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COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN
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STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DISTRICT NEEDS FISCAL YEAR 2016

Summary:

Community Board 10 is racially diverse and generally economically stable. We are located in Southwest Queens. Our district has a large foreign born population and a growing senior population. Approximately 1/3 of our district's land area was inundated by Superstorm Sandy's flood waters. Sandy negatively impacted about 20,000 of our residents and caused damage to approximately 5,000 homes and many of our businesses.

General Needs:

- **Housing** – continued building code enforcement; better strategies to provide adequate maintenance of vacant/ abandoned homes; better strategies to identify current owners of vacant properties; effective requirement for ongoing maintenance of vacant homes
- **Land Use** – contextual rezoning; implement Resilient Neighborhood Study; prohibit pawn shops as allowable in C2 use groups; eliminate off-street parking requirement waivers for community facilities; increase DOB inspection personnel; review/alter DOB self-certification process; insure use/occupancy code compliance
- **Transportation** – provide reliable bus service; expand express bus service; implement "Super A" subway service; continue rehabilitation of all el stations; increase accessibility to all el stations not yet made accessible; construct southbound Aqueduct Station platform; maintain parking availability on commercial corridors; provide Q11 late night service; improve accessibility to Hamilton Beach; reduce speeding; enforce parking regulations; improve infrastructure project pedestrian/vehicle safety measures; periodically review implemented traffic calming measures and correct negative impacts; require Community Board review of parking regulation changes; post No Truck signage; implement Vision Zero policy; identify and replace faded signage
- **Parks** – assign maintenance personnel at each park daily; provide year round recreation services in parks; expand summer programs for youth; provide appropriate recreation services and facilities for seniors; provide a recreation center; provide a swimming pool; provide park facility north of Rockaway Blvd.; expand forestry service; increase forestry personnel
- **Public Facilities** - expand library service; expand youth services; increase funding to Boys & Girls Club of Metro NY; provide for local review of youth services funding; restore Youth Coordinator position; eliminate all fees for public purpose use of school buildings; construct new schools; expand school art and music programs; identify sites for PreK services; provide additional senior centers; close Skyway Men's Shelter and reopen former Skyway Family Shelter
- **Public Safety** – substantially increase number of permanently assigned police officers in 106th Pct.; support peace officer status for Resorts World security force; expand noise violation enforcement; reduce backlogs; increase response times; improve 311 complaint intake process; increase critical infrastructure protection; expand OEM education initiatives; improve response during non-catastrophic tidal flooding events in Hamilton Beach and Old Howard Beach; expand fire safety education; continue distribution of smoke and CO2 detectors
- **Water, Sewer, Sanitation** – inspect and clean all catch basins; clean all catch basins in Sandy zone annually prior to hurricane season; resolve long-standing poor drainage conditions; expand installation of green infrastructure in poor drainage areas; develop and employ better strategies to insure cleanliness of vacant lots; expand basket collection on commercial strips; provide daily collection of school garbage during 4-12 PM time period
- **Economic Development** – expand business services; provide more grants to business owners in Sandy zone
- **Resiliency, Sustainability** – provide surge protection; protect power supply; prevent sewer backup; protect vulnerable population; improve Build it Back; construct bulkheads; provide incentives to encourage elevation and/or relocation of critical building utilities; provide plain language NYC specific information regarding strategies homeowners may utilize to protect properties and make homes more resilient; upgrade sewage pumping station; implement where possible components of Howard Beach NY Rising recommended projects; support all Howard Beach NY Rising recommended projects, implement ecosystem restoration project in Spring Creek Park
- **Community Boards** – continue to baseline budget; restore agency business parking permits to Board Chairpersons; improve 311 and other reporting systems

Introduction:

Community Board 10 is located in Southwest Queens. We border Brooklyn on the west, the Van Wyck Expressway and JFK International Airport on the east, 103rd Avenue on the north, and Jamaica Bay on the south. Within the Board's boundaries are all of the Howard Beach communities located within zip code 11414; all of those communities located within Ozone Park zip code 11417; all of the South Ozone Park zip code 11420 communities; and approximately half of the Richmond Hill South zip code 11419. A small part of zip code 11430 is also within our boundaries, but it is not populated, except for a homeless shelter, as most of that zip code's geography is on-airport. The map to the right indicates our estimates by zip code of our population, housing, and land area.

Community Board 10 encompasses approximately 4,000 acres and just over 6 square miles of the borough's land area. Our Board abuts JFK International Airport and Jamaica Bay, therefore what occurs at both are important to our residents. Approximately a third (2.1 sq. mi. -most of zip code 11414) of Community Board 10's land area was inundated by Superstorm Sandy's tidal floodwaters.

All of the affected residents and business owners within our Board's Sandy inundation zone still have numerous needs and concerns. New York City's only casino facility, the Resorts World New York Casino, is located virtually in the center of our Board area which clearly shows in the map to the right. All of the communities located within our Board are in close proximity to this facility and people in all of our communities share similar concerns regarding current activity and potential future development plans.

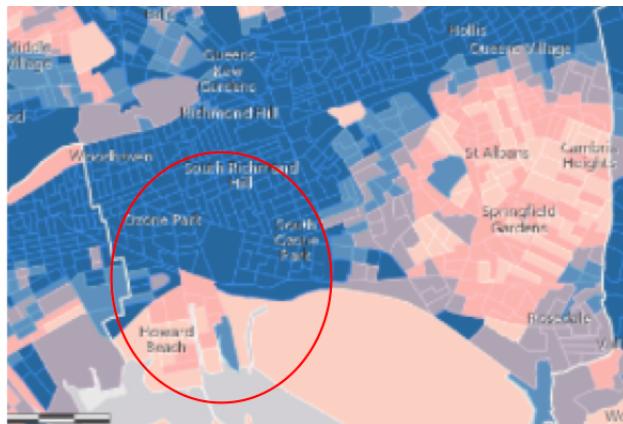
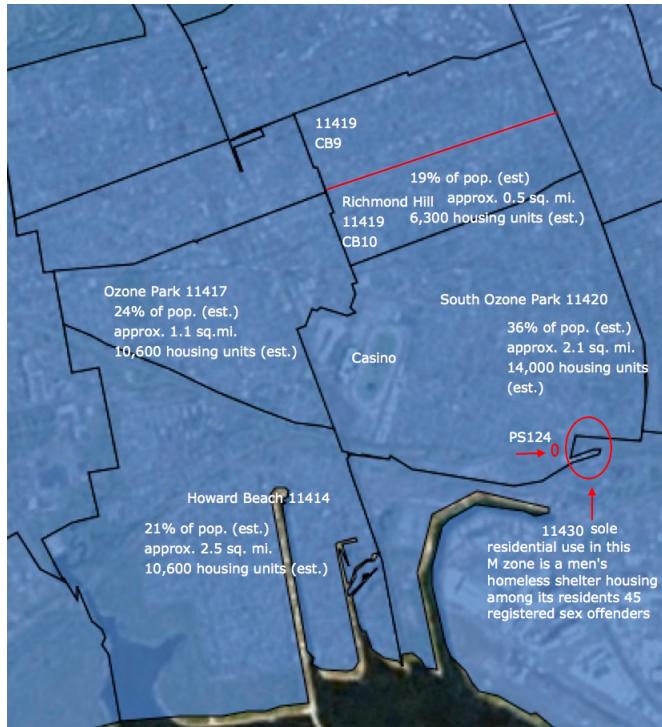
Demographics:

According to the 2010 Census, Community Board 10 was home to 122,396 persons in April 2010. That reflected a 3.8% decrease in our population. We believe the 2010 Census results do not accurately reflect our population. We believe our population was undercounted in Census 2010 by somewhere in the range of 10,000 people. We believe that ACS data provide a more accurate representation of our actual current population than the Census 2010 data provide.

PUMA 04113:

ACS 08-12 (5 year estimate) 130,951 ACS 10-12 (3 year estimate) 134,902 ACS 2012 (1 year estimate) 133,178

Community Board 10's population is diverse as this census block group diversity index map of southern Queens depicts. (shades of blue indicate areas more diverse) Each and every year since 2007, the NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy's annual publication, *State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods*, has reported that we are the most racially diverse community district in the city. No single group comprises a majority population in Community Board 10 as a whole. The chart below provides a snapshot of our area's racial composition across time.

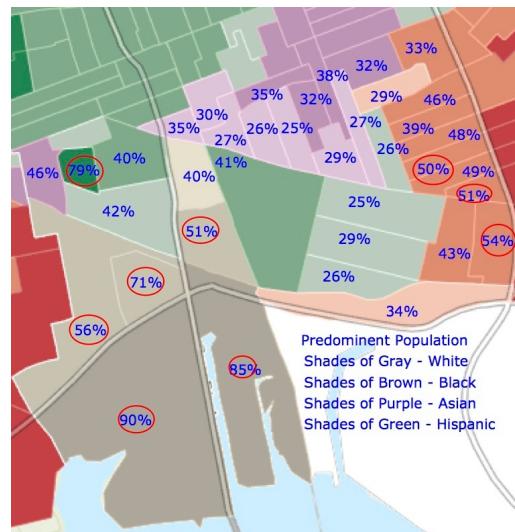


	Census 2000	Census 2010	ACS3 yr. Est. 2010-2012	ACS 5 yr. Est. 2008-2012
White	34%	26%	24%	25%
Black	17%	17%	16%	16%
Asian	13%	18%	19%	19%
Hispanic	21%	23%	24%	25%

According to Furman Center data, our area experienced the second greatest increase in its percentage of foreign-born of any CB district in the city between 1990 and 2006. During that time period, our Asian and Hispanic populations grew and our White and Black populations decreased. That rate of growth has slowed in the ensuing years, but we are still seeing growth in our Hispanic population. The rates of decline in our White and Black populations also seem to have slowed. The majority of the census tracts within our Board area (84%) have populations in which minority groups together (Black + Asian + Hispanic) comprise the majority. However, as the map to the right shows there is considerable diversity in most of those census tracts. The number within each tract represents the population percentage of the largest group in the tract. The largest group in most tracts is not a majority of the population. (circled numbers indicate where there is a majority population in the tract) In most of the tracts in our district there may be more of one group or another, but overall, the populations are very diverse.

