaints is not acceptable. The Department of Environmental Protection needs the manpower to clean these sewer lines periodically and make repairs in a timely fashion.

Within the District, severe sink holes are reported constantly. These sinkholes pose a major safety issue for vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic.

There is an overwhelming amount of waterways throughout the area. These waterways are enjoyed by residents and tourists alike. The District needs a skimmer boat to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of our waterfront haven. If maintenance is performed periodically visible floatables would be non existent.

### *CONEY ISLAND WATER TREATMENT PLANT*



The Treatment Plant is not the type of facility that would be welcomed in other communities. We have been chosen as home for this Treatment Plant and have had to deal with the many problems associated with it.

The Plant emits odors on a regular basis, contaminates the air and has become a nuisance to the residents in the area. Although the Board is aware that routine maintenance is necessary, improper notification to the Board and residents is not acceptable. An open dialogue must be reached to alleviate the issues associated with this Plant.

## **Fire Department**

The following is the Mission Statement of the NYC Fire Department:  
As first responders to fires, public safety and medical emergencies, disasters and terrorist acts, FDNY protects the lives and property of New York City residents and visitors. The Department advances public safety through its fire prevention, investigation and education programs. The timely delivery of these services enables the FDNY to make significant contributions to the safety of New York City and homeland security efforts.

In order for the FDNY to continue to fulfill their service to the City, they must be given adequate funding. To maintain FDNY personnel (Uniformed Firefighters and Fire Officers) this funding is necessary to protect and serve the City of New York. With the best equipment and training, the Department can reduce the risk to the public and its members at fires, emergencies and medical incidents.

## **Graffiti**

Throughout the District, graffiti seems to be on the rise. Along East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, parallel to the B and Q train, homeowners are facing graffiti ridden walls with very little recourse. Although many programs exist, very few seem effective. New technology exists where once a surface is cleaned, a protective coating is placed and the surface becomes impossible to penetrate. The City of New York must make accessibility to the graffiti removal services easier and streamline the process for removal for both residents and commercial tenants.

## **Health and Mental Hygiene**

The Department of Health must receive adequate funding for the Inspectors needed for commercial inspections. With the advent of the new Letter Grading for restaurants, both preliminary and follow up inspections must be handled in a timely fashion. This new grading system is meant to alert consumers about the

restaurants cleanliness and food preparation. Yet, it also allows restaurateurs the opportunity to remedy the problems and improve their grade. That is why inspections on a follow up should be done quickly to help a restaurateur who has learned from prior inspections.

Time is also of the essence for an inspector to respond to a resident having to endure infestation caused by a neighbor. Many homes in the District are left empty for long periods of time and become breeding grounds for vermin.

### *HOMECREST HEALTH CLINIC*

The Homecrest Health Clinic is a valuable asset in the district with budgetary cuts the Clinic is basically non-existent. This Clinic is centrally located adjacent to the B and Q Train, yet area residents are told that this Clinic no longer has full services and they must travel great distances to receive adequate treatment. This Clinic must be given the needed funding to be a full service Clinic to our area residents.

### *CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL*



On the border of our District lies Coney Island Hospital located on Ocean Parkway. It sits adjacent to the Belt Parkway on the westbound side. Due to its physical location it would be the Hospital of choice for accident victims. But with the lack of a trauma center, severe medical emergencies are forced to be transported to Hospitals many miles away.

The residents of our District utilize this facility and adequate funding must be allocated to ensure Coney Island Hospital remains a valuable Health Care Provider and becomes a complete care facility.

## *HOSPICE*

With a large aging population, the District is in need of a Hospice Center. A family facing the death of a family member is a very strenuous time and having a Hospice Center close to home would alleviate many of the problems associated with end of life.

