



Community Board No. 3

**1426 Boston Road
Bronx, New York 10456**

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COMMUNITY DISTRICT 3 **BOROUGH OF THE BRONX**

STATEMENT OF DISTRICT NEEDS 2013

INTRODUCTION

Bronx Community District Three, located within the South Central Bronx, continues to emerge as a steadily growing, yet changing community.

Since the inception and subsequent adoption of its Section 197a Neighborhood Development Plan entitled "Partnership for the Future" in November of 1992, this community, with the assistance of the Office of the Bronx Borough President, the New York City Department of City Planning, Local Community Based Organizations and numerous Mayoral Agencies, has experienced a reversal of disinvestment which has allowed for, in part, the district's resurgence in the areas of residential and small homes development.

Efforts are still underway to provide for implementation of a plan for his economic revitalization of the district area through the provision of employment training and labor intensive opportunities for its resident population. As a result, Community District Three would stand to experience an increase in its present household and family median incomes thereby reducing the percentage of district residents currently living at or below the poverty level.

Clearly, programs which exist to develop employment skills training and job preparedness for specialized trades, will also add to the growth of individualized economic self-sufficiency.

Implementation of the district's "Adopt-A-Lot" Program in collaboration with the Office of the Bronx Borough President, the New York City Department of Sanitation, "We Care About New York", Inc., the New York State Department of Corrections – Fulton Correctional Facility and various Community Based/Civic Organizations, has resulted in a trend toward the establishment of a more "sanitary" community and aimed at reinforcing values which address resident pride and self commitment toward neighborhood beautification.

Furthermore, existing district wide recycling initiatives have netted positive results via increased tonnage collection of disposable items vis-à-vis New York City's curbside Recycling Program.

Other innovative, self initiated programs which have gained recent media attention involve expansion of the commands Auxiliary Patrol Program and creation of the “Adopt-A-Cop” Program, bridging the relation between community residents and patrol officers through institution of a personalized prayer service campaign.

In an effort to enhance overall community awareness of various New York City Police Department Programs and Services, Bronx Community District Three and the 42nd Police Precinct will collaborate in the creation and distribution of district wide resident informational brochure.

Since 1990, residential housing development throughout the district has sparked an awareness of the need for increased and enhanced supportive social service programs to assist new and existing residents obtain those services which are essential to the well being of both individuals and families.

In recognition of an increasing population within Community District Three born from 1990 Census Demographics, the New York City Department of Transportation must continue its evaluative measures of primary, secondary and tertiary street routes in determining capital projects for reconstruction, contract resurfacing or in-house resurfacing.

Furthermore, it is essential that the New York City Transit Authority and MABSTOA undertake an assessment of rider ship demands along its routes within the district, in an effort to account for what may invariably result in an increased community dependence upon public transportation.

Overview

Community District Three, located in the center of the Borough of the Bronx, is bounded on the North by the Cross Bronx Expressway and Crotona Park North, on the East by the Sheridan Expressway and Prospect Avenue (South of East 169th Street), on the South by East 161st Neighborhood Street/East 159th Street and on the West by Webster and Courtlandt Avenues.

- A. Neighborhood areas include, Bathgate, Claremont, Melrose, Morrisania, Woodstock and Crotona Park East.
- B. Community District Three contains approximately 1,007 acres of total land area comprising 1.6 square miles, with nearly 137 acres of parkland and recreational facilities.
- C. Recent land-use demographics provided by the Department of City Planning reflects nearly 40% of land-use in Community District Three constituted by vacant, unimproved parcels, with a remaining 40% land-use consisting of 1-2 family private home homes and walk-up residences.

Tantamount in relation to the re-establishment of Community District Three as a viable new community, is the need to increase its population.

Since 1980, the district has experienced a modest resurgence in its total population by approximately 8.8% from 53,638 in 1980 to its current total of 58,345 persons.