(map source: Predominant Population

http://atlasmaps.esri.com/arcgis/rest/services/Census2010/Predominant_Population/MapServer) (labels added)



All data sets seem to indicate that somewhere within the range of 8-12% of our population consider themselves not to be either White, Black, Hispanic, or Asian as they reported themselves in Census 2010 to be of "Some Other Race Alone."

Our Hispanic population is diverse with no single country of ancestry being predominant within that segment of our population. The Asian population in Community Board 10 consists primarily of persons of Indian sub-continent ancestry including a large and growing group of Sikhs primarily from India's Punjab region, a large group of persons of Asian Indian ancestry who migrated here from countries in South America and the Caribbean region, and a group of persons who emigrated here from Bangladesh. It is very likely that many of those who responded to the 2010 Census as being of "Some Other Race Alone" & "not Hispanic" would add to the district's overall Asian population if those persons are of Indian ancestry but consider themselves as being "Indo-Caribbean" rather than as being "Asian Indian."

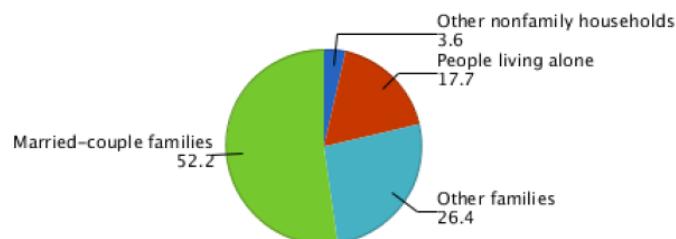
About 46% of our population is foreign born. Almost 60% of our foreign born population are naturalized U.S. citizens and about 98% arrived in the United States before 2010. The majority of those indicating speaking a language other than English at home report they speak Spanish. A majority of those who report speaking other languages also indicate they speak English well. About 6% of our households indicate that no one over age 14 speaks English very well. (ACS 2010-12 Pop. Estimates)

Overall, the median age of persons living within Community Board 10 is 38.5. However, our White population is, on average, older with a median age of 48.8. The median age within our Black and Asian populations is similar, 36.0 and 36.7 respectively. As a group, our Hispanic population is younger with a median age of 33.8. (ACS 2010-12 Pop. Estimates)

We would estimate that about 18% of our population is of school age and about 5-6% of our population is under age 5. We would estimate our school age population as being about 30% Asian, 21% Hispanic, 17% Black, and 11% White.

Overall, about 17% of our residents are older than 60. About 13% are older than 65 and about 5% are older than 75. It appears that approximately 12% of our population is between the ages of 55-64. About 39 percent of those 65 and over report disabilities according to ACS data.

ACS data for 2010-12 indicate there are about 41,000 households within Community Board 10. The graphic to the right provides some detail as to the type of households found in our area.



The median household income in our area according to ACS data is approximately \$59,000 and the median family income is about \$70,000. Data in the Furman Center's 2013 annual publication, illustrated in their graphic found to the right, indicates our district has a less broad spread among incomes than most of the city's Community Districts. When compared with other CB districts, Furman found our Board area ranks among the five Community Boards in the city having the lowest income diversity ratio. Community Development Block

Grant Program data for eligible tracts in 2007 indicated 15 of our census tract areas and about 62,000 of our people living within those tracts as being of low-moderate income. Current eligibility data include 16 of our census tracts and about 61,000 of our residents within them as being of low-moderate income. ACS 2010-12 data, indicates 14% of our people were living in poverty. Among our seniors, 11% were below the poverty level as were 11% of our families.

Generally, the demographic picture of Community Board 10 supports our overall view that our area is changing but seems stable both socially and economically. However, within that general picture there are trends that demonstrate needs. Additional school seats are needed in the parts of our district with higher Asian and Hispanic populations and more children. Services are needed to assist our families where there is a female householder with no husband present to rise out of poverty. About 20% of such families in our area have incomes below poverty levels. Services to our older adults in all of our neighborhoods require strengthening so that our residents may age in place as many of our senior residents (and soon to be seniors) desire. We believe it is important that all agencies be aware that about 35% of the people in our district who are over 60 reside in the Howard Beach/Lindenwood/Hamilton Beach neighborhoods of our district that were severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy. Many of our Sandy-impacted residents - of all ages - still have unmet needs and are struggling to survive economically. Some of our residents still are living in partially repaired homes while others are still not back in their homes at all. At this point in time, *Build it Back* is an unfulfilled hope rather than a reality for many of our Sandy-impacted property-owners.

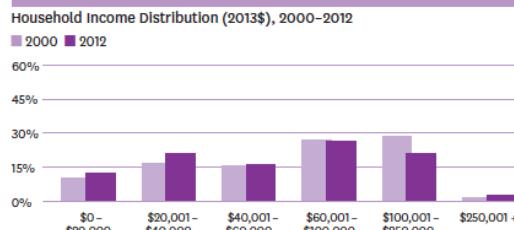
Housing:

Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, South Ozone Park and a portion of Howard Beach started to attract small home construction during the latter half of the 19th Century and developed gradually. The majority of our residential structures are owner-occupied one and two family homes. About a third of the area's homes were constructed prior to 1939. Another spurt of development took place in the newer sections of Howard Beach during the 1950s and 1960s and to a lesser degree in South Ozone Park during those years.

In recent years, some new construction took place throughout our district and many existing homes were completely renovated. The recession during the latter half of the last decade slowed the rate of new construction and renovations. Although the 2010 Census reported there were about 41,500 housing units in our district, we believe the actual number of housing units (many statistically not evident as they are the result of illegal conversions within cellars, basements, and attics not authorized by building permits) may be higher. Most of the complaints to the Dept. of Buildings by residents in all parts of our district relate to illegal conversions and un-permitted construction. Efforts to legalize illegal cellar and attic conversions would very probably not be supported by a majority of our residents.

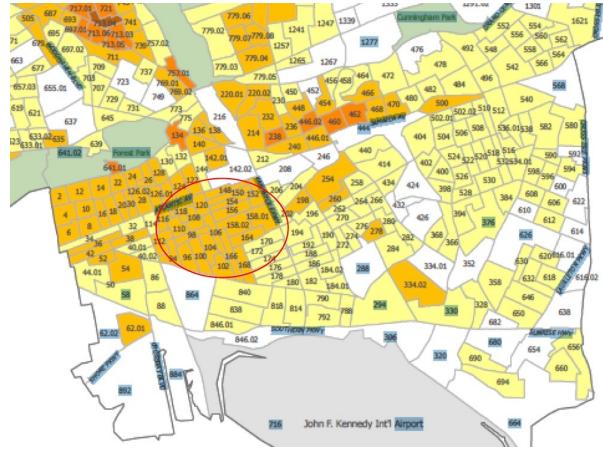
Although our housing stock is comprised primarily of 1-3 family homes, Community Board 10 has some cooperative and condominium low and hi-rise apartment buildings as well as some rental apartment buildings (all limited to six stories). Affordable rental apartments are minimal. Our rental vacancy rate is among the lowest in the city. There are very few rent-controlled or subsidized rental units.

Generally, housing stock has been well maintained over the years because of the high percentage of owner occupancy. There is concern that property maintenance has deteriorated on properties where there are absentee landlords as more homes that were once owner-occupied housing units now include rental units, many created by illegal conversions. The rate of foreclosure starts and actual completed foreclosures in our area are still of concern. NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy's publication, *State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods 2012* indicated that our area experienced a decline in residential property values of more than 30% between 2007-2012. That publication's 2013 edition also reported that although we have among the highest homeownership rates in the city, we also rank among the lowest in housing price appreciation for 1 family buildings.



There are numerous indications of abandoned, vacant properties in disrepair within our district due to the foreclosure crisis in recent years. Many are bank-owned. The number of untended, vacant homes has now increased due to the impact of Superstorm Sandy on our area. There is a continuing need for the city to develop an enforceable policy requiring owners of such properties to promptly secure them and provide for ongoing maintenance. Identifying who are the actual owners of such properties continues to be problematic and it is often difficult for our staff to do so in a timely manner. It is also difficult to contact these owners after they have been identified. As a result, quality of life and home values of residences in proximity to these derelict properties decline. Some of the affected properties have now been vacant and untended to for a number of years, which is extremely distressing to neighboring property owners and residents.

About 9,000 of our housing units are located on the approximately 575 acres located north of Rockaway Blvd. east of Lefferts Blvd. Approximately another 7,500 of our housing units are located on the approximately 325 acres located north of Rockaway Blvd. west of Lefferts Blvd. Most are one and two family frame homes, but there are a few small apartment buildings scattered throughout these areas. Lot sizes in these areas tend to be smaller, in general, than in areas more to the south in our district. This excerpt from DCP's population density map by census tract (Census 2010) clearly shows that most of our census tracts located north of Rockaway Blvd. are among the most densely populated anywhere in southern Queens. (Map segments shaded darker indicate higher densities. The general area circled in red is the portion of Community Board 10 located north of Rockaway Blvd.)