## **Housing**

Community Board 15 is home to 2 housing complexes; the Nostrand Houses and the Sheepshead Bay Houses. They are both publicly built and operated housing developments. These housing complexes are located on Nostrand Avenue, between Avenue V and Avenue X. Nostrand Avenue is a congested commercial street and to compound the congestion there is a Junior High School and High School (Shell Bank and Sheepshead Bay High School) directly across the street. There must be adequate funding allocated for the maintenance and security of these residential units.

The 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct, on many occasions, has parked a Command Center in the area of these Housing Complexes. Squad cars patrol the area on a 24 hour basis. The Housing Police (PSA1), as well as, the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct must have the funding needed to patrol these complexes in our District.

With the Plan to Preserve Public Housing and Building a better NYCHA in place, we do not believe that selling off the surrounding property would be the answer. Although we realize that additional funding is needed to maintain these structures, alternate means must be found.

## **Landmarks**

There are several Landmark designated properties in our District but it is our experience that they do not have the manpower needed to inspect and supervise these designations. Landmarks Commission must be given the funding needed to have adequate personnel to inspect and monitor these valuable Landmarks.

## **Library**

Libraries provide residents from toddlers to senior citizens with a variety of services. The Libraries in the District include Gerritsen, Gravesend, Homecrest, Kings Bay, Kings Highway and Sheepshead Bay. With the current Budget crisis, services should never be reduced below 5 days per week. The hours of operation must meet the needs of seniors, students and working adults alike. The libraries collection should reflect public demand with up to date reference materials, reliable electronics, resources and materials in the languages spoken by our residents.

## **Liquor Authority**

With a proliferation of Liquor Licenses, whether new or renewals, the Community Board must have more than an advisory role in the decision making process. The Community Board receives notification either for renewal or for an original application. The applications are not informative and can not be used as the only Community Board notification. The Community Board should be given the authority to delay, deny or question any application before the Liquor Authority. Community Boards work closely with NYPD and if an establishment is known for unlawful activities the Community Board, in conjunction with the NYPD should have the right to deny any application.

The Liquor Authority must have networking with all the City Agencies. With shared information from such agencies as NYPD, FDNY and Consumer Affairs, the Liquor Authority will have better insight on licensing irregularities. The District has establishments serving underage drinkers and vending without a license. These establishments must be charged appropriately with renewals delayed and new applications scrutinized.

## **MTA**

The reconstruction of the Kings Highway, Avenue U and Gravesend Neck Road stations on the B and Q Train Lines are almost complete. It should be a priority of MTA to hasten the completion of these projects as soon as possible. In the interim, the MTA must help commuters maneuver the system easily.

Community Board 15 expects restoration of the B Express as soon as possible. Once construction is complete, express service should be a priority.

Community Board 15 is opposed to the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for Nostrand Avenue. The Board believes that such a change would take away much needed parking spaces, complicate the already busy street and not produce the expected outcome.

The antiquated buses being used to service this District must be replaced. Many of the older buses were used for express service. They make it extremely difficult for users to get on and off the bus and they must be replaced with more modern, energy efficient vehicles. Community Board 15 is advocating for restoration of the X29 Express Bus and the BM3 Service.

### **Parks Department**

For many years, Congressman Weiner persevered to acquire Federal Funds to dredge and replace the sand on Plumb Beach to avoid a possible catastrophe on the Belt Parkway. After many meetings with the Army Corps of Engineers and NYC Parks Department, plans were moving along and the Plumb Beach project was slated. It progressed until the untimely resignation of Congressman Weiner. The NYC Parks Department should be fighting to continue the progress already achieved by Congressman Weiner. Plumb Beach is vital to the survival of the Belt Parkway.

The Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the Marina of Sheepshead Bay many years ago. During these years the Parks Department has done little to revitalize the Sheepshead Bay Waterfront. New innovative ideas are needed to bring back the vitality of the Bay.

The Sheepshead Bay Marina, a popular fishing and boating local, has in recent years experienced a severe change in water depth. This reduction in depth poses many navigational issues. Dredging of this waterway is imperative to maintain this historical, landmarked area and the only way possible to maintain the natural character of the Bay. The dredging would also ensure the safety of our boaters.