Information made available through the New York City Department of City Planning reflects the following indications of population change by race, Hispanic origin and selected ages, with indicators of housing unit change for the period of 1980-1990.

| | <u>1980</u> | <u>1990</u> | <u>Number</u> <u>Change</u> | <u>%</u> <u>Change</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Population | 53,638 | 58,345 | 4,707 | 8.78 |
| White Non-Hispanic | 626 | 521 | -105 | -16.77 |
| Black Non-Hispanic | 34,317 | 31,998 | -2,319 | - 6.76 |
| Hispanic Origin | 18,351 | 25,332 | 6,981 | 38.04 |
| Asian, Pacific Islander | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic | 104 | 148 | 44 | 42.31 |
| American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic | 96 | 129 | 33 | 34.48 |
| Other Non-Hispanic | 144 | 217 | 73 | 50.69 |
| Under 18 Years | 19,884 | 20,533 | 649 | 3.26 |
| 18 Years and Over | 33,754 | 37,812 | 4,058 | 12.02 |
| Total Housing Units | 20,999 | 19,584 | - 1,415 | -6.74 |

The percentage of income for Community District Three in relation to the citywide median dropped from nearly 54% in 1970 to 44.3% in 1980, while the total median income for the Bronx showed virtually no change as a percentage of the Citywide3 median income during this decade (77% in both 1970 and 1980).

U.S. Census Bureau statistics relative to income for the year 1980 reveal a district wide median household income of \$10,685. 1990 comparative figures for same, show relatively no change in income during this period (\$10,487), indicating no reasonable evidence of per capita personal financial growth in district wide household or family income during this period.

Consequently, U.S. Census Bureau statistics relative to median family income based upon 1989 constant dollars, reveal no substantive difference between 1980 (\$12,495) and 1990 (\$12,442) with evidence of non-family median household income totaling \$7,600.

Per capita income as shown for the period 1980 (\$5,182) and 1990 (\$5,822), again demonstrates no significant change during this ten year period.

Consequently, persons in Community District Three for who poverty status was determined in 1980, totaled 53,319. In 1990, this figure totaled 56,158, with evidence of nearly fifty percent (50%) of its population below the poverty level.

Statistics of this nature support Community District Three's ranking as one of the poorest communities within the poorest Congressional District in the nation.

Needs Analysis

Housing

In assessing the district's housing needs as represented in its Sect. 197-A Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Plan, underlying consideration need by given to retaining the integrity of the district as seen in the establishment of the goal to increase the population of Community District Three to 100,00 by the year 2000.

The redevelopment of the district must be seen in the context of reduced availability of housing units, prompting a need for increased unit production and preservation of existing units, both private and in-rem.

Current statistics available through the Department of City Planning indicate a total housing unit availability approximating 19,500 with approximately 5,488 units projected for completion by the end of 1994.

Barring circumstances which could preclude project closings and completed occupancy, Community District Three could stand to realize a prospective increase in its current population of between 21% - 25% by the end of 1994 with further increases projected prior to the year 2000.

Development programs currently undertaken within Community District Three include the Special Initiatives Program, The L.I.S.C./Enterprise Program, the New York City Housing Partnership Program, the Section 235 Model New Homes Program, Vacant Cluster Site Program, Vacant Buildings Program, Small Buildings Rehabilitation Program, Transitional Rehabilitation Program, D.S.A.S., 421-A Program and the Nehemiah Program which support Community District Three goals of attaining mixed income balances.

Consistent with these goals, however, is the need for the New York City Administration to continue to evaluate unit additions per program type in relation to socio-economic income integration. In consideration of Community District Three's comprehensive neighborhood development plan, balanced placement of families with supportive social services re-inforce societal/economic patterns aimed at preserving the integrity of a community.

Community District 3 Housing Development By Program Type and Unit Distribution (Planned or completed: 1990 – 1994)

| <u>Program</u> | <u>Unit Totals</u> |
|--|--------------------|
| Special Initiatives Program | 916 units |
| Vacant Cluster Site Program | 563 units |
| L.I.S.C. | 419 units |
| Enterprise | 261 units |
| Small Buildings Rehabilitation Program | 62 units |
| Transitional Rehabilitation | 22 units |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Division of Substance Abuse Services Program | 185 units |
| 421-A Program | 57 units |
| Nehemiah | 117 units |
| N.Y.C. Partnership/New Homes Program | 946 units |
| H.U.D. Section 202 (1986 – 1996) | 375 units |
| Model New Homes (Jackson-Forest) | 32 units |
| Melrose Commons | <u>775 units</u> |
| | 5,488 units |

Bronx Community District Three wholeheartedly supports city administration funding commitments to the development of Melrose Commons and urges completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and Approval of the Urban Renewal Plan, Project and related actions by the Department of City Planning and the New York City Council.

Considerations need be given to the establishment of a concerted effort to address the needs of commercial/retail businesses likely to be affected vis-à-vis New York City condemnation action.