About 7,800 more of our housing units are located on the approximately 980 acres (about 180 acres are the Resorts World/Aqueduct Racetrack site & about 20 acres at Aqueduct are controlled by the PANYNJ) south of Rockaway Blvd. east of the railroad tracks. (MTA IND line to Rockaway Peninsula) Homes in this area are mostly one and two family frame or masonry/brick construction. Lot sizes are generally larger south of 135th Avenue.

About 16,000 of our housing units are located on the approximately 2,000 acres (300 acres are part of GNRA) located south of Rockaway Blvd. west of the subway system tracks. Housing stock is more varied in this area with smaller lots containing unattached frame and masonry/brick one and two family homes as well as some attached row and garden style homes found north of North Conduit Avenue. South of North Conduit Avenue there are some 6 story apartment/condo/coop buildings, low-rise garden apartment/coop complexes along with single and two family homes. One and two family homes in the areas south of the Belt Parkway are generally on larger lots. Except for the 1 census tract where the 6 story buildings are located, population densities in census tracts located west of the railroad are lower than those to the east.

There is little vacant land within Community Board 10 that is not either parkland or highway right-of-way. Our schools are over-crowded and our roadways are congested. Most of our residents believe our public transportation, sewer system, and other infrastructure is inadequate to meet current needs. Long-standing concerns expressed by our residents regarding over-development coupled with the current issues and concerns of our residents relating to Select Bus Service, the abandoned Rockaway Rail link, flooding, and roadway safety - are all indications to this Board that generally further development of higher density housing is neither desired nor supported by our residents. The recent rezoning in our district provides for some limited areas where denser development could occur. Our large and growing older adult population indicates more senior housing, both affordable and market rate, may be a form of future development our residents would support if suitable sites were available.

Land Use:

Community Board 10's pattern of land use is predominantly low density residential and local area retail commercial strips. At the end of 2013, a rezoning of approximately 530 blocks in our district was approved. Almost all of our Ozone Park area was included in this rezoning as were parts of our South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill areas. This link provides further background and the specifics of the zoning changes made.

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/ozone_park/index.shtml

The need to match zoning better with existing development in the areas involved spurred this rezoning effort. This rezone was one of the largest undertaken by the city in recent years. As a result of its size, other parts of our district where the need is similar were not included. Our residents in the parts of South Ozone Park south of Rockaway Blvd. east of Lefferts Blvd whose neighborhood was not included in this rezoning desire and expect that DCP will engage in a similar rezoning project in that area.

The impact of Superstorm Sandy on our Howard Beach community points to a need to evaluate possible zoning changes there that would allow for residential property owners to make their homes more resilient without losing usable living space. Many of the homes flooded during Sandy had never been flooded by previous hurricanes or nor'easters. Most of the housing stock in our inundated area was constructed pre-FIRM. The city's actions as the adoption and implementation of new flood maps proceeds are also of great concern to our residents.

Stores on the commercial strips in our district provide the amenities homeowners look for within convenient proximity of their homes. People who live in the Community Board area own many of the businesses. Crossbay Blvd., Rockaway Blvd., Liberty Avenue, and Lefferts Blvd. are the major commercial strips. Zoning and other land use issues affecting the Sandy-impacted commercial strip along Crossbay Blvd. in Howard Beach need to be evaluated within the context of resiliency to determine what will assist in keeping it a viable commercial strip. The small commercial area on Coleman Square and the adjacent commercial blocks that were severely impacted by Sandy also need to be evaluated for ways to make that area more resilient. There is a small shopping center located in Lindenwood and some small commercial areas on some blocks in other parts of the district. A continuing area of concern is a proliferation of pawn shop businesses in the district. Local residents have expressed that they would like to see such businesses removed from the use groups permitted on C2 zoned commercial strips.

The district is serviced by four public libraries and a wide assortment of houses of worship. There is concern that sufficient off-street parking is not provided when new houses of worship are constructed in established residential areas. There is also concern when existing residential properties are converted to become houses of worship also not making provision for parking of vehicles. There is concern when religious institutions located on residential blocks utilize their outdoor space for activities that impact negatively on their neighbors. There is concern that some religious congregations functioning in former residential properties at times allow more people than is safe to be inside those buildings. There is a need to address these issues.

In all parts of the district, building code and zoning violations are a main concern for residents. There is extreme dissatisfaction expressed among residents and a general perception exists that building code violations are not being adequately addressed. There must be personnel provided sufficient to insure adequate building inspections of all buildings on an ongoing basis. There is also a need for additional inspection and enforcement personnel to insure that all building alterations and new construction, both residential and commercial, are properly permitted, constructed to code, and are actually being constructed in accordance with the approved plans.

There is a need to review and further alter the current practice of self-certification. It is imperative that the Buildings Department ensures that what is actually constructed is that which is indicated on the self-certified plans and on the permits issued and that the actual construction that follows is safe. When what is constructed is found not to be that which was permitted, the Buildings Department must order and make sure that the illegal construction is removed in a timely manner. Residents continue to report that even when violations are issued, the illegal conditions remain uncorrected.

There is a need for ongoing inspections and enforcement in bars and clubs. We are seeing a pattern of such establishments regularly exceeding the allowable occupancy numbers and at some we are seeing the unsafe usage of rooftop and outdoor areas. We appreciate the recent initiatives to insure compliance with regulations regarding tent structures as well as those regulations requiring temporary certificates of occupancy to be obtained for certain activities. There is a need for that enforcement to expand as our residents continue to report very large gatherings occurring in small, enclosed spaces on residential properties.

Transportation:

Our district is served by the MTA's "A" subway line and a number of bus routes. Estimates are that over 60% of our residents live more than a half mile from a subway (Furman), close to half of our employed residents commute by automobile, (ACS 08-12 -5 yr. estimates) and close to half of our employed residents work in Queens. (ACS 08-12 -5 yr. estimates) The Department of City Planning's Peripheral Travel Study (2010) indicated that more people who live in Southwest Queens commute within Southwest Queens or neighboring study areas than to places

further from home. CTPP Part 3 Table A302100 - New York City Resident Total Workers, 16 Years and Over, by New York City Workplace New York City Resident 2010 Census Tracts to New York City Workplace 2010 Census Tracts; U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006-2010 5 yr. Estimates. Special Tabulation: Census Transportation Planning seems to indicate a majority of our residents work in Queens and about 30% work in Manhattan.



The map to the left depicts census tracts within our district where the majority of those employed commute via public transportation. Conversely, the map to the right depicts our census tracts where the majority commute via car. In general, it seems that commuters living north of, or close to, Rockaway Blvd. closer to the Liberty Avenue "el" utilize public transportation more than those living to its south as do those living in the east in the area closest to the Q9 route which offers the most direct bus route to the



Jamaica Center transit hub.

Express bus service to Manhattan, although improved, is still inadequate as is express service to locations within Queens or Brooklyn. The community would like to see more reliable surface transit that more directly and more quickly delivers them to their destinations in other parts of Queens and safe, reliable subway service. Institution of express subway service for those commuting to Manhattan such as a "Super A" train providing service similar to the former "Train to the Plane," is desired by many and is seen by them as feasible since it could serve air passengers using AirTrain as well as patrons of the Resorts World Casino. There is a need to move forward on planning and implementing improved subway service to the casino by constructing a southbound platform at the Aqueduct Race Track station. There has been little interest in ferry service expressed by our residents. At present, subway stations along the "A" are being repaired and a much needed elevator will be installed at the Lefferts Blvd. Station. All of our other "el" stations still need to be made accessible for mobility-impaired patrons.

At present plans to implement some form of Select Bus Service along the Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. corridor are underway. Generally buses along this corridor are crowded and residents would like to see better service, but it is not clear to many residents how that would be accomplished without creating further congestion for other vehicles using the roadway. Although we have seen data indicating ridership would increase if SBS were implemented, we have seen no data indicating that the ridership increase would result in a drop in vehicular traffic. Local business owners have expressed concern that dedicated bus lanes will impact on parking available to their customers. Bus service on the Q11 Hamilton Beach leg has been curtailed during night hours. Even though that route had low ridership during those hours when service was discontinued, it poses a real hardship for those riders who need the service. The Hamilton Beach community has put forth what this Board believes is a workable solution, but MTA Bus has not implemented it.

The Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. corridor and the Liberty Avenue corridor are both congested. Both corridors are retail shopping strips where off-street parking (especially on Liberty Ave.) is limited. Pedestrian safety is of concern on both corridors as well as on the Lefferts Blvd. corridor. Enforcement of parking regulations is needed regularly in these areas. Residents in all parts of our district complain of speeding occurring on their residential side streets. Requests from residents for traffic lights and stop signs almost always are motivated by residents' concerns about speeding. DOT denies most of those requests since traffic lights and stop signs are not speed control devices.

Our Board supports the traffic safety objectives of the Vision Zero policy and urges more robust stop sign enforcement and speed regulation enforcement on residential streets. We urge that the hazardous locations reported be evaluated and improvements implemented where possible to provide for better pedestrian safety.

Many of our streets are in need of paving. One of them is 104th Street (between Russell St. & 165 Ave.) This is the only roadway providing vehicular access to our Hamilton Beach community. Where streets have had wear and tear and strip paving for years, high crowns are often a major problem. The time span between milling and resurfacing is sometimes much too long, thereby creating hazardous driving conditions. One week between milling and resurfacing should be the maximum allowable. Since we are a poor drainage district, there are ponding conditions in many locations. When streets are milled and resurfaced or any strip paving is done, particular care must be taken to insure the solving of a poor pavement condition does not cause a new ponding condition. The pictures to the right

are illustrative of the type of conditions that result when that care is not taken. They provide an example of a ponding problem in our district which appeared after a street was repaved. (They depict a ponding condition after 5/8 of an inch of rain that stretches in front of 4 homes and fails to drain.)