Funding must be allocated for the existing parks through the community to preserve the limited amount of green space in the District. Parks such as, Millet Playground, Kelly Park, Little Kelly Park and Bill Brown Park are in need of major renovation. Years of neglect have left our Parks old and tired.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is in need of additional personnel to shorten the tree pruning cycle, to make repairs necessitated by uprooted trees, to adequately handle repairs to benches and other equipment in parks and playgrounds and maintain the parks across our District on a daily basis.

On several open ball fields in the District, the replacement of existing grass by artificial turf would make it ideal for both baseball and soccer games, alleviating the problem of soccer players uprooting grass on ball fields. Also, the artificial turf would not require expensive maintenance.

An integral part of Manhattan Beach is the Art-Deco Manhattan Beach Bathhouse, which is in disrepair and unused. This building is reminiscent of times gone by. The rehabilitation should be a priority of the Parks Department. With the sky-rocketing cost of construction today this building could be renovated at a fraction of the cost of erecting a new building.

## **Police Department**

### *61<sup>st</sup> POLICE PRECINCT*

The statistics within the seven major crime areas have declined steadily over the last several years with the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct leading the City in crime reduction. With major crime at an all time low, Quality of Life issues have become a priority in this District. Noise complaints, double parking, blocked driveways, loitering and commercial vehicles parking on residential streets have become important issues to the area residents. With the increase of the Quality of Life complaints from area residents, the need for sympathetic and competent Community Affairs Officers is necessary.

In order for the 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct to carry out their responsibilities effectively, our Police Officers need the proper equipment and vehicles. The 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct must be provided with all terrain vehicles (ATV's) to aid in patrolling our beaches and parks. Due to the large area of the Precinct, additional sector cars and unmarked cars should be designated for patrol.

The Precinct Station House is in need of major renovation. The building's interior is not suited to accommodate the day to day operations of a large Metropolitan Police Station.

Community Board 15, with many beaches and waterfront recreation areas, should be assigned additional Officers during the summer months.

The 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct is home to the largest Auxiliary Force in the City. Funding is needed for the equipment needed by these brave volunteers.

There must be stronger enforcement as the number of bikes in the District is increasing everyday. Pedestrians are harrassed by inconsiderate and illegal bicycle practices for which there is no enforcement. Principal among these are, bicycles on the sidewalks, riding across the Ocean Avenue Footbridge, bicycles crossing intersections against the light and bicycles traveling against the traffic either in the lane or on a one way street.

### *TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT*

In addition to patrols by 61<sup>st</sup> Precinct Officers, Community Board 15 should have a detail of Traffic Enforcement Agents assigned to the District to patrol the commercial strips, the major throughway Avenues and in the summer months the “No Parking” zone of Manhattan Beach. Strict enforcement would help alleviate traffic back-ups on major cross streets. Also, with a proliferation of forged parking permits, Traffic Agents must be educated to recognize these forgeries.

### **Sanitation**

With over 3 million dollars allocated for the construction of a trailer complex including rehabilitation of berm and landscaping at 2501 Knapp Street, it is the belief of Community Board 15 that this will become the permanent location of the District 15 Sanitation Garage. Although working out of trailers, the Department of Sanitation is doing an extraordinary job with limited resources.

Community Board 15 believes that the original Brooklyn Union Gas/ Keyspan site on Neptune Avenue would be an ideal place for the District 15 Sanitation Garage. Funding must be allocated to construct the shared 13/15 Garage on Neptune Avenue.

With the increase in the number of homes and businesses in the District, we expect sufficient funding to be made available to maintain the personnel and equipment needed to service our area.

Enforcement should be maintained and additional enforcement is needed for illegal dumping areas, areas where residential waste is being placed on commercial avenues and for areas where K9 waste is not removed properly. Several locations in the District have high incidence of all of the above mentioned illegal activities. These locations should be red-flagged and patrolled to violate these illegal activities.