Additional considerations for the provision of a community development strategy for stable affordable housing include preservation of existing private and in-rem residential units through increased budgetary support levels in areas of Code Enforcement and Emergency Repair Assistance.

Community District three must also stand to benefit from the provision of additional budgetary provisions for maintenance and repairs to its existing in-rem inventory totaling nearly 2,100 residential units.

Further considerations need be given along the lines of establishing a systematic approach toward encouragement of intensive tenant educational development in line with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Division of Alternative Management Programs with emphasis on disposition of in-rem properties to tenant associations or local community based not-for-profit organizations to operate as low income cooperatives under Article XI of the N.Y.S. Private Housing Finance Law. Intensive efforts in this regard could serve to generate a spirit of "ownership" by existing residents who ordinarily may never have been afforded the opportunity of "homeownership".

Economic Development

As part of an overall effort to further the intent of Community District Three's Section 197-A Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Plan, housing redevelopment and new construction at densities consistent with current zoning requirements was identified as the primary focus in line with Phase I of Community District Three's Section 197-A Plan implementation.

Efforts are currently underway for implementation of Phase II, vis-à-vis the establishment of an Economic Revitalization Plan.

This initiative, through the establishment of an interagency coordinative effort aimed at identifying existing commercial/retail business areas within Community District Three, will seek to establish economic activities best suited to meet the needs of its resident population.

Community District Three is aware that these efforts, which have been outlined as its "implementation" strategy in fulfillment of its goals and objectives identified in the Section 197-A Compre-

hensive Plan, must involve a collaborative effort of agencies which include the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp., the Office of Economic Development, the Department of City Planning, S.O.B.R.O. and other local community based organizations as a “Technical Advisory Committee” to Bronx Community District Three.

Plan considerations will include area siting for commercial/retail services appropriate to Community District Three residential patrons. Issues of importance to be considered by Community District Three will include the development of job training and placement facilities which will prepare neighborhood residents for careers that pay sufficient wages, lead to promotion and job security.

To this end, Bronx Community District Three had issued both a “Request for Funding Assistance” and “Requests for Proposals” to develop its Economic Revitalization Initiative”.

This plan, will involve a six month preparation by a consultant, of a comprehensive report which will review consultant, of a comprehensive report which will review existing conditions, analyze real estate and market trends in consideration of consumer preferences, review past planning studies, review public programs and policies, analyze capital budget project recommendations, identify problems, make recommendations and outline an implementation strategy aimed at re-establishing the economic vitality of Community District Three.

Issues for plan consideration will include:

- A. Discussions of C.B. #3 Industrial Parks and O.E.D. developmental/marketing strategies.
- B. O.E.D. business Development Services and Commercial Revitalization of McKinley Square, East 174th Street and Prospect Avenue (East 161st Street to East 166th Street).
- C. O.E.D. considerations for Community District Three input into site/use considerations vis-à-vis the N.Y.C. Council and-Use Committee.
- D. O.E.D. considerations for proposed commercial uses along Third Avenue from East 164th Street, north above Claremont Parkway.
- E. New York City Council/C.P.C. Neighborhood Disposition Plan and recommendations regarding the Neighborhood Retail Development Program within the areas of Southern Boulevard between East 174th and Home Streets and Third Avenue between Claremont Parkway and the Cross Bronx Expressway.

Sanitation

Of paramount concern in the identification of area needs is the goal of re-establishing Community District Three to a level of acceptance as a viable, sanitary community.

Consequently, Community District Three has selected as its number of Expense Budget Request for Fiscal Year 1995, the assignment of ten (10) additional sanitation workers to Bronx West Three for cleaning and removal of illegally dumped material on streets, sidewalks and vacant lots. Recent budget cuts have also led to the elimination of 6 clean teams in Community District Three since Fiscal Year 1992 and have severely hampered our ability to maintain acceptable levels of street cleanliness.

Recent indicators per the New York District Resource Statement represent Community District Three well under borough and city-wide percentages for streets rated acceptably clean with average daily tonnage collection rates under city-wide district averages by more than 50%.

With nearly 1,500 vacant lots in this community, District Resource indicators support Community District Three's overall highest ranking in the area of vacant lot cleaning request in relation to the Bronx Borough wide average, with district activity representing more than ¼ of total borough wide activity in this regard.

Additionally and of equal importance to the implementation of timely clean up schedules for unimproved lots with District Three, is the need for improved agency coordinative efforts at fencing implementation with the Department of General Services.