Residents and civic groups continue to report faded, unreadable locational street signage (xxx Street/xxx Avenue). Observation for such unreadable signage should be added to the list of visually-identifiable street conditions regularly reported monthly by the SCOUT inspections.

Traffic calming changes implemented on the Rockaway Blvd. corridor are problematic to many local residents. Those changes must be carefully re-evaluated in light of the casino's presence at Aqueduct Racetrack as it fronts on Rockaway Blvd. The casino's presence has added to traffic levels on Rockaway Blvd., Linden Blvd., and surrounding streets. While traffic calming is a desirable goal, so is the goal of better traffic flow for the many vehicles coming to and from the casino each day. We now find more of our local residents are avoiding Rockaway Blvd. and moving through the area more on the side streets so as not to be delayed. There is a need to regularly evaluate traffic conditions on Linden Blvd. between the Van Wyck Expressway and Rockaway Blvd. to determine if additional traffic controls are necessary due to casino-related traffic. There is a need to ban privately owned busses bringing patrons to the casino on that stretch of Linden Blvd. There is a need for better directional signage to be placed on the Van Wyck Expressway and the Belt Parkway so that more vehicles use those routes to the casino rather than local streets. The community expects there to be ongoing communication between DOT and the casino operator to address and minimize any and all negative traffic impacts on the surrounding residential community.

Requests from individuals for such things as speed bumps and humps which tend to impact an entire block should not be acted upon by DOT unless accompanied by a petition or some other indication that others on the block concur with the request. Parking regulations require clear posting and evenhanded consistent enforcement in all parts of the area. No intervention from a single business person or community special interest entity should result in changes to parking regulations in a community. All stakeholders' views must be considered before any adjusting of regulations occurs. All proposed changes to parking regulations should be reviewed by the Community Board before implementation.

Infrastructure contracts should have stricter inspection and enforcement of safety controls during daytime operation and better night visibility of barricades with better signage to assure vehicular and pedestrian safety. Additional day-lighting signage is needed on many local streets to prevent accidents at intersections. Although it is not the general practice to post "No Truck" signage, we feel that this is necessary to prevent trucks from trying to bypass traffic congestion by using local streets that are not designated truck routes. Such signage should become standard practice.

Parks and Open Space:

Many capital dollars have been expended in our district for reconstruction of parks. A maintenance person should be assigned to be on-site at each facility on a daily basis.

An increasing number of families are moving into parts of our district. Many of these families have young children. We would like to see summer day camp services expanded in our parks. We have had an enthusiastic audience for those cultural/recreational events that have taken place in our parks in prior years. However, there is a need for better communication by DPR to the local community when such events are planned in order to appropriately address potential negative community impacts some events may create. There is a need for more year-round recreational programs for people of all ages in our district and more summer programs to serve our youth of all ages. We have a large population of seniors for whom appropriate recreational facilities would be desirable.

There is no Department of Parks recreation center located in Southwest Queens. Our population cannot avail themselves of many programs and activities in existing centers because of the distance between program sites and our community. There is a need for a place for indoor recreation and cultural programs to take place for our population. One third of our land area was flooded by Sandy. We believe the site now occupied by a problematic horse stable concession would be ideal as a site for a recreation center. Such a center could be constructed to meet resiliency standards so as to provide much needed recreation services and to meet one of our area's imperative post-Sandy needs - a safe location for recovery services to be provided to our residents in the event of a future catastrophic storm.

Community Board 10 has the lowest percentage of our residential units located within a quarter mile of a park larger than a quarter acre than any other Community Board in the city. (Furman). In that portion of our district located north of Rockaway Blvd. and east of 100 Street, there are only two parks. (DeMuttis and Judge) One is located at the very western end of that segment of the Board and the other is located near the eastern end. In between is that area of our Board with the largest concentration of children and the least amount of play space within the most densely populated area of our Board and among the most densely populated areas in southern Queens. In the western part of our district we have a large concentration of persons over age 60. There is a need for recreational space aimed to accommodate their needs. There is no pool located in southwest Queens. Our area abuts Jamaica Bay, but swimming is prohibited at the federal park areas on its shoreline in our district. Barges converted to pools have been utilized in other areas of the city abutting the waterfront and could be utilized in our area to provide a pool for our residents.

More than 300 acres of open space in our district is part of Gateway National Recreation area. There is very little of that acreage where active recreation is encouraged. In 2012, an agreement was entered into by the city and the federal government to cooperatively manage Jamaica Bay's 10,000 acres of federal and City-owned public parkland.



The blue oval on this map shows the location of the 300 acres of Gateway parkland within our district that appear to be included in the area identified on the map as Jamaica Bay Parks. Gateway's Frank M. Charles Park and Hamilton Beach Park are in disrepair. Gateway's Spring Creek area has no recreation facilities. In its description of the agreement to cooperatively manage this parkland, DPR said, "City and federal agencies will jointly promote visitation, recreation, education programs, and scientific research, creating a new "jewel in the crown" of the national and City park systems." Virtually none of our residents would say any of the 3 pieces of this parkland in our district are well-maintained or in any way are any kind of a "jewel." The vision of our residents upon hearing of this agreement was that they would see improvement because of DPR's involvement. That has not happened.

There is a planned resiliency project proposed by the Governor of NYS for the (federal) Spring Creek parkland. DPR has a planned resiliency project for the (city-owned) Spring Creek Park addition area. Both of these resiliency projects have the support of our Board. Our Board supported the application of DPR for a federal competitive grant to accomplish the proposed project for the Spring Creek Park area north of the Belt Parkway. We are pleased that DPR won that grant. We urge that this DRP project move forward in a timely manner.



Recommendations for further important resiliency projects in and abutting Charles and Hamilton Beach Parks have been made by our Howard Beach community's NY Rising Committee that also have the community's support. They will require city assistance and cooperation between the various levels of government to move forward. Within both Charles and Hamilton Beach Parks there is still Sandy storm damage not repaired. Our residents would recommend and support DPR assuming responsibility for the ongoing maintenance needs in both of these parks. If that were to occur, perhaps they then might be "jewels" in a "crown", but at present they are far from that lofty goal.

Forestry issues continue to be of concern in all parts of our district. Complaints of damaged, dead, and overgrown trees continue as do root damage to sidewalk complaints. Dead tree removal, stump removal, and lack of or improper pruning continue to be problems. Sidewalk hazards continue to exist in many areas as a result of uncontrolled tree root growth which must be better addressed. There is a need for the creation of additional Green Streets areas.

Public Facilities:

Our district is served by four library branches. Full library services, year round, with expanded programs geared for pre-school, early childhood, and other elementary school/middle school age youth are needed as more than half of

our under age 18 population is younger than age 15. Our communities are having an influx of families with young children who have need of such services. Our severe school overcrowding has placed limitations on library services in our schools, which makes it more imperative for public library service to increase in order to serve the needs of our children. Saturday, Sunday, and expanded evening services are needed and desired in order to accommodate adults whose work hours preclude their being able to visit our libraries on weekdays. The QBPL system is among the nation's most utilized library systems and requires a better share of available library funding. There should be an increase in special programming offered at the four libraries serving Community Board 10 to provide cultural arts, remedial assistance and adult education on a regular basis.

The youth population of Community Board 10 Queens represents approximately 23% of the total district population. Funding and site resources for youth programming needs are limited. Currently, the New York City Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development provide limited after school and evening programs to youth in the Board area. Some scouting, sports, and after school care programming exists in local religious institutions. There are Little League Baseball, soccer, and cricket organizations that provide activities for youth. Our libraries are currently serving as de facto youth "centers" as many "latchkey" children utilize them after school. Staffing hours and programming must be increased to utilize this resource in new and nontraditional ways.

The "Beacon" school for Community School District 27 in our Board area is located in the South Ozone Park community at M.S. 226. This needed youth service and community resource provides an opportunity to offer a menu of diversified services to meet the many needs of this community.

Additional space and programs are needed for youth particularly in those areas of South Ozone Park and Richmond Hill with larger youth populations than that of our board area as a whole. There is a need for expansion of existing teen programs and new programs for teens are needed. The Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens (formerly the South Queens Boys and Girls Club), while physically located in Community Board 9, provides services to both Community Board 9 and Community Board 10 youth. It continues to see its programmatic funding diminished which results in less service for an already highly underserved youth population. Funding to it must increase.

A local review process should be utilized for determining where in our community available youth dollars are spent. Local groups such as the Community Board can often pinpoint better the program needs of the community. Programs in local communities are providing the front-line youth service programs available to all children in all communities throughout the city. They must be supported and the community's recommendations respected by city officials and the agencies that serve youth.

Among the needs in our area are expanded year round recreation and leisure time activities. There is a growing need for latchkey type programs; teen educational and career choice counseling; youth employment; programs addressing the high school dropout rate; substance abuse prevention counseling; support programs to help resolve personal and family problems, and the need for expansion of appropriate education and prevention programs addressing health needs of the youth population.

In years past Community Boards had the services of full time Youth Coordinators who assisted in planning for youth services specific to a board area. Restoration of that position is needed and desired.

When schools are not open and in use, programs should be able to operate in them without opening fees and space costs. School buildings should be available during non-school hours for public purpose use without fees.