Community Board 15 supports legislation that would severely fine anyone found guilty of placing fliers on motor vehicles, residential gates, hung on street poles, thrown into yards or placed on steps, etc. The neighborhood is inundated with unsolicited flyers which end up on our sidewalks and streets.

Many fruit stores in the District use the sidewalk for cleaning and packaging produce. The workers stack boxes of produce along the sidewalk and proceed to unpack and stock the stands. The sidewalks become un-passable and garbage is strewn everywhere. This situation makes movement impossible for a mother pushing a stroller or a person in a wheelchair. The problem is compounded when the fruit store owners dominate the parking in the area with their produce trucks idling 24 hours a day.

### **Taxi & Limo**

For years, the “For Hire” vehicles in the District have created many problems. During the day, they monopolize most of the on street parking whether legal or illegal. They utilize metered parking for hours at a time, resulting in a loss of revenue for the City. They block hydrants, bus stops and intersections. Along Sheepshead Bay Road, these vehicles cause traffic back-ups on a daily basis. In residential areas these “for hire” cars congregate at all hours talking loudly, cleaning their cars and leaving their garbage behind and have been known to urinate publicly.

The Taxi & Limo Commission must put stricter regulations and follow up on preliminary applications. It has been our experience that the off street parking listed on an application is never utilized.

The base stations have cars double parked outside their establishment 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. There must be stronger enforcement and quicker rescinding of Base Licenses after several violations are issued.

### **Transportation**

With a marked increase in population in Community Board 15 comes additional vehicular traffic. The additional traffic moving through our streets has caused traffic back-ups on major Avenues and parking problems throughout the entire District.

Several intersections in our community are in need of traffic turning signals. A recent study performed by DOT called the Coney Island Gravesend Sustainable

Transportation Project proposed several solutions to our traffic problems. The solutions presented were rejected unanimously by the community. The Board believes that the installation of turning signals at Kings Highway and Coney Island Avenue & Guider Avenue and Coney Island Avenue, would be the first step in alleviating some of this congestion as well as safety issues.

Additional traffic signals are warranted on East 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue U, Gerritsen Avenue and Gotham Avenue. The change of the flashing yellow signal on Ocean Avenue and Oriental Boulevard to a traditional signal light would resolve the confusion witnessed at this anomole.

Also, Community Board 15 believes that with all the additional moving traffic DOT should not consider the addition of any bike lanes in the District. Also, the existing bike lanes on Oriental Bouelvard should be moved to Shore Boulevard.

Community Board 15 believes the process of repairing street light outages, missing signs and pothole repairs should be streamlined. The length of time needed for these minor repairs causes frustration to the area residents.

Many of the major streets in this community are in dire need of reconstruction. The Courts in the Old Section of Gerritsen Beach are in major disrepair and should be addressed to alleviate the ponding and flooding created during minor rain storms.

A priority of DOT should also be to find parking solution alternatives to ease the conjection in this District.

Community Board 15 has been part of the “Adopt A Highway” program for the past 5 years to help beautify and maintain areas in which DOT does not have the man-power.

With the reconstruction of the Seven Bridges on the Belt Parkway moving forward, DOT must ensure that residents of the Community have easy access to the Belt Parkway and do not face hours of grueling traffic snarls due to this reconstruction project and the DDC Belt Parkway Project running simultaneously.

## **Youth and Community Development**

With the current state of the ecomony and children coming from homes where both parents work, it is essential for funding to be supplied to maintain after school programs in this area.

## Conclusion

Community Board 15 is a thriving and diverse community. With the joint effort of residents and City Agencies working hand in hand the quality of life in this District can be heightened. It is the goal of Community Board 15 to make our Community a safe haven where life runs smoothly.



*Theresa Scavo*

Theresa Scavo  
Chairperson

*Pearl Burg*

Pearl Burg  
District Manager

\* Photography credit courtesy of Butch Moran.