Illegal dumping of debris, used tires and other waste matter has and continues to pose a serious threat to the Districts viability in sanitary terms. Consequently, Community District three supports the restoration of Sanitation and Environmental Enforcement Police Units to the budget for F.Y. 1995, and urges increased funding for restoration of both Housing Authority and School Collection Programs here in District Three and the city at-large.

Community District Three further urges agency considerations for the establishment of a locally based sanitation garage facility to serve Community District Three in consideration of proposed redevelopment and repopulation of the district within the next five to ten years.

Health and Human Services

With anticipated increases in housing unit production expected to reach 5,000(+) units over the next four years, Community District Three can stand to realize increases to its current population of nearly 21-25% in the same period, warranting a need for increased service delivery in area of health and human services.

Of singular importance along these lines, is the issue of providing adequate day care services to meeting the needs of an ever increasing population.

Additionally, Community District Three has established a need for the identification and placement of additional Family Health Care Centers. The New York City Ten Year Capital Strategy, via the New York City Department of Health and New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, speaks to implementation of the "Communi-Care" Project. Said project would assist Community District Three in addressing the primary health care needs of its children and adults.

District needs include city funding assistance for medical, social services and housing assistance for individuals with AIDS and H.I.V. – related illness, after school programs, family planning, tuberculosis testing and improved screening measures for client entry into shelter residences and drug/alcohol counseling assistance.

Currently, Bronx Community Board Three is undertaking plans for the identification of all health and substance abuse related facilities within its district area for the purpose of assessing existing programmatic services vis-à-vis district health needs.

As such, plans can be developed for a more effective approach to determination of facility siting by type and classification to meet the specific health supportive needs of its growing population into the year 2000.

Franklin Armory and Men's Shelter

1122 Franklin Avenue

Current Capacity: 170-200

Use: Transitional shelter for single men with specialized needs.

Services: Case management and assessment, meal cards, transportation, referral services, linkages with S.S.I., etc.

The establishment of the "Franklin Men's Shelter Improvement Task Force" by Bronx Community Board Three in collaboration with the New York City Human Resources Administration, Adult Services Administration, has resulted in the substantial reduction of single homeless men assigned to the Franklin Men's Shelter from its former capacity of 617 persons to its current capacity of 170.

Current plans for negotiation with the New York City Department of Homeless Housing Services will speak to the proposed re-use of the Facility's drill floor for community purposes.

Intermediate discussions with shelter administration will involve follow-up on client service plans, community based organization linkages regarding outreach and substance abuse services (Aids counseling), in addition to entitlement benefits.

New York Home Relief Program

Community District Three will also pursue the issue of applicability of proposed programmatic reforms for district recipients under New York State's Home Relief Program.

Programmatic reforms would suggest opportunities for Community District residents to seek employment after 6 months on public assistance with Federal Tax Credits available to employers.

Community District Three supports the restoration of funding to the Office of Family Services for programs to assist families at-risk of becoming homeless and those recently located into permanent housing.

Phipps Houses Community Development Corporation

Project: Crotona Park West (563 apts.)
Sponsor: Phipps Houses
Location: 170th Street – Cross Bronx Expressway
Between Third and Fulton Avenues

With the assistance of the Crotona Park West Advisory Committee, Phipps Houses is currently developing an array of comprehensive services akin to case management, referral advocacy, supportive assistance for basic survival, health needs, family stabilization, day care, education, employment assistance, cultural enrichment, youth recreational programs, alcoholism/substance abuse assistance in addition to a myriad of other supportive social services.

It is anticipated that this plan, which will involve the direct assistance of Bronx Lebanon Hospital, the Martin Luther King Community Health Center, Madison Square Boys and girls Club, the N.Y.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, New Directions in Community Revitalization Inc., Bronx Council on the Arts, the 42nd Precinct and other local community based organizations, will serve as a prototype for health/human service delivery in Community District Three and perhaps the city at-large, in the years to come.

Public Safety

Community District Three has long supported the need for additional policing and has welcomed additional personnel appropriations under the Mayor's Safe Streets Safe City's Initiative.

Community District Three continues its support of additional personnel deployment through decentralization of police activity at the local level and welcomes integration of 911 responses with community policing assignments.

Environmental Protection

Immediate concerns in the area of Environmental Protection focus on cleaning and reconstruction of catch basins and sewers along with valve maintenance for defective hydrants.