There are 16 public schools with our district. Additional school seats are needed. Sites for new school construction must be located and construction must be expedited to ensure adequate educational facilities for our children. Over 20% of our population is under age 18. The influx of families with school age children continues, particularly in the northern and eastern parts of our area. Many of the school buildings are overcrowded and parents see a diminished range of what is being offered to the students at the elementary school level. More art and music programs are needed. Parents are concerned with the quality of education and the safety factor as students move to the Middle Schools and the High Schools. The physical plants of many of our school buildings still need attention. Appropriate sites for additional Pre-Kindergarten services are needed. Most of the schools in our area have had their play areas diminished in recent years by the placement of transportable classrooms and/or modular additions. Every child in our Community Board area must have a seat in his or her neighborhood school and each school must provide a full range of educational services.

Services to seniors in our district need to be increased significantly as the “baby boom” generation ages. We anticipate a continued increase in our elderly population in coming years. Census 2010 reports we have almost 22,000 residents over age 60. Another approximately 7,000 of our residents will reach age 60 over the next few years. There is only one city funded senior center located within Community Board 10 to serve that large and growing population of older residents. At a time when services should have been expanding to meet the needs of our growing senior population, we have experienced services being diminished for our seniors.

The number of meals served should not be the determining factor regarding a Senior Center’s performance. Many of our seniors attend and enjoy their center without the need for a meal being the driving force behind their desire to attend and participate in the center’s activities. Our Board has among the lowest poverty rates for persons over age 65. Our seniors, in general, may not all require a meal to meet their needs but they do require and need other services that senior centers provide. The practice of locally provided home delivery of hot meals to the frail, homebound elderly must continue to be available.

Centers for seniors must serve small geographic areas and be located within the neighborhoods familiar to our elderly populations. There is a need to fully fund and re-open the Wakefield Senior Center to serve our growing senior population in South Ozone Park. There is also a need to develop a new properly operated center to replace the de-funded center that formerly served many of our Indo-Caribbean seniors as that population is also growing.

The sole city-funded senior center in our district was displaced by Superstorm Sandy. It has now moved and is operational at the Catholic Charities operated Peter Striano senior housing facility located in our district. Geographically, this site is located in that segment of the CB 10 area that has the largest concentration of older residents as this map shows. (Darker color represents larger population over age 65.)



About 35% of our district's total of persons over age 60 reside in Neighborhood Tabulation Area QN57 where this senior housing/senior center facility is located. Over 28% of the people who live within QN57 are over age 60. QN57 is the area of our Board inundated by Superstorm Sandy. It is imperative that this center be well funded by DFTA and that its funding be unthreatened in “bad” budget years and fully immune from any cuts until the community is fully recovered from Sandy impacts. There is a need for additional funding so that appropriate support personnel may be available there daily to assist the thousands of neighborhood seniors now living in damaged homes and trying to cope with numerous social and economic issues.

Another 15% of our residents who are over age 60 live in QN56 in close proximity to the site. Almost half of our district's over 60 population reside in NTA QN56 and QN57 together. This Catholic Charities facility literally sits on the border between those two NTAs. There is a need for DFTA and other city agencies to work closely with Catholic Charities to bring even more quality services to this facility to better serve our growing senior population. The facility serves the community-at-large as well as its residents.

There is no hospital facility located within Community Board 10. The closest hospital to us has assumed a greater workload due to the closures of other Queens hospitals in recent years. There is a need for urgent care and ambulatory medical facilities within the district.

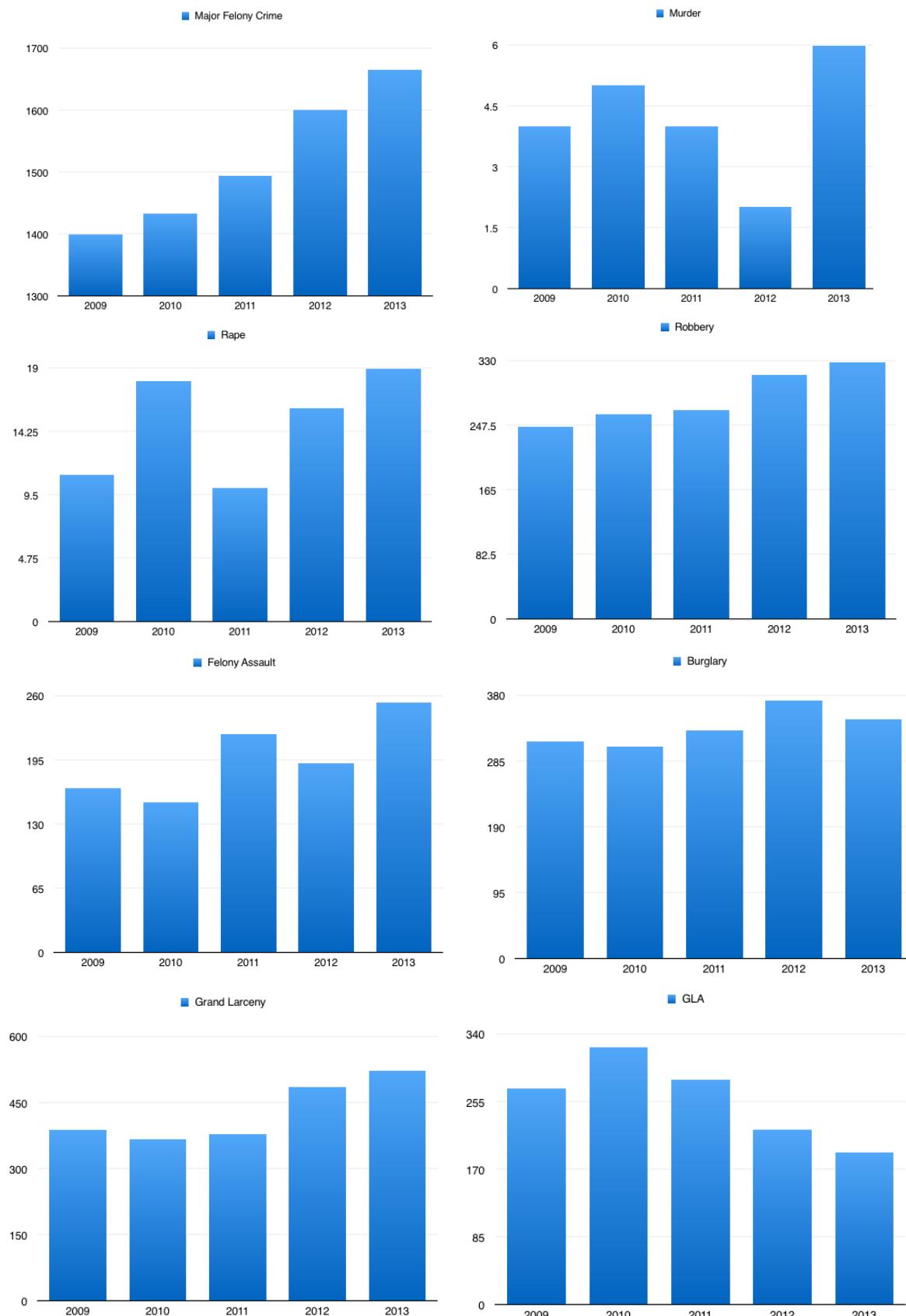
There is concern in our district over the fact that DHS chose to close a non-problematic family shelter to convert it into a shelter for homeless men. Since it opened, numerous registered sex offenders have resided in close proximity to a school and park. This men's shelter is located in the census tract within our district that has the highest percentage of its population under age 18. (At the time of this writing, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services registry indicates 45 registered sex offenders currently reside at the Skyway Men's Shelter.) To the residents of our district the decision of a city agency to allow that many such offenders at a single address is unconscionable. There is a need to reestablish this shelter as one for homeless families.

Public Safety:

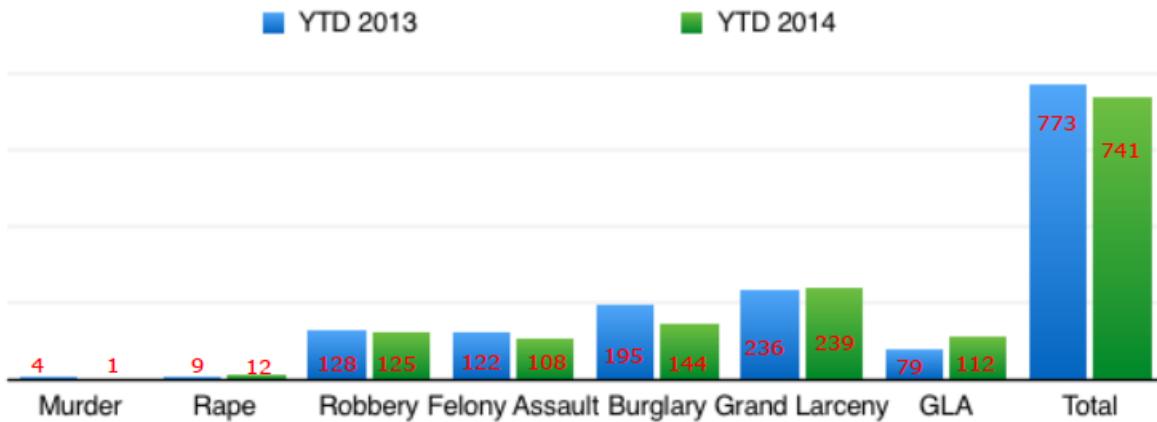
Like our city as a whole, our police precinct reflects the historic drop in crime over the past 20 years. The efforts of our police personnel to accomplish that are very much appreciated by our residents. However, there is cause for concern as we look at our crime and quality of life statistics over the more short-term. Although some much-appreciated additional officers were assigned here over the course of the last year, in the view of our residents and

our Board - they were not enough to meet the need. There is a continuing need for additional manpower to be assigned to the 106th Precinct.

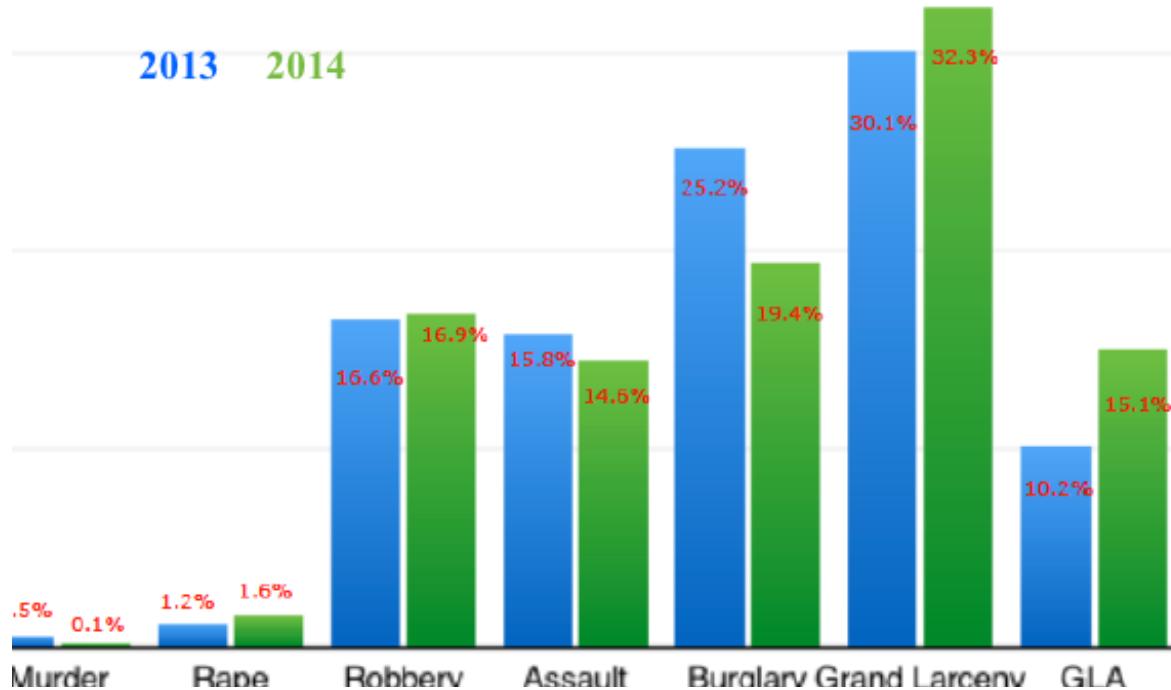
These charts provide a trending view of the increase in crime in the 106th Precinct in recent years. (calendar years)



The chart below shows index crime during the first half of calendar year 2014 is trending down over the same time period in 2013, but there is a significant increase in auto thefts. If the downward trend in major crime continues through the rest of the year, we will experience a drop in crime after 5 years of rising crime in our district.



The chart below (1st half calendar 2013 : 1st half calendar year 2014) shows the percent each index crime accounts for of our district's total serious crime. About 2/3 of our serious crime is property crime.



The Resorts World Casino New York City is located in our district. Its 12 million annual visitors have added to the workload for our precinct. That volume of additional people has very significantly increased our ambient population. It requires a strengthening of the police presence here just as large ambient populations do in our city's central business district, beach areas, large parks, and other tourist attractions. On just about any weekend night our population essentially doubles, but our available police resources do not.

Prior to the casino's opening, our residents were fearful that they would see an increase in street crime and quality of life infractions. Those fears have generally been proven unfounded - and it is the excellent work of our precinct-level police officers and the casino management working with this Board and our community that is responsible for that. There is casino-related crime, however it consists mainly of financial crime classed as grand larcenies that occur on-site. Often, larcenies occurring there result in an immediate arrest. Our review of available crime statistics for our precinct indicates that the casino is contributing to the increase in grand larcenies occurring here, but it is not "spilling out" any types of "street crime" into the community. We would estimate that about 5% of our total major felony crime (annually) occurs at the casino and it mainly consists of larcenies. We point out that even with the casino's negative impact on the number of larcenies here, our precinct's percentage of crime that is classed as grand larceny is lower than the current 40% of city-wide crime that grand larceny accounts for.

In the calendar year 2000-2013 time period, major felony crime was up in the 106th Precinct in 7 of the 14 years reflected- both before and after the casino opened. In the 9 full calendar years for which we have 1147 311 data about complaints referred to the NYPD, we have experienced increases in 5 of the years in the 2005-2013 time period. Again, some of those years were before the casino opened and some were after.

We believe to a great extent that the increases we are experiencing in both crime and quality of life indicators over a long period of time are related to an insufficient number of patrol officers assigned here on a permanent basis. Simply, we believe we had an insufficient number of officers prior to the casino opening, and despite the assignment of some additional officers we believe the number of officers here is still not sufficient. The casino's presence is not driving our crime increases, but it does exacerbate them.

One addressable casino impact on our precinct results from the fact that its security personnel do not have peace officer status. Whether for crime or for more mundane policing functions, our precinct personnel must respond to calls for service at the casino. This results in less manpower patrolling our streets to prevent crime and respond to neighborhood calls for service. There is a need for the city to support - as part of its Albany legislative agenda - getting casino security officers that status to ease the burden on our precinct personnel.

The number of additional people being in and moving in, out, and through our precinct area demands that additional resources be assigned here on a permanent basis. Without additional permanently assigned resources there will continue to be a negative impact on response times. We will continue to see backlogs and our residents will suffer the consequences. We believe a significant increase in manpower for the 106th Precinct is a critical need. The casino is here and further development is planned. The people it attracts are here and that number will continue to grow. More officers need to be here, permanently as well. Our community does not accept that the most effective way to deal with this matter is to just to assign "details" when there are special events or to have the casino participate in the NYPD's paid detail program. Assigned details and paid details should supplement an additional permanent assignment of personnel to the 106th Precinct - not supplant it. The casino is a permanent facility attracting many thousands of visitors every day of the year. The Board fully concurs with our residents' view that they are as much entitled to the necessary police resources as are those who reside in other parts of the city where daily ambient populations are high and where other major entertainment and tourist venues are located.

Ongoing requests are made by our residents for more police visibility in the form of foot patrols as well as quality of life/conditions cars. Our community complains that quality of life complaints often receive no response in the form of an officer appearing at the scene in a timely manner. The leading quality of life complaint in our Board area continues to be noise - particularly noise that results from large, disorderly parties occurring at private homes.

Our residents continue to complain of difficulty in making their noise complaints to 311. Long wait times for calls to be answered by 311 seem to occur often. Our residents continue to complain of non-timely responses to their calls. While we fully understand and concur that 911 calls take priority, there is a need to improve response time to noise complaints. That requires additional personnel.

Despite very strong efforts by our precinct to address the noise problem, there is a need to better address it. It is a long-standing problem that also highlights the need for additional officers here. On average yearly, our residents report almost 3,000 noise complaints. On average, more than 2,200 of them are reported between April 1st - September 30th each year. There were almost 400 more noise complaints reported in FY2014 than in FY2013 in our district. We believe additional resources must be provided to our precinct by PBQS, especially during the warm weather months, in order that the needed noise enforcement continues without negatively impacting on our precinct's ability to effectively address all the other crime and quality of life concerns it must respond to.

Our residents are much appreciative of the efforts by our precinct staff throughout the last decade to alleviate the problem of excessive noise, but are still very much concerned that there is more that must be done and less danger would be posed for our officers who have to respond to locations where there are large numbers of intoxicated persons if the necessary manpower were available. Our residents have the right to be able to enjoy their homes without disturbance from inordinate noise and for their complaints to receive a timely response. They also have the right to a precinct with sufficient manpower to provide all the other necessary police services as well.

There is an ongoing problem with unruly bars and clubs, many functioning as cabarets without the necessary license. Sufficient resources are needed to provide regular enforcement to prevent violent crime and further negative impacts on nearby residential areas. Increased Operation MARCH activity is desirable to help eliminate problem conditions. Continued DUI enforcement is needed.

More traffic enforcement agents should be hired by the NYPD and assigned to specific intersections as needed and allowed to perform moving violation enforcement. Over the years, speed infractions and stop sign violations often seem not to have been a top priority in our city and there has been little enforcement on residential side streets. Lack of enforcement has resulted in many people no longer driving safely, resulting in preventable crashes. Our Board fully supports the Vision Zero policy as it relates to reducing speed and encouraging safer driving on our residential streets. Complaints of speeding and double parking are a constant issue on all of our school blocks.

Our proximity to JFK Airport and its critical infrastructure, as well as the fact that most passengers and much of the trucking moving cargo in and out of the airport pass through our area, present some overall security concerns we believe must be better addressed. Given our proximity to JFK Airport, the presence of the Buckeye Pipeline in our community, the presence of AirTrain, the presence of the Resorts World Casino, the many acres in our community of essentially unpatrolled shoreline beneath existing flight paths along with the heightened sensitivity of our residents to security issues, it is imperative that police manpower levels in our precinct be increased to insure enough visibility so that people perceive that they are safe.

Our residents are well aware that our airport neighbor is critical to our nation's international and interstate commerce. They are well aware that it is a prime terror target. Their expressed perception is that the areas surrounding JFK get less policing than those near other such targets in other parts of our city. We believe the shoreline area within our Board, which is all directly below JFK flight paths, should be visually or electronically monitored at all times. There is a large tract of undeveloped federally-owned land, essentially minimally patrolled by National Park Police, located along our shore west of Crossbay Blvd. Terrorist activity could easily occur at any time in that area. We believe a permanent Sky Tower observation post should be created there to provide for the visual monitoring of the essentially unpatrolled shoreline areas. We view this to be a critical need. Our police officers need to be able to respond rapidly to those areas. For that reason we believe it is also critical that the 106th Precinct have at least two four wheel drive vehicles assigned and actually present within the confines of the precinct at all times.