Community District Three supports D.E.P. processing of contract effectuation regarding improvements for collapsed sewers and catch basins in the Crotona South area (Lump Sum Budget Line: SE-2X and installation of new piping and sewer replacement at East 174th Street and Boston Road.

Parks

Community District Three has long supported open space and recreational opportunities for its residents, and to this end, has supported the efforts of former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, in his vision of a "Bronx Greenway" as expressed via the New Directions for the Bronx Task Force on Cultural and Environmental Quality.

The "**Bronx Greenway**" initiative will seek to establish a system of parks, scenic views points accessible to the waterfront, land marked buildings and major institutions which together will constitute a pleasurable "green" environment.

Community district Three is a participant of the Bronx Greenway Committee whose work will integrate and be compatible with other organizational plans (i.e., New York State's Hudson River Valley Greenway Plan, the Bronx River Restoration Plan, the Department of City Planning's Harlem River Plan, Comprehensive Open Space Plan, Waterfront Plan and the Bronx Bikeway Plan).

Various community based institutions to be linked to the Bronx Greenway include **the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and Crotona Park.**

Community District Three urges the cooperation of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation in the overall re-assessment of conditions and replacement of equipment at play areas within its parks and recreational facilities (i.e., Crotona Park: need for replacement/installation of benches at park perimeter and along Fulton Avenue between East 173rd and Cross Bronx Expressway).

Community District Three expresses its need and support of improved efforts by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to foster community **Adopt-A-Park Program** enhancement with local Community Based Organizations.

Community District Three is strongly opposed to personnel service reductions which are threatening to reduce or eliminate maintenance and recreational staff at major parks/park facilities including **Forest Playground, Crotona Park and Crotona Pool and Recreation Center**.

Community District Three additionally supports the restoration of **Parks Enforcement Patrol** and the **Urban Park Ranger Program** and urges New York Department of Parks involvement in the development of enhanced recreational programs for its major parks and facilities.

In this regard, Community District Three supports the need for city-wide re-assignment of recreational personnel and supervisory staff at district wide parks and recreational facilities.

Transportation

The establishment of a sound transportation network linking Community District Three residents to job opportunities inside the city's central business district and outside is an integral component of any planning undertaking for Community District Three.

Issues of importance with respect to transportation include the development of rider ship survey questionnaires with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, designed to solicit resident preferences and future choices for vehicles and passengers with respect to traffic patterns, modes and needs.

Consequently, this will allow for the development of strategic planning initiatives to prepare for the districts anticipated growth in population.

Further concerns of community District Three involve agency plans for assessing inadequate signage, traffic light and controls, traffic flow patterns, off street parking and the possibility of expanded Para-transit opportunities.

Capital Budget Priorities

| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| HWX203BW | - | Reconstruction of Boston Road (East 163rd to Bronx Park South) |
| HWX698W | - | Southern Blvd. (174th St. to Westchester Ave. X75575) |
| HWX785 | - | Reconstruction of Claremont Pkwy. (Fulton Ave. to Webster Ave.) |
| HWX786 | - | Reconstruction of East 161st Street (Eagle Ave. to Sheridan Ave.) |
| HWX520A | - | Reconstruction of 163rd Street (Prospect Ave. to Courtlandt Ave.) |
| HBX646 | - | Melrose Avenue Bridge (Webster Ave. East 163rd St. to 161st St.) |
| HBX649 | - | East 165th Street Bridge at Webster Avenue over Conrail |
| HWXX005 | - | Cross Bronx Landscaping |

New York City Board of Education

Bronx Community District Three has identified the following programmatic needs in addressing the educational concerns of its area residents:

- A. Need for educational programs to address English language skills and literacy training for its increasing population of Hispanic origin.
- B. Need for increased after school programs which address tutorial services.
- C. Need for additional funds to support programs addressing safety and security concerns at district wide secondary schools.
- D. Need for establishment of a district wide “Mentor Program” at the intermediate level to enable youths to engage in meaningful discussion with adults regarding personal and vocational concerns.
- E. Need for the development of innovative recreational programs to improve the educational needs for district youth at the primary level.
- F. Need for the establishment of smaller classroom settings and the re-establishment of teacher aide positions to assist in the learning process at all educational levels.
- G. Need for re-establishment of outreach programs to assist in resolving parenting and family concerns regarding problematic students.

Youth Services

(Compiled by Janine Jackson, Youth Services Coordinator)

In the analysis of youth services within Bronx Community District Three, it is very clear there are significant gaps between the needs of the youth and the services delivered.