As a result of our community's experience with Hurricane Irene in late August 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in late October 2012, concern regarding emergency management is considerably heightened in Community Board 10. Our residents are now well aware that coastal storms pose a significant threat to public safety in our area.

A majority of the land within Community Board 10 lies within OEM designated evacuation zones. Approximately 20,000 of our residents live within evacuation Zone 1. Many of our Zone 1 residents are either senior citizens (over age 65) or children (under age 18). There are well over 500 persons over age 85, many who live alone, residing in our Zone 1 area and thousands of households in Zone 1 that include someone over the age of 75. Many more of our residents live in Zone 2 designated areas. Overall, about 55% of our residents live in a designated hurricane evacuation zone.

There is a need for far better consultation between OEM and the Community Boards as we oftentimes have detailed local knowledge which could be helpful in mitigating potential problems when evacuations are needed. The mass movement of people, many of whom will utilize private vehicles, in the event of an evacuation presents many potential problems.

Despite OEM's efforts to educate people about evacuation zones and flooding, our experience with Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy clearly indicated that many residents were totally unaware of what zone their homes were

located in. We believe that has now changed and our people do know their zones. Prior to Sandy, many residents were not prepared to secure their properties and many were unaware of what steps to take in order to secure their properties. We believe that is still the case for many residents. There is a need to do far more education and provide far more information to our residents as to specific actions to take prior to a storm in order to lessen damage to their properties. Some residents will need assistance to adequately secure property and prevent damage. Prior to such storms supplies of sandbags should be made available in the local area to residents. Elderly residents living alone may require physical assistance to secure property. Personnel should be available to assist them. Pumping standing flood water from streets with poor drainage is necessary after a storm such as Hurricane Irene or Superstorm Sandy. Provision of some type of pumping service (even on a "pay for" basis) would aid residents to more quickly address flooded residences and provide for better public health since immediately removing flood water from inside a property will help prevent hazardous mold growth and allow for faster restoration of power to homes should we experience a storm with flooding similar to Sandy's in the future.

Also of concern to our residents is the city's response to their needs during coastal storms that are not catastrophic. There is a need for improved attention at such times. Virtually any significant "nor'easter" causes tidal flooding to occur in some areas within Community Board 10 exacerbating rainstorm flooding conditions at times of high tide. In particular, homes in the Hamilton Beach and Ramblersville areas of Howard Beach are often badly impacted by such storms. Some homes in some other parts of "Old" Howard Beach are impacted as well by such storms. In recent years there has been new construction of homes in the Lindenwood section of Howard Beach bordering the Spring Creek Park addition area. Some of those homes are also vulnerable to tidal flooding and storm water overflow from less than catastrophic storms. Many of the streets in the Howard Beach area east of Crossbay Blvd. become impassable during times of high tide when such storms occur. Such storms often entirely cut off vehicular access to Ramblersville and Hamilton Beach. Residents of Hamilton Beach have expressed a desire for an additional means of vehicular access and egress to be provided in order to provide for their safety.

Our area is served by equipment and personnel located in the three firehouses located in our district. PMMR data for 2014 indicates an increase in structural fires in our district during FY2013 and three fatal fires between FY11-13 . Continued fire safety education is needed as well as continued distributions of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Water, Sewage and Sanitation:

We are in need of ongoing routine maintenance of catch basins, all connections to the sewers, and the sewers themselves. This Board has communicated to DEP the need for all catch basins in our Sandy inundation zone to be examined and cleaned. There is also a need for them all to be cleaned prior to hurricane season every year on a regular basis. Much of our Sandy-flooded area is located in neighborhoods where drainage is already poor during heavy rainstorms and far less serious coastal storms. There is a need to finally resolve these ongoing drainage issues.

There are still parts of the Community Board area not served by storm sewers. A large section of our Lindenwood community was badly impacted by storm water (rain, not tidal) flooding in April 2014 resulting in damage to many homes. Although DEP is addressing the problem within the sewer system that caused the occurrence, residents still are complaining of problematic catch basins. Some types of green infrastructure measures should be explored for that area as well as all areas of our district. Such measures should be implemented if indications are that they would be feasible for mitigating damage from future heavy rain events. There should be a consistent enforced requirement in all areas that there be permeable strips in between all curbs and sidewalks.

Lot cleaning is an ongoing problem. Residents complain about overgrown and dirty lots, some with structures on them, which harbor ticks, mosquitoes and rats. Street cleaning on commercial strips at specific times on a regular basis is an essential service. This service must be provided often enough to make a difference. The Rockaway Blvd., Coleman Square, Liberty Avenue, Lefferts Blvd., and Crossbay Blvd. retail strips are in dire need of regular sweeping. Alternate side of the street parking would create many problems and should not be utilized in our area. Street cleaning services on a regular basis for metered arteries, no parking streets and access routes, etc. is necessary on an ongoing basis.

Wherever there are apartments above the stores on commercial strips there is a need for daily household collection and daily basket collection. Tenant garbage is often placed at the curb other than on collection days. Bags are ripped open and attract vermin, mice and rats. Daily household and basket collection is especially needed on Liberty Avenue and Rockaway Blvd. Schools must have year-round 4-12 pickup of garbage because they are open and in use with food programs.

The Sanitation garage at 130th Street and 150th Avenue in South Ozone Park continues to house the manpower and vehicles for more than our one district. It also stores many vehicles other than collection trucks on the outside. There is a need for our Sanitation garage to house only our district's sanitation vehicles.

Economic Development:

Our local civic and business groups are working toward moving their local projects forward on our commercial strips. Security, regular street cleaning, daily household and basket collection, the need for additional parking, improved lighting, and infrastructure improvements are on their agendas. There is a need to further support the efforts of merchants on all of our commercial strips by increasing sanitation services and providing infrastructure improvements. They seek ways to attract additional businesses compatible to the abutting residential communities. Additional support from government would assist them in making more progress.

Continued support for businesses located along our Crossbay Blvd. commercial strip is imperative. There is a need to provide more support to businesses and commercial property owners there in the form of grants rather than loans so that they may better recover from the economic damage caused to their businesses and properties by Superstorm Sandy.

Community Board 10 is the home of a major economic engine for our state. The Resorts World Casino New York City is located at Aqueduct Racetrack. It is extremely successful. Since its opening, many millions of dollars have been generated there for NYS, including NYC, education and the state's equine industry. It has been reported that RWNYC is the largest slot operation in the world with \$800 million in annual revenue. RWNYC has continued to show growth during a time period when the rest of the northeast casino market has shown decline. Further development at its location is expected in coming years. There is a need for the city to work with the casino operator and State officials as future development occurs to help insure there is no deleterious impact on the surrounding residential community. Business service support from the city should be expanded in our area so local groups may develop strategies to help them maximize possible economic benefits for their businesses as a result of the casino's proximity to them.

Resiliency and Sustainability:



Within Community Board 10 almost all of zip code 11414, our Howard Beach community, was severely inundated by Superstorm Sandy's floodwaters. A large segment of that same area had been badly flooded by Hurricane Irene just a little over a year prior to Sandy. This map depicts the geographic area affected by both storms. (Sandy surge in blue, Irene surge in purple.) Generally, we have identified four key issues to focus on to build resiliency and make our Sandy zone more sustainable for the future. They are:

- Surge protection to safeguard critical assets. This includes our most critical asset of all- our homes - along with our power supply, institutions, and commerce.
- Identifying solutions for preventing sewer back-up.
- Protecting better our senior and disabled populations, and
- Providing better access for our isolated areas.

Howard Beach 11414 has been identified as one of the 10 most Sandy impacted zip codes in New York City in terms of the number of FEMA IA registrations. Therefore, resiliency is an important concern in Community Board 10, personally for each of our affected property owners as they individually repair their homes and collectively as our Howard Beach community seeks to see their neighborhoods (old Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach, new Howard Beach, Lindenwood) better protected from storm damage in the future. (see the section in the CB10Q FY2015 Statement of Community District Needs relating to Superstorm Sandy - http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/pdf/neigh_info/statement_needs/qn10_statement.pdf) Many of our residents whose homes were damaged by Sandy registered with the city's Build it Back program. Most of them have not yet received the assistance they expect from Build it Back.

Conceptually, we support the initiatives for our area put forth in "A Stronger, More Resilient New York" issued in June 2013. We desire to see them move forward but are concerned that many of those presented are qualified with

language about funding availability that may well mean we will never see them built and to date, specific project details have not been presented to us for some of the initiatives.

We are pleased that DCP, as part of the Resilient Neighborhoods initiative, is commencing a study of Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach to identify zoning strategies and other initiatives that will support resiliency. One initiative we will seek to have result from that process is that every parcel of city-owned real estate or stub end of a street (mapped as well as any possibly unmapped streets) abutting Shellbank Basin and Hawtree Basin be fully bulkheaded and that where there are existing bulkheads or seawalls they be made higher. Much of our tidal street flooding in any storm first comes out onto our streets through these non-bulkheaded areas before adjacent bulkheads on privately owned parcels are overtopped by tidal flood waters.

Homes in our area suffered extensive damage, but on the positive side - most were not substantially damaged from the standpoint of structural damage. The downside to that positive is that for many of our homeowners financial assistance to elevate their homes will probably not be available through Build it Back. The construction characteristics of most of the homes in our Sandy area make many of them not easy to elevate. Elevating an existing house, rebuilding or reinforcing a house's existing foundation, and backfilling an existing basement or cellar will make a house more resilient and less subject to damage in future storms. However, taking these actions may be prohibitively expensive if no funding other than loans are available to homeowners.

For most of the owners of Sandy-damaged homes within our district, elevation will not be a viable option from either a construction or cost standpoint. Therefore, there is a need for the city to provide owners of 1-2 family homes in areas like our Sandy zone with incentives that will encourage them to relocate critical heating, water, and power supply equipment above the new flood elevations. This could be accomplished through zoning incentives, tax rebates, or reimbursements of costs incurred.

Initiatives are needed that will provide education about other possible actions besides elevating for homeowners. (FEMA does, but its materials are not NYC specific nor are they easily understood by people unfamiliar with construction.) Financial assistance, perhaps through tax incentives or grants to increase resiliency of homes by taking other actions, when elevation is not possible or too costly, would encourage more homeowners to do so.

Aside from tidal flooding, Sandy caused there to be considerable backflow of sewage into homes. Another resiliency measure of interest to our residents would involve ways to prevent backflow in the future. One critical installation in Howard Beach is the pumping station that pumps sewage to the Jamaica Wastewater Treatment Plant. The DEP has identified resiliency upgrades for it so that functionality may be maintained during future storms. We urge that all of those upgrades be done.

Community Board 10 worked closely with the Howard Beach NY Rising Committee to identify critical issues, needs, and to develop community supported resiliency projects. The plan developed by that committee may be found at:

http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/sites/default/files/crp/community/documents/howard_beach_nyrcr_plan_28mb.pdf

Many of the projects described in it will require cooperation between many agencies at the different levels of government in order for the projects to become reality. Some of the identified projects are ones where the city should provide additional funding to supplement the NYS funding and would provide an opportunity to do more to increase resiliency.

Much of what is described as part of that committee's Upper Hawtree project should have already been done by the city long before now. The project would combine berm, coastal protection, and drainage improvement measures to mitigate flooding problems. Components include the following: berms/elevated land; creating or raising bulkheads, raising sidewalks, underground retention, and concrete walls. If the state moves that project forward, we urge the city to make it an even better project for the community by doing similar projects within other parts of Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach.

Upper Spring Creek is a project for which the Howard Beach NY Rising Committee committed funding to toward the required match. NYS has approved that commitment of funds. It is an NYCDPR project. (mentioned earlier in our section on Parks) DPR has been awarded the competitive grant by the U.S. government. We urge that this project move forward immediately.



Restoring Spring Creek Park's Salt Marsh and Upland Habitat	Grant Award: \$4,270,000
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation	Matching Funds: \$6,967,500
	Total Project Funds: \$11,237,500

Project Description: Restore Spring Creek Park's 11 acres of salt marsh and 16 acres of coastal upland in Queens, New York. Project will reduce flood impacts, capture run-off, and contribute recreational space.

Community Boards:

The City Charter mandates input from the Community Boards on many items as regards land use, community planning, service delivery, and budget. Members of Community Boards devote numerous hours of pro-bono service to the city. There is a need to permanently base-line the budgets of Community Boards. There is a need in local communities throughout the city for the services, outreach, and opportunities for public discussion Community Boards provide. The necessary resources to provide those services are required for us to continue to do outreach, assessment, and planning with our residents.

There is a need to insure that Community Board budgets are excluded whenever “across the board cuts” are initiated if the city budget is modified after a fiscal year commences. Across the board budget cuts, while perhaps fair in concept, in actuality impact on our ability to provide service more than they impact on larger agencies. Our budgets are small in relationship to other agencies and any cut has large impact. This exclusion from such cuts should be offset by the fact that the work of Community Boards is carried out not only with the city dollars in our budgets but by the value of the contribution of pro-bono service to the city our members provide.

Community Board Chairpersons serve as agency heads as Community Boards are independent city agencies. Although unsalaried, Community Board Chairpersons perform numerous functions. One is that they must attend numerous meetings, both within and outside of their Board boundaries. Often they must take time away from their jobs to perform their Community Board related functions. Being able to get to where they have to be in a timely manner is imperative for many, especially for those whose jobs or Boards are located in areas of the city underserved by public transportation. Driving is often the best option available. In prior years, DOT provided agency parking permits to both Community Board Chairpersons and District Managers to utilize when performing official business. That practice was arbitrarily altered and DOT has declined, without any real consultation with the Boards, to reissue permits to Community Board Chairpersons who need them in order to properly carry out their functions without the added cost of paying for parking or taking more time than necessary away from their jobs while performing pro bono service to the city. There is a need to reverse that arbitrary decision and to provide agency business permits to both Community Board Chairpersons and District Managers who request them.

With the initiation of the 311 complaint system a need developed for a system to better coordinate its function with that of Community Boards. Problems arose because information was not shared with Community Boards on a timely or regular basis as to the type and number of complaints received by the 311 system along with what action was taken by the agency to which complaints were referred. That need was partially addressed by the response of DoITT to the requirements of Local Law 47. The initiation of a publicly available mapping system for 311 service requests was a step in the right direction for easing some of the problems as has the availability of some 311 information through the city’s Open Data portal. The initiation of an online 311 reporting system for Local Law 47 data which provides a more user friendly mechanism for downloading and sorting data has also been useful, but it is not always functional nor is it as timely in posting data as it could be. There is still a need for further improvement regarding the sharing of information. For example, noise continues to be our leading quality of life complaint, but the available 311 daily data via the Open Data portal does not provide information on residential noise, the largest subset of our noise complaints, although it does provide information on other categories of noise.

More detailed information would be helpful. It is difficult for Community Boards to adequately assess community needs, identify trends exhibited by complaints, or prevent duplication of effort if complete and accurate information is not available to us in a timely manner. At present, ll47 information provided can only be evaluated from a geographical perspective to the zip code level in the data available to us online. It would be helpful if that data could also be accessible down to at least the census tract or census block group level. The 311 service request mapping system allows us to get some idea of complaint locations at the block level, but doing so requires an inordinate amount of staff time zooming maps in and out and recording the locations, complaints, and dates. More detailed information is still required as to what action was taken by agencies regarding the complaints made to 311.

Historically, Community Boards have tracked long-standing problems and provided agencies with local knowledge related to such problems, many of which involve more than one agency. The current 311 system makes it difficult for Community Boards to do that type of follow-up on such complaints, even with the recent improvements.

JFK Airport, Resorts World Casino, Gateway National Recreation Area:

Although none of these facilities are city operated, they are located in our area. The airport is on city owned land, the casino/racetrack site is state owned, and Gateway is a federal facility. Any actions involving any of these facilities are of significant concern to our residents.

A 2011 report, Upgrading to World Class: The Future of the Regions Airports released by the Regional Plan Association offering proposals to address airport congestion through new runway construction at JFK raised considerable concern in our area. The proposals put forth in that report would impact on Jamaica Bay. Virtually no one in our area would want any of the proposals put forth considered without a fully open public review of all of the possible ramifications that could affect Jamaica Bay and the many thousands of people who live under existing flight paths or new flight paths any new runway construction would create.

A large tract of land, more than 20 acres, controlled by the PANYNJ within the existing fenceline of Aqueduct Racetrack is part of the airport leasehold. The Community Board should be consulted regarding any change from its current use as an airport-related parking area to any other use. This is especially important to us as any proposal to further expand the Resorts World Casino complex may seek to utilize this land.

There is a need for the development of a funding source and the establishment of a residential soundproofing program for our areas impacted by noise from flights to and from JFK Airport.

Since the completion of the PANYNJ's AirTrain, an unintended consequence has become prevalent in the neighborhoods closest to its Lefferts Blvd. station and its Howard Beach station. In the half century that the airport was our neighbor prior to the completion of AirTrain, airport and/or airline employees did not park their personal vehicles on local streets when going to work. They utilized on-airport parking facilities. Now many airport employees are essentially commuting by car to the airport perimeter, parking their vehicles on local streets and then boarding AirTrain. AirTrain was intended to encourage people to take public transportation to the airport. It was not intended to be a means to avoid on-airport parking fees. A workable residential parking program needs to be developed by the city in the two areas in our district where this is regularly occurring. Suggestions to impose parking regulations that would prevent such parking by airport employees have been met with opposition from residents as such restrictions would also prevent them from parking on their local streets absent some type of residential parking program.

There is potential that Resorts World Casino patrons could create a similar parking condition in our district's residential neighborhoods abutting it if its patrons also try to avoid parking fees - if such fees are implemented. (At present, open lot parking is free for patrons at the casino.) This potential problem adds to our desire that the city develop and implement a workable residential parking program within our district.

Our community is supportive of the current casino development. However, Community Board 10 is very concerned about additional future development on the Resorts World/Aqueduct site. Our residents desire that the city, wherever possible, work with State officials to insure that there continues to be appropriate consultation with the surrounding community regarding any future development. Aqueduct is located virtually in the middle of Community Board 10. It is surrounded by low-density residential development. Our residents deserve and fully expect that their views regarding any future development be sought and respected. Should any other uses beyond a VLT facility/horse racing track be considered for this land, community consultation and review must be an integral part of the processes used to determine that future use.

Parts of the Gateway National Recreation Area are located within Community Board 10 as mentioned in the section in this document about Parks. The city has entered into a partnership with the National Parks Service. Our community desires that major improvements be made in Hamilton Beach Park and Charles Park so that neighborhood residents have quality neighborhood parks to use. We urge that DPR engage in consultation with the Board as this partnership moves forward regarding the Gateway parkland located with Community Board 10.

Elizabeth Braton

Chairperson