Of its total population of 58,345 persons based on upon 1990 U.S. Census Bureau statistics, 39% are under twenty-one years of age largely consisting of black and Latino ethnic groups and cultures.

The children of Community District Three daily continue to confront an array of problems that test their ability to cope and strive. Some of the problems they face are: lack of safe, structured recreational and educational activities after school, substance abuse, high rate of H.I.V. infection, teen pregnancy, and youth performing below grade levels in schools, illiteracy, truancy, unemployment and lack of adequate Day Care and Head start facilities.

In addition to the aforementioned problems, there also appears to be a breakdown in the family structure. As already mentioned, there are a large percent of the families headed by young single female parents who are receiving some type of assistance from social services. In many instances, three generations of one family (mother, daughter and granddaughter) are caught within the same economic cycle leading to a lack of a sense of direction and a feeling of hopelessness. There is often a lack of adequate supervision within the home and family conflicts. Parents are very often unable to cope with the demands of their children due to their economic status and the problems of the environment in which they live.

Reports from Columbia University, The New York City Board of Education, and printed media outlets listing schools throughout Bronx county, lists Community District Three (which encompasses Community School Districts 8, 9 & 12) as having one of the highest number of drop-outs city-wide. This problem exists predominately in Junior and High schools. The math and reading scores show a very high percentage of our students performing below grade levels, while classrooms are over crowded and supplies are limited. Parents are often unable to assist their children with their studies due to language barriers and other hindrances. In many instances, there appears to be a need for non-traditional education programs and facilities to help cope with this increasing problem.

According to the New York State Labor Statistics, unemployment in New York City continues to be high. Community District Three continues to experience a high unemployment among its residents due to the economy and lack of economic development within this community. Unemployment rates for youth, particularly non-white, inner city teens (16 to 19 years old) are extremely high. As of June 1990, the unemployment rate for African-American youth was 36.5% - almost thirty percent (30%) higher than the rate of white youth (13%). There was no significant difference for the rate of Latino youth unemployment statistics (13.7%). Many of those who are unemployed are also unemployable; lacking the basic skills need by today's employers.

While crime is rampant everywhere throughout the city, the 42nd Precinct rates drug dealings, assaults, and burglaries among their top crime problems; a larger percent of them being committed by youth. Ironically, the majority of youths in the area are not users of drugs, but dealers and enforcers. A great deal of criminal activity involves battles for "turf". Youth who do not seek alternatives to the "rich, glamorous" lifestyle of local dealers are drawn into the fold.

As with other problems of the area, Community District Three has a disproportionately high number of youth suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This information can be verified by the records and statistics of the New York Department of Health, Lincoln Hospital Center, and Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center. This rise in the number of STD patients is due to many factors, among which are lack of adequate health information and education, poor hygiene, sexual promiscuity, and substance abuse.

To further complicate the situation, over the next five (5) years, Community District Three will be experiencing a building boom as over five thousand (5,000) units of housing will be rehabilitated. When completed, these units will house twelve thousand (12,000) to fourteen thousand (14,000) new residents; many of whom will be formerly homeless or low income families (often single mothers and children). These new residents will need to learn where to obtain services and develop connections within their neighborhoods. While this is a challenging task for adults, it is a daunting one for youth.

These youth, many of whom have often spent most of their lives in unstable conditions (shelters, welfare hotels, changing schools, etc.) are often in urgent need of special attention services that will increase their sense of self-esteem, health, ability to relate to others, and their capacity to learn and achieve. If additional youth services are not provided, there is a very sad change that these youths could become involved in negative behavior if they neither have, nor perceive they have, any other options.

There is a strong need for community-based programs to engage the youth of Community District Three in structured activities with opportunities for personal growth and social development, structured contact with responsible adults who can service as role models and/or mentor, and positive alternatives to risk taking behavior.

There is a need to engage youth in constructive after school, evening and weekend activities, focusing on additional tutoring, help with homework, development of socialization skills, self-esteem improvement, and exposure to alternative lifestyles and peer groups other than the negative influences on the street corners. There is a need for more place and activities to help keep the youth off the streets and out of trouble. Many of these children are latch-key youths and need a safe, structured environment to be involved in developmental activities. Many need a hot meal (which they do not get at home) and opportunities to develop their awareness of their scholastic, athletic, and creative abilities and potentials.

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Chairperson

John W. Dudley